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Memory, modernity and children's literature in Japan: premodern warriors as national icons in nineteenth and twentieth century literature and curriculum

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Curriculum Vitae

Aafke van Ewijk was born in Winterswijk on September 20, 1985. She studied graphic design at ArtEZ University of the Arts in Enschede and graduated in 2007. Having developed an interest in the visual culture of Japan, she decided to continue her studies at Leiden University, where she obtained a BA in Japanese Language and Culture in 2011. During the academic year 2010-2011 she attended the Japanese Studies Program at Osaka University on a Japanese government (MEXT) scholarship. She subsequently entered the research MA Area Studies: Asia and the Middle East at Leiden University and graduated in 2013. Her MA thesis focused on Yoshitsune legends and the imagination of Hokkaido in eighteenth and nineteenth century Japan. She returned to Osaka University as a government funded (MEXT) research student in 2014-2016, there studying Edo period popular literature and developing her PhD project proposal. Upon her return from Japan, she commenced her PhD project at Leiden University Institute for Area Studies (LIAS), with a full scholarship from the Isaac Alfred Ailion Foundation (IAAF). She participated in summer schools on Early Modern Japanese Palaeography (Cambridge University, 2017) and Children's Literature (Antwerp University, 2018) and was based at Rikkyo University (Tokyo) during the academic year 2018-2019 for research and fieldwork. Since 2016 she has designed and taught various courses on Japanese literature and visual culture in the BA programme Japanstudies at Leiden University. She presented her research at many international conferences, and recently published the article "Premodern Warriors as Spirited Young Citizens: Iwaya Sazanami and The Semiosphere of Meiji Youth Literature" in the peer-reviewed journal *Japan Forum* (December 2021).