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Depopulation, property, and land issues

Addressing the *akiya mondai* in regional Japan

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Niccolò Lollini

Thursday
2022-10-27
18³⁰~20⁰⁰



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This talk explores the causes and the consequences of property abandonment in regional Japan, as well as the paradox of new settlers from the city struggling to find land and houses in depopulating rural areas. Property has long been conceptualized as a bundle of rights, a metaphor pointing to the complexity of ownership and the plurality of stakeholders involved. Only by unravelling this bundle is it possible to make sense of Japan's vacant housing crisis and its paradoxes. Property abandonment is shown to be more than a consequence of depopulation and to largely depend on the institutional and social context surrounding land ownership.

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Niccolò Lollini just completed a doctorate in social anthropology at the University of Oxford. His thesis explores the role of agriculture in the revitalization of regional Japan following the recent rise of pro-rural migration. His research interests include agri-food systems, property issues, and rural forms of organization.

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