

Sachie Miyazaki (Soko)

Professor, Center for Language Education and Research, Sophia University

Sachie Miyazaki earned her Ph.D. in Linguistics from Michigan State University. Her research interests include bilingualism, minority education, identity and language, Nikkei culture, multiculturalism, and the integration of the second generation of immigrants living in Japan. She has taught Japanese at universities in both Japan and the United States. She is also a tea practitioner of the *Urasenke* school for 40 years and currently teaches Japanology courses at Sophia University and *Chanoyu* and Japanese culture courses at the Junior College Division, Sophia University.



Machiko Hoshina (Soshin)

Adjunct Lecturer, Center for Global Education and Discovery, Sophia University

Machiko Hoshina is a long-term practitioner of Japanese tea ceremony and professor of *Urasenke* Chado. She conducts numerous tea ceremonies and tea practices in both Japanese and English at embassies, schools, and companies. She is currently working on several socially engaged art projects such as the Reviving Old *Imari* Project at Loosdorf Castle, Austria. She received her BA from Keio University and is currently a research student at Tokyo University of the Arts. Her research interests include engaging traditional culture with modern society, practical use of Chado to build international communication between Japanese and non-Japanese, and the relationship between Chado and mindfulness.



Maria Lupas

Associate Professor, Center for Language Education and Research, Sophia University

Maria Lupas holds a Ph.D. in general and comparative literature from Aix-Marseille University, and a M.A. in classics from Columbia University. She is active at Hadano Roman Catholic Church (Diocese of Yokohama) where she helps with the liturgical celebrations. One of her research interests is the history and memory of the Romanian Greek Catholic Church, a minority religious group inside the Catholic Church which celebrates its liturgies in the Byzantine Christian tradition, and which was outlawed under Communism from 1948 to 1989. She is the



translator of *Witnesses to Beatitude: Seven Romanian Greek Catholic Bishops Under Communism*, The Catholic University of America Press, 2026.

Yuumi Smutny (Soyuu)

Adjunct Lecturer, Center for Global Education and Discovery, Sophia University

Yuumi Smutny earned her Ph. D. in Literature from Kanto Gakuen University, M.D. from University of Oklahoma, B.A. from University of Maryland and Keio University. Her major research is a relationship between Chanoyu and Christianity in the late 16th century in Japan. She published two books, numbers of thesis and provided lectures. Her recent research is on Christian Tea Master, Justo Takayama Ukon's Chanoyu.



She is also a practitioner of the Urasenke Chado and teaches Chanoyu and Japanese history courses both Japanese and foreign students at Kanto Gakuen University and Sophia University. Additionally, she introduces Chado to members stationed at the U.S. Navy base in Yokosuka.

Heidi Joe Meister (Soha)

Adjunct Lecturer, Center for Global Education and Discovery, Sophia University

Heidi Joe Meister earned a Master of International Management from the Thunderbird School of Global Management in Arizona, focusing on U.S.-Japan business relations. She later worked at the International Visitors Council (IVC) in Philadelphia, connecting international guests of the U.S. government with local communities. To deepen her knowledge of Japan, she



studied Chado, including two years of intensive training at Urasenke headquarters in Kyoto. Now living in Germany, she continues with Urasenke Tankokai Frankfurt, teaches tea ceremony, coordinates monthly events in Kaiserslautern, and has appeared on German television as a specialist in Japanese tea sweets.