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Department of
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u:japan lectures

2020 ~ 2022 | s00 ~ s05



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Department of East Asian Studies - Japanese Studies
Spitalgasse 2, Hof 2.4 (Campus)
1090 Vienna, Austria



List of u:japan lectures

ID	Date	Lecture Title [Link to Record]	Name [Link to Poster]	Affiliation	cc
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s00e02	2020-06-04	Shamanic practices in contemporary Japan: Local habits and national fascination	Marianna Zanetta	University of Turin	it
s00e03	2020-06-18	Locating Heisei in Japanese Film: The Historical Imagination of the Lost Decades	Marc Yamada	Brigham Young University	us
s00e04	2020-06-25	From Fenollosa to kokubungaku – aesthetics and the birth of the utsukushii Nihon	Arthur Mitteau	Paris EHESS's Centre for Studies on Corea, China and Japan (CCJ)	fr
s01e01	2020-10-15	Work "like a woman": The construction of femininity and the female body in the Japanese job hunting	Anna Lughezzani	Univ of Padova, Ca' Foscari Univty of Venice and University of Verona	it
s01e02	2020-10-22	Abe Kazushige's Male Homosocial Worlds: Duels and Complaints	Maria Roemer	University of Leeds	uk
s01e03	2020-10-29	85 years of Suye Mura: The life history of a Japanese village—and its anthropology	William Kelly	Yale University	us
s01e04	2020-11-05	Menstruation und Konzeptionen von Weiblichkeit im japanischen Mittelalter	Daniela Tan	Universität Zürich (UZH)	ch
s01e05	2020-11-19	Model Emotion: Android Perspectives on Affect in Japan	Daniel White	University of Cambridge	uk
s01e06	2020-11-26	'Creativity' in rural Japan: Sōzō nōson and its implications in regional revitalization policies	Shilla Lee	Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology	de
s01e07	2020-12-10	Storehouses of value: materiality of belonging in Japanese Buddhist temples	Paulina Kolata	University of Manchester / Lund University	uk, se
s01e08	2020-12-17	Ceding Control: Politics, the Environment and Japan's Food System	Nicole Freiner	Bryant University	us
s01e09	2021-01-07	The fear of others – Taijinkyōfu: Emergence, development and demise of a psychiatric diagnosis	Sarah Terrail Lormel	INALCO (Paris)	fr
s01e10	2021-01-14	Japanese in the Age of Post-Standardization: Language Trends in the 21st Century	Asahi Yoshiyuki	National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics	jp
s01e11	2021-01-28	The Single-Gender Worlds of Suzuki Izumi, Kurahashi Yumiko and Shōno Yoriko – A Short History of Ambivalence Towards All-Female Worlds in Japanese Speculative Fiction	Stefan Würrer	International Christian University	jp

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s02e01	2021-03-04	Geschlecht und Faschismus in Darstellungen der japanischen Siedlungsaktivitäten in der Mandchurei	Jasmin Rückert	Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf	de
s02e02	2021-03-11	Love in the Time of COVID-19: The 'New Normal' in the TV Series #rimorabu ("Remote Love")	Elisabeth Scherer & Nora Kottmann	Heinrich Heine Univ. Düsseldorf & DIJ Tokyo	de, jp
s02e03	2021-03-18	Conceptualizing Robotic Agency: Social Robots in Elder Care in Contemporary Japan	Anne Aronsson	University of Zurich / Universität Bern	ch
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s02e05	2021-04-15	Local Governance in Okinawa: A Case Study from Oku	Gabriele Vogt	LMU Munich	de
s02e06	2021-04-22	From Glass to Plastics: The Packaging Revolution of Postwar Japan	Katarzyna J. Cwiertka	Leiden University	nl
s02e07	2021-04-29	Japanese Literary Nationalism and Brazil, 1908-1941	Edward Mack	University of Washington	us
s02e08	2021-05-06	Science for Governing Japan's Population	Aya Homei	Manchester University	uk
s02e09	2021-05-20	How independently oriented values induce positive outcomes in Japanese interdependent organizations	Uchida Yukiko	Kyoto University	jp
s02e10	2021-05-27	From Private to Public and Back? The Townscape Councils of Kyoto	Christoph Brumann	Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology	de
s02e11	2021-06-10	Zen and the Art of Ending Taishō Democracy	Brian Victoria	Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies	jp
s02e12	2021-06-17	Revitalizing rural Japan through crafts	Cornelia Reiher	FU Berlin	de
s02e13	2021-06-24	A hug on trash day (ハグは資源ゴミの日): Actualising social order through household waste disposal practices	Brigitte Steger	University of Cambridge	uk
s03e01	2021-10-14	Tatamis and Concrete – Antonin Raymond and the challenges of early modern architecture in interwar Japan	Yola Gloaguen	CRCAO	fr
s03e02	2021-10-21	Frauen als groteske Monster – Weiblichkeit und Abjektion in den Werken Kirino Natsuos	Anna-Lena von Garnier	Universität Düsseldorf	de
s03e03	2021-10-28	What Does the Individual Stand for? Victims, Survivors and Noble Spirits in Japanese Memorial Museums	Frauke Kempka & André Hertrich	ÖAW	at
s03e04	2021-11-04	Das Ende des Intimen - Raumkonstruktionen in Murata Sayakas Satsujin Shussan	Ronald Saladin	Universität Trier	de
s03e05	2021-11-11	Zuflucht in Shanghai - The Port of Last Resort	Paul Rosdy	Filmemacher, Wien	at
s03e06	2021-11-18	Japankoreanische hibakusha als Irritation nationaler Narrative: Die Erzählung Saihate no futari („Zwei Menschen am Rande“, 1999) von Sagisawa Megumu	Maren Haufs-Brusberg	Universität Düsseldorf	de

