

**Fumie Kato**, PhD, is Associate Professor, Coordinator and Director of the Japanese Studies in the Department of Languages and Culture Studies, University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Her expertise lies in the applied linguistics, specifically foreign acquisition, learning strategies, student motivation and PBL (Project-Based Language Learning). She earned a Ph.D. in applied linguistics at the University of Sydney in 2001 (after earned M.Ed. Honors in 1995).



Dr. Kato moved in Charlotte, United States, and commenced working as visiting Assistant Professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 2002. She was hired as Assistant Professor in 2004 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2011. During these two decades, as student number was dramatically increased, she initiated to offer Japanese BA degree in 2010, hired two assistant professors, four lecturers and three adjunct professors.

Dr. Kato has received five prestigious awards; *International Education Faculty Award*, *Finalist of Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence*, *Bonnie Cone Early-Career Professorship in Teaching award*, *AATJ's (American Association of Teachers of Japanese) 2016 Teacher Award*, *Foreign*

*Minister's Commendations in Honor of the 70th Anniversary of the End of the War with the United States of America*, as well as many competitive grants.

Dr. Kato published a book, titled "Improving student motivation toward Japanese learning" (2010) written in English and Japanese from Gakujutsu Shuppansha in Japan. She's published over 15 peer reviewed journal articles in tier-one journals such as *Language Teaching Research* and *Foreign Language Annals*, and delivered papers at national and international conferences a few times per year. She developed around 10 courses and redesigned 7 courses for the Japanese program at UNC Charlotte. Recently the Japanese Program started to offer translation certificate, graduate translation certificate, business certificate and Japanese BA Honors.