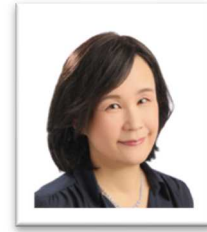


Sachie Miyazaki (Soko)

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 tea master, Professor of the Urasenke Tea Tradition, and founder of CHAREN Tokyo. She conducts tea ceremonies, educational programs, and cultural experiences in both Japanese and English for embassies, universities, corporations, and international visitors.



She is the founder of the Reviving Old Imari Project, an international cultural initiative based at Loosdorf Castle in Austria, and serves as an Outside Director of Striders Corporation, where she advises on the integration of Japanese cultural values into tourism, regional revitalization, and organizational development.

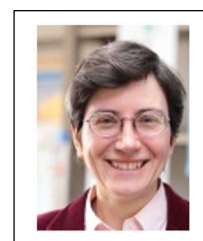
She received her B.A. from Keio University and later returned to academia after decades of professional practice and raising a family, serving as a research student at Tokyo University of the Arts until 2026.

Her research focuses on Cultural Implementation—bringing the wisdom of traditional Japanese culture into contemporary society through education, leadership, community development, and cross-cultural dialogue. Her particular interests include Chado as a practice of intercultural communication, mindfulness, and cultivating human connection in the age of AI.

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.