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s03e09	2021-12-09	Community-based Renewable Energy Structures: A Case of Small Hydropower in a Japanese Rural Community	Junko Fukumoto	Fukuoka Prefectural University	jp
s03e11	2022-01-13	ISLANDS FOR LIFE: Art Projects and Post-Growth Philosophies in Japan	Adrian Favell	University of Leeds	uk
s03e12	2022-01-20	Tensions of Making and the Art of Breaking: Putting Salt Fields to Rest in 19th Century Japan	Aleksandra Kobiljski	EHESS	fr
s03e13	2022-01-27	Transition from Painted to Painter: The Female Body of Okinawa and its Women Artists	Eriko Tomizawa-Kay	University of East Anglia	uk
s04e01	2022-03-10	They Heard it Through the Grapevine: Rumour Spreading, Poisonous Knowledge and the Political Ecology of Hauntings in Contemporary Japan	Andrea de Antoni	Kyoto University	jp
s04e02	2022-03-17	Urban Migrants in Rural Japan: Between Agency and Anomie in a Post-growth Society	Susanne Klien	Hokkaido University	jp
s04e03	2022-03-24	Ukrainian Diaspora in Occupied Manchuria: Articulating the Needs for the Independent State (1932-1945)	Olga Khomenko	KMBS, National University of Kyiv	ua
s04e04	2022-03-31	History of Early Bilateral Relations between Japan and Hungary (1869-1913)	Tóth Gergely	independent researcher, Budapest	hu
s04e05	2022-04-07	Let's make it an inconvenient place here: Opposing over-tourism in Kyoto's Gion before and during the pandemic	Miloš Debnár	Ryukoku University, Kyoto	jp
s04e07	2022-05-05	Oshi-katsu, Supporting activity: Recognition and Intimacy as Commodities from the Anthropological Study of Japanese josei-muke Adult Video Fan Communities	Maiko Kodaka	SOAS, London	uk
s04e08	2022-05-12	International students and their organisations in Japan during the pandemic and beyond	Polina Ivanova	Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto	jp
s04e09	2022-05-19	East Asian Reactions to Russia's War in Ukraine: Governmental and Civil Society Responses	Alfred Gerstl et al.	Universität Wien	at
s04e10	2022-06-02	Japanesia, the Ryūkyū Arc, and Shimao Toshio's Cultural Resistance Against the Colonial Politics of the Past	Takahashi Shin	Te Herenga Waka — Victoria University of Wellington	nz
s04e12	2022-06-23	Millennials' Senses of Inequality: Class, Gender, and Legitimation of Differences in Tokyo	Yuki Asahina	Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul	kr

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s05e01	2022-10-06	Where a Nuclear Meltdown and Sexwork Intersect: Discovering the stories in the film “Boys for Sale”	Ian Thomas Ash	Filmmaker	jp
s05e02	2022-10-13	Ryokan: Mobilizing Hospitality in Rural Japan	Chris McMorran	Singapur National University	sg
s05e03	2022-10-20	Japanische Gartenkunst: Ästhetik und Gestaltung	Takuhiro Yamada	Gartenbaumeister, Japan	jp
s05e04	2022-10-27	Depopulation, property, and land issues: Addressing the akiya mondai in regional Japan	Niccolò Lollini	University of Oxford	uk
s05e05	2022-11-03	高森町の自助・共助・公助について - Selbsthilfe, Kooperation und staatliche Hilfe in Takamori-machi	Tsuru Tomoyuki	Takamori-machi	jp
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s05e08	2022-11-24	Furry Companions: Pets in Contemporary Japan	Barbara Holthus	DIJ Tokyo	de
s05e09	2022-12-01	Transpacific Visions: Connected Histories of the Pacific across North and South	Yasuko Hassall-Kobayashi	Ritsumeikan University	jp
s05e10	2022-12-15	How to live with a nuclear disaster on one’s farmland: A longitudinal narrative approach to Fukushima Farmers’ life experiences	Anna Wiemann	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München	de



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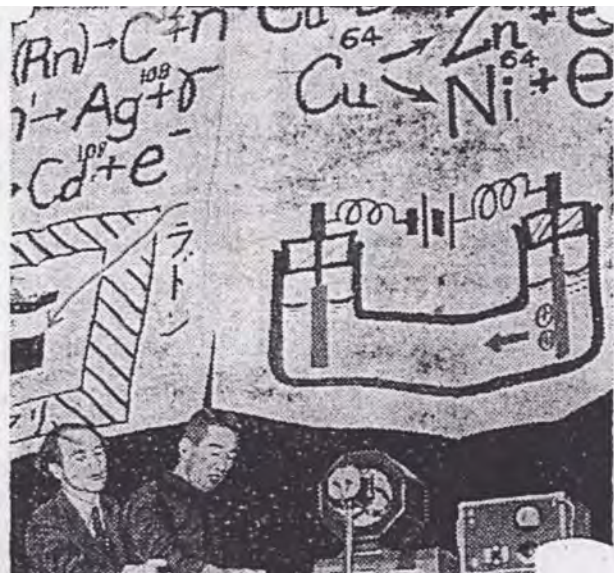
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Tracing Atomic Utopia and Dystopia in Japan

a virtual lecture by Maika Nakao

In prewar Japan, radiation was considered having positive effects on the human health and during the war, there were discourses embracing the production of atomic bombs. How was this positive image of radiation and nuclear weapons before and during the war created and what changed after the war? This talk explores the background and transition of the image of radiation and nuclear energy in Japan and shows how scientists, media, and the public were involved in the emergence of atomic utopia and dystopia.



Monday
18.05.2020
18:30~20:00
online

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Maika Nakao is Assistant Professor at Nagasaki University and currently Research Fellow at the University of Vienna's history department. She is working on the cultural history of nuclear science and technology. After receiving her Ph.D. in history of science from the University of Tokyo (2015), she published two books, 『核の誘惑: 戦前日本の科学文化と「原子カユートピア」の出現』 [Allure of Nuclear: Science Culture in Prewar Japan and the Emergence of "Atomic Utopia"] (Keisō Shōbō, 2015) and 『科学者と魔法使いの弟子—科学と非科学の境界—』 [Scientists and the Sorcerer's Apprentice: The Border between Science and Non-Science] (Seidosha, 2019).



Shamanic practices in contemporary Japan: Local habits and national fascination

a virtual lecture by **Marianna Zanetta**

Contemporary Japan still cherishes a significant variety of the so-called *minkan fusha*, popular religions practitioners (often translated with the term “shaman”) who work as mediators between the world of the living and the dimension of the sacred. They are mainly women, and their role went through some significant transformations in the course of the last three centuries. Today, these shamans (heiresses of older traditions) are facing different challenges, while their profession is evolving to answer the new needs and questions of their clients. This talk explores the transformative and inventive process of these practices, and how in today’s Japan *minkan fusha* are regarded in the local communities and at a national level.



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Thursday
04.06.2020
18:30~20:00
online



Marianna Zanetta is an independent researcher at the University of Turin (Dept. Cultures, Politics and Society) and a visiting scholar at Hosei Daigaku (International studies). She obtained her PhD in 2016 at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes (Paris Sorbonne) in co-tutoring with the University of Turin, in Religious Anthropology and Far Eastern Studies. The PhD project focused mainly on the *itako* practices of northeast Japan, and their connection with family and ancestors. Today, she is working on two different areas: funeral and ritual practices in contemporary Japan, and the phenomenon of *hikikomori* in a comparative perspective with the Italian situation.



Locating Heisei in Japanese Film: The Historical Imagination of the Lost Decades

a virtual lecture by **Marc Yamada**

This presentation will discuss the films of the “lost decades” of Japan’s Heisei period (1989–2019)—three decades of economic stagnation, social malaise, and natural disaster. Through an examination of the films of major Heisei filmmakers—including Kurosawa Kiyoshi, Ichikawa Jun, Kore-eda Hirokazu, Sono Shion, and others—it explores the dissonance between the dominant history of Japan’s recent past and the representation of this past in the popular imagination of the period. Along with posing a challenge to normative accounts of history, Heisei film, this presentation will also suggest, explores new forms of referentiality between contemporary Japan and its past.



Love Exposure (2008) by Sion Sono



Shoplifters (2018) by Hirokazu Kore'eda



Distance (2001) by Hirokazu Kore'eda

<https://japanologie.univie.ac.at/onlinelectures/>

Thursday
18.06.2020
18:30~20:00
online



Marc Yamada is Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Humanities at Brigham Young University (Utah, USA). He received a PhD in Japanese Literature & Film from UC Berkeley. He has published articles on modern Japanese literature, film, and manga and a book on Japan’s Heisei Period. He is currently working on a book on filmmaker Kore-eda Hirokazu.



From Fenollosa to *kokubungaku*: aesthetics and the birth of the *utsukushii Nihon* a virtual lecture by Arthur Mitteau

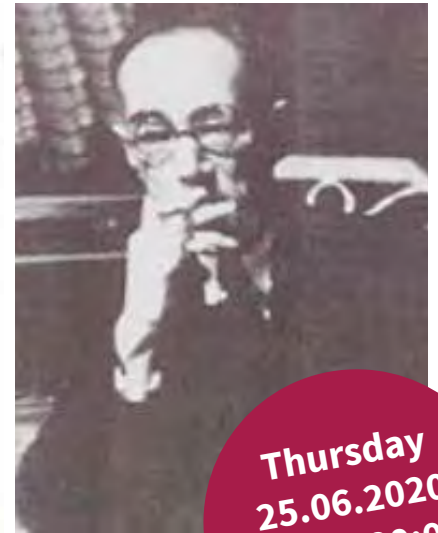
In this lecture, we will explore the shift from the generation building, in the 1880s and 1890s, the first iterations of modern aesthetical discourse, with writers such as Ernest Fenollosa, Tsubouchi Shōyō and Okakura Tenshin, to another group in the 1920s and the 1930s, men that first held the newly created chairs of aesthetics at Imperial Universities, such as Ôtsuka Yasuji or Ônishi Yoshinori. This shift has implications for contemporary Japan, down to politics of identity, since that second generation was responsible for the “re-invention” of aesthetical notions picked in Japan’s past, such as *wabi*, *yūgen* and *aware*. How did we come from a model that included, in the first half of Meiji era, almost nothing of what is considered today as hallmarks of Japanese aesthetical characteristics, such as minimalism, the sense of nature or sensibility projected within objects (*aware*), to our actual set of representations that build up, around such stereotypes, an image of Japan as the land of beauty, with the blessing of some of nowadays’ political speeches and cultural policy ?



Okakura Tenshin



lacquerware with plover motive (Gengensai)



Onishi Yoshinori

Thursday
25.06.2020
18:30~20:00
online

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Arthur Mitteau is a junior research associate at Paris EHESS’s Centre for Studies on Korea, China and Japan (CCJ), and will be working as an associate professor at France Aix-Marseille University from next fall. He studies the history of aesthetics, defined as ideas and discourses on art, while also collaborating to researches on art history and cultural history, mainly around the worlds of painting and of tea gatherings in Meiji era Japan. Recent works include articles in French, and participation to CIHA (International Committee for Art History)’s 34th international symposium in Tokyo in 2019. He is currently working on a book, which projected content will be the topic of the lecture.



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October 15 Oct. - Anna Lughezzani (University of Padova, Italy)
22 Oct. - Maria Römer (University of Leeds, UK)
29 Oct. - William W. Kelly (Yale University, USA)

November 05 Nov. - Daniela Tan (University of Zurich, Switzerland)
19 Nov. - Daniel White (University of Cambridge, UK)
26 Nov. - Shilla Lee (Max Planck Institute, Germany)

December 10 Dec. - Paulina Kolata (University of Chester, UK)
17 Dec. - Nicole Freiner (Bryant University, USA)

Thursdays
18:30~20:00
(Vienna time)

January 07 Jan. - Sarah Terrail Lormel (INALCO, France)
14 Jan. - Asahi Yoshiyuki (NINJAL, Japan)
28 Jan. - Stefan Würrer (ICU & University of Tokyo, Japan)

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Work “like a woman”: The construction of femininity and the female body in the Japanese job hunting (*shūkatsu*)

a virtual lecture by Anna Lughezzani

Shūkatsu (就活), namely job-hunting, is a salient moment in the life of a university student in Japan: if they succeed, they will become *shakaijin*, proper members of society. An anthropopoietic rite of passage in which the Japanese society molds its youth into adults, *shūkatsu* inscribes in them socio-culturally constructed ideas of “right” femininity and masculinity, and normative female/male roles in the enterprise-society and in the family, by molding their bodies through various bodily techniques that set boys and girls apart. Nine months of ethnographic fieldwork in Tokyo informed a research on the ways female university students experience *shūkatsu* and make their first career choice, and on the different ways companies adopt in order to appeal to female and male possible candidates, in the context of Japanese demographic crisis, labor shortage, and Abe’s “Womenomics”, on a national scale, and governor Koike’s “Josei ga kagayaku Tokyo” campaign, on a municipal one.



Thursday
2020-10-15
18:30~20:00
online

就活
メイク
by SHISEIDO

<https://japanologie.univie.ac.at/onlinelectures/>

Anna Lughezzani is a Ph.D. candidate in anthropology at University of Padova, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice and University of Verona (Italy). She has a BA in Japanese Studies and an MA in anthropology both from Ca’ Foscari, Venice. For her master thesis, *Bodies and Identities of Women in the Shushoku Katsudo. An ethnography of job hunting among female university students in Tokyo* she spent nine months doing field research at Waseda University in Tokyo. Now, her research focuses on the *koseki*, the Japanese family register, and the problem of the *mukosekiji*, the unregistered children.



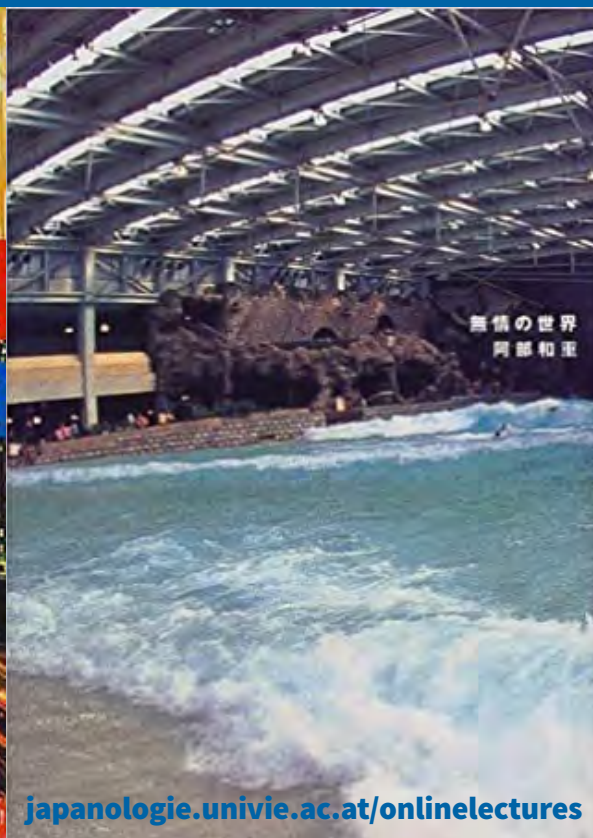
Abe Kazushige's Male Homosocial Worlds

Duels and Complaints

a virtual lecture by **Maria Roemer**

Abe Kazushige's 1990s fiction destabilizes hegemonic notions of manliness. This lecture analyzes how Abe's debut novel *Amerika no yoru* (Day by Night, 1994) and his short story *Minagoroshi* (Massacre, 1998) evoke homoerotic images through depicting male homosocial competition or intimacy in heterosexual erotic triangles. The analysis will highlight how, in both pieces, such affect specifically expresses through *speech*; two men who are opponents by definition of their positions within the triangle, form a union by sharing a common topic of conversation (the women in question). The lecture will theorize these speech patterns as "dueling discourse" according to Roland Barthes on the one hand, and "male complaint" by inverting Lauren Berlant on the other. It finally will debate whether representations of such feminized masculinities relate to the specific historical context of post-bubble Japan.

Thursday
2020-10-22
18:30~20:00
online



▲ *Amerika no yoru* (Day by Night, 1994)

▲ "Minagoroshi" (Massacre, 1998)
first published in *Mujō no sekai*

▲ Abe Kazushige



Maria Roemer obtained her Ph.D. in 2019 from Heidelberg University with a dissertation *Metafiction and Masculinities in Abe Kazushige's 90s Fiction*. Her research focuses on gender and masculinities, precarity, Transcultural Studies, formalism and translation in contemporary Japanese literature and film. She currently teaches at The University of Leeds.

Abe Kazushige, Roemer M [translator]. "License to Kill: The Meaning of 'Massacre' in Dawn of the Dead". *SOAS Occasional Translations in Japanese Studies* 2018, 8.

Roemer M. "Precarious Attraction: Abe Kazushige's Individual Projection Post-Aum". In: Iwata-Weickgenannt, K; Rosenbaum, R, ed. *Visions of Precarity in Japanese Popular Culture*. London and New York: Routledge, 2015, pp.86-101.



85 years of *Suye Mura*

The life history of a Japanese village—and its anthropology a virtual lecture by William W. Kelly

There have been to date over 250 ethnographic monographs published in the anthropology of Japan, and of those, the one with the most surprising and most enduring afterlife is the very first, John Embree's *Suye Mura* (1939), a study of a village in Kyushu based on his fieldwork in 1935-1936. For a book that is widely ignored by scholars and unread by students, it has been a potent force in local and prefectural politics in debates on land reform, administration amalgamation, local identity, and economic revitalization. In this presentation, I want to revisit the book, its author, and the village to trace something of its remarkable legacy over 85 years and its relevance to the issues that continue to vex contemporary regional Japan.

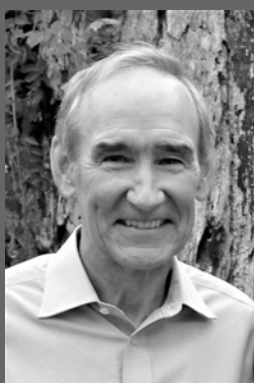


207 調査中のエンブリー夫妻 Mr. & Mrs. Embree doing field work
新本日日新聞社撮影 (the Kumamoto Nichinichi Shinbun 1935)

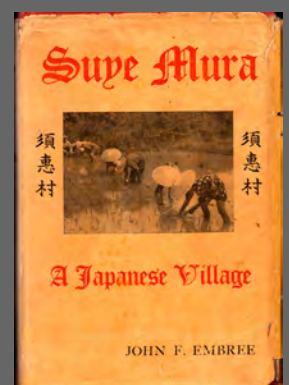
Thursday
2020-10-29
18:30~20:00
online



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William W. Kelly is professor emeritus of anthropology and the Sumitomo Professor Emeritus of Japanese Studies at Yale University, where he has taught continuously since 1980. A principal research interest has been the historical dynamics of regional society in Japan, based on extended fieldwork in the Shōnai area of Yamagata Prefecture that began in the 1970s and continues at present. He has also explored sport and body culture and their significance in modern Japan. Among his recent publications is *The Sportsworld of the Hanshin Tigers: Professional Baseball in Modern Japan* (2018). He is presently writing a book on the history of Japan anthropology and its importance for Japan studies and for sociocultural anthropology.



Menstruation und Konzeptionen von Weiblichkeit im japanischen Mittelalter

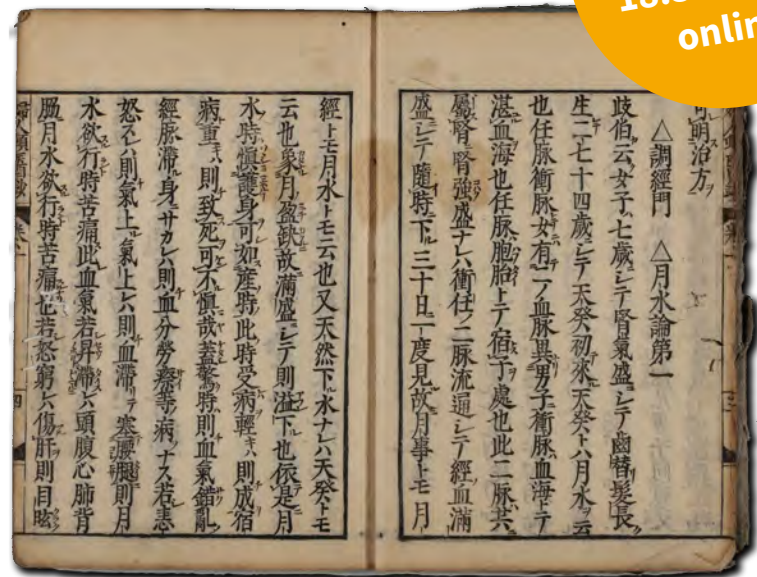
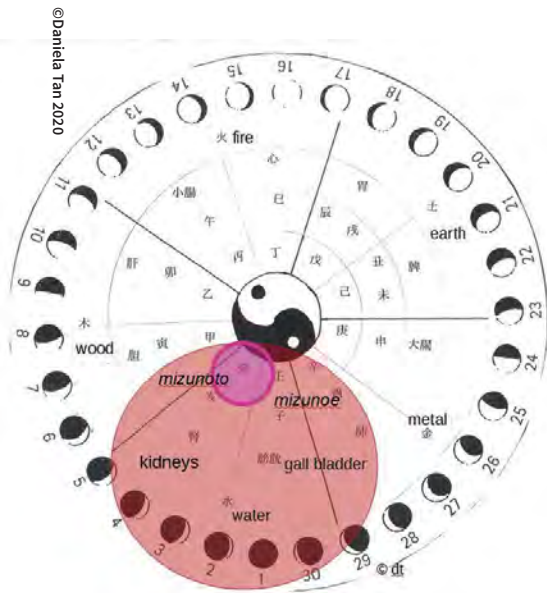
a virtual lecture by Daniela Tan

Das Mittelalter als Epoche grosser politischer und sozialer Veränderungen in Japan brachte einen Wandel des Frauenbildes, was sich auf die rechtliche und gesellschaftliche Stellung der Frauen auswirkte.

Die Menstruation als physiologischer, zyklischer Ablauf steht zum einen im direkten Zusammenhang mit der Phase der biologischen Reproduktion. Ein regelmässiger und beschwerdefreier Zyklus gilt als Zeichen für Gesundheit einer Frau in der reproduktiven Phase zwischen Menarche und Menopause. Zugleich steht das Thema Menstruation mit tabuisierten Themen wie Blut, menschlichen Ausscheidungen und Fortpflanzung im Zusammenhang, an denen sich die ambivalenten Vorstellungen über Weiblichkeit in jeder Epoche - auch heute - aufzeigen lassen. Das komplexe Zusammenspiel der Vorstellungen und Weiblichkeitskonzepte lässt sich anhand verschiedener Bereiche wie Religion, Medizin und Literatur aufzeigen.

Die medizinischen Sammlungen *Ton'ishō* und *Man'anjō* des Mönchsarztes Kajiwara Shōzen dokumentieren das Wissen über Menstruation, religiöse Texte wie das Blut-Sutra belegen die buddhistischen Vorstellungen über Weiblichkeit im Buddhismus, und in den Tagebüchern kommen die Frauen selbst zu Wort. Am Beispiel der Menstruation werden die rechtlichen und sozialen Auswirkungen auf Frauen und die Veränderungen der Weiblichkeitskonzepte aufgezeigt und diskutiert.

Thursday
2020-11-05
18:30~20:00
online



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婦人頓医抄 7卷

<https://rmda.kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp/item/rb00004968>



Dr. Daniela Tan ist als Dozentin für Literatur und Religionen Japans am Asien-Orient-Institut der Universität Zürich (UZH) tätig und verfasste diverse Publikationen zur Gegenwartsliteratur Japans. Im ERC-Projekt TIMEJ „Time in Medieval Japan“ forscht sie zum weiblichen Zyklus und erschliesst mittelalterliche medizinische, religiöse und literarische Quellen.

Tan, Daniela (2020). "The Body as Place in Time(s): Concepts of the Female Body in Medieval Japan", *KronoScope* 20, 1: 17-40, doi: 10.1163/15685241-12341452.

Tan, Daniela (2019). "Telling Time: Literary Rituals and Trauma", In: Montemayor, Carlos; Daniel, Robert. *Time's Urgency*. Leiden: Brill, 198-211.



Model Emotion: Android Perspectives on Affect in Japan

a virtual lecture by **Daniel White**

Since at least the 1980s, robotics engineers in Japan have explored not only what robots can teach us about being human, but also how robots might serve humans' emotional needs. Toward this end, engineers engage in practices of "emotion modeling" when designing social robots by building psychological, mechatronic, algorithmic, and even ethical models of artificial emotion. Because these affective capacities implemented in robots draw on social as much as machine models for emotion, practices of emotion modeling produce complex agents with novel perspectives on affect. Considering findings from both human and robot interlocutors, this talk asks how so-called "androids" understand affect in human-robot interactive settings. Based on ethnographic observations of engineers building robots with emotional intelligence, as well as of the application of robots in public, pedagogical, and religious settings, the lecture explores what robotic perspectives on affect contribute to anthropological research on the emotions in contemporary Japanese technocultures.



Thursday
2020-11-19
18:30~20:00
online

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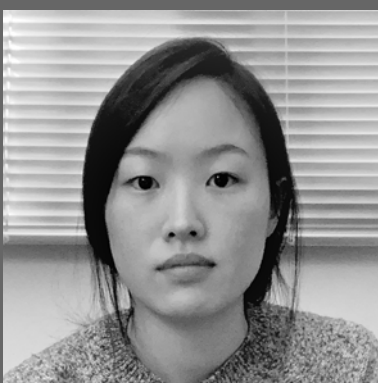
Daniel White is a visiting scholar in the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge. Currently he investigates practices of emotion modeling in the development of affect recognition software, social robots, and artificial emotional intelligence in Japan and the UK.

‘Creativity’ in rural Japan: *Sōzō nōson* and its implications in regional revitalization policies

a virtual lecture by **Shilla Lee**

In public discourse today, rural Japan is growingly described in diverse perspectives. Not limited to urban centers anymore, popular magazines such as Forbes Japan refer to rural areas as ‘creative’ and ‘innovative’. In a similar manner, recent scholarship highlights cases of entrepreneurs and migrants starting innovative businesses or building new lifestyles in the countryside. These findings broaden our perception of rural Japan beyond the image of *furusato* – the native place – to more progressive views. In this presentation, I would like to explore municipal policies, a subject usually lacking closer attention in discussions. Based on ethnographic fieldwork on the revitalization policy of *sōzō nōson* (creative village) in Tamba Sasayama (Hyogo prefecture), I show how the idea of ‘creativity’ is fostered by collective initiatives led by the local government and discuss how this could contribute to our understanding of Japan’s changing rurality.

Thursday
2020-11-26
18:30~20:00
online



<https://japanologie.univie.ac.at/onlinelectures/>

Shilla Lee is a PhD candidate at Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle, Germany. Her research focuses on the notion of creativity in regional revitalization policies and the cooperative activities of traditional craftsmen in Japan. She conducted fieldwork in Tamba Sasayama (Hyogo prefecture) in 2018-2019 and is currently working on her dissertation.



Storehouses of value: materiality of belonging in Japanese Buddhist temples

a virtual lecture by **Paulina Kolata**

What, how, and why people “store” at local Buddhist temples? Can biographies of things deposited at a local temple tell a story of a community? How do people’s individual material histories become matters of communal concern? While walking a fine line between memory and abandonment, we will discover and map out the material and affective networks of community preservation in Japan’s depopulating regions. We will travel to rural Hiroshima Prefecture to imagine Japanese Buddhist temple communities as storehouses of value and consider Buddhist institutions’ role as anchors of people’s belonging in contemporary Japan. By stepping into the shoes of a local Buddhist priest at Myōkoji temple, we will walk down the corridors of donated artwork, photo albums, plane propellers, Buddhist altars, people’s ashes, and entire households to reveal physical, karmic, and emotional connections people strive to maintain and, in turn, make sense of the anticipated decline in their communities.



Thursday
2020-12-10
18:30~20:00
online



Paulina Kolata obtained her PhD in 2019 from The University of Manchester. She is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Manchester Metropolitan University and an Early Career Research Fellow at The University of Manchester. Her doctoral work investigated the religious, economic, and social impact of depopulation and demographic ageing in Buddhist temple communities in regional Japan. Currently she is developing a book manuscript based on her doctoral research.

<https://japanologie.univie.ac.at/onlinelectures/>



Ceding Control: Politics, the Environment and Japan's Food System

a virtual lecture by **Nicole L. Freiner**

For decades, Japan's Seed Law had been the bulwark of a seed preservation, storage and maintenance system that kept control over staple crops in local hands. The Seed Law and the policies that support it, played a vital role in managing agricultural policy and Japan's food system. The Seed Law was revised in 2018 and the effects of these revisions are already reverberating across the agricultural policy arena, down to local level actors who have responded by creating prefectural level laws to resist the weakening of Japan's decades old agricultural policy framework, the bulwarks of which are a public institution: the Ministry for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (MAFF) and a semi-public institution: Japan's National Union of Agricultural Cooperatives also known as JA Zenchu. The two institutions together were responsible for maintaining a small-scale rice growing system in rural areas across the country.

Toyama prefecture is situated in the Toyama plain. Every spring when the snow melt begins to gush downward from the nearby Japanese alps, farmers begin readying their fields for rice planting. The clear, cold mountain water is thought to make rice grown here especially delicious and it is a matter of pride for the farmers in this region of Japan. Since first living here as an exchange student in the 1990s, I have returned here every year. This prefecture provides a window into local public policy efforts in one corner of Japan, that relates to extensive nation-wide changes vis-a vis policymaking within national level ministries such as the MAFF. My research focuses on how the revision of the Seed Law, the declining relevance of JA Zenchu and shifting demographics are remaking Japan's food system.

Thursday
2020-12-17
18:30~20:00
online



<https://japanologie.univie.ac.at/onlinelectures/>



Nicole L. Freiner is Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Global Studies Program at Bryant University where she teaches courses on Asian and Japanese Politics and Society, Comparative and Environmental Politics and Policy and Global Politics. She is the author of two books on Japanese Politics: *The Social and Gender Politics of Confucian Nationalism: Women and the Japanese State* (2012), and *Rice and Agricultural Policies in Japan: The Loss of a Traditional Lifestyle* (2019), both published by Palgrave MacMillan. Alongside the two books, she is the author of numerous articles including "Mobilizing Mothers: The Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Catastrophe and Environmental Activism in Japan" (AsiaNetworkExchange, Fall 2013) and others published in *The Japanese Studies Association Journal* and *The Diplomat* among others. Most recently, she was the recipient of a research grant from the Northeast Asia Council (NEAC) of the Association for Asian Studies to study Japan's Seed Law and Biotechnology Policy.



The fear of others — *taijinkyōfu*: Emergence, development and demise of a psychiatric diagnosis a virtual lecture by Sarah Terrail Lormel

During a period that roughly coincides with the Shōwa era, *taijinkyōfu* 対人恐怖症 or “interpersonal phobia”, has been a common diagnosis for Japanese psychiatrists, defined as a form of anxiety that develops in the presence of other people and leads to the avoidance of interpersonal relationships. Although it closely resembles what contemporary international classifications call “social anxiety disorder” and “social phobia”, *taijinkyōfu* has attracted much attention in Japan at a time when this condition was virtually absent of psychiatric and psychological literature elsewhere. How is *taijinkyōfu* different from mere shyness? Can it be cured or does one have to learn to live with it? Are there delusional forms of shyness? Is Japanese society a particularly fertile ground for this condition? These are the questions that have driven Japanese psychiatrists for decades. Proposing a clinical deconstruction of this diagnosis, this lecture will analyze the theoretical, institutional and intellectual factors underlying the fortune of pathological shyness in Japanese psychiatry, from its first becoming the object of medical scrutiny in the 1930s, through its success during the high economic growth era as a typically Japanese neurosis, until its slow demise from the 1990s.

Thursday
2021-01-07
18:30~20:00
online



pictures from left to right: *Asahi shinbun* cut outs from 1964, 1935, 1939, 1975 and a photograph showing Shoma Morita (1874–1938).



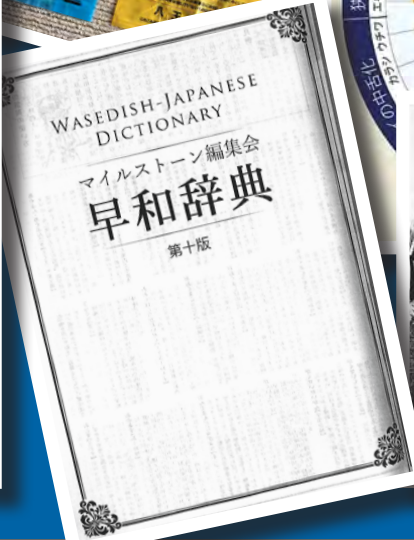
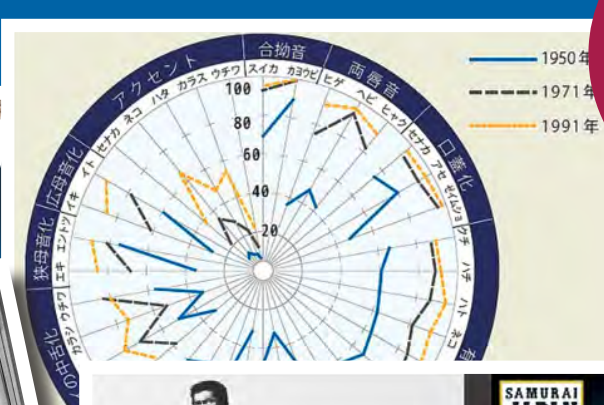
Sarah Terrail Lormel is lecturer in Japanese studies at INALCO (Paris) since 2019. She holds a PhD in Epistemology & History of Science from INALCO with a dissertation on *A Japanese History of neurosis - Interpersonal phobia (taijinkyōfu) 1930-1970* (2018). She was Junior Fellow of the Japan Foundation in 2012-2013 at Keio University. Her field of research is the history of psy disciplines in modern and contemporary Japan, focusing on the evolution of nosology and therapies, and the global circulation of concepts and practices.



Japanese in the Age of Post-Standardization: Language Trends in the 21st Century

a virtual lecture by Asahi Yoshiyuki

Language standardization was the most prominent linguistic Japanese phenomenon in the second half of the 20th century. It became widespread across the country, resulting in a linguistic landscape where Japanese speakers nowadays find it easier to communicate with those who live on the other side of the country. Around the turn of the century, we also witnessed the rise of new social network devices and services such as smartphones, e-mail, texting, and so forth, which have impacted our social and life and language. Another trend is the influx of non-native speakers especially into the large Japanese cities, which has contributed to a multilingual and multicultural Japanese society. This talk will focus on how these changes have impacted Japanese, touching on subjects such as de-standardization, new-honorifics, emojis or dialect cosplay as well as linguistic diversity in local administration. I will bring in a sociolinguistic research perspective to explain the current situation, referencing research projects at the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics.



Thursday
2021-01-14
18:30~20:00
online



Yoshiyuki Asahi is Associate Professor of Sociolinguistics, Division of Language Variation, Department of Research at National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics. After completing his PhD in Japanese Linguistics at Osaka University, he has worked on language variation and change through dialect contact. He is the author of "Synchronic and diachronic variation in the use of spatial frames of reference: An analysis of Japanese route instruction" *Journal of Sociolinguistics* (with Kuniyoshi Kataoka) (vol. 19-2, pp.133-150, 2015), the editor of *Sociolinguistics illustrated* (2nd edition) (Akiyama Shoten, 2010), and *Handbook of Japanese Sociolinguistics* (Mouton, in preparation, expected completion 2022). He also serves as an editorial board of *Asia-Pacific Language Variation* (John Benjamins) and *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* (De Gruyter).

The Single-Gender Worlds of Suzuki Izumi, Kurahashi Yumiko and Shōno Yoriko – A Short History of Ambivalence Towards All-Female Worlds in Japanese Speculative Fiction

a virtual lunch lecture by Stefan Würrer

Thursday
2021-01-28
LUNCH LECTURE
12:30~14:00
online



In this talk I will take a closer look at three speculative novels by Japanese woman writers that negotiate the utopian potential of all-female worlds: Suzuki Izumi's 鈴木いづみ (1949-1986) "Onna to onna no yononaka" 女と女の世の中 (Women's World, 1977), Kurahashi Yumiko's 倉橋由美子 (1935-2005) *Amanon-koku ōkanki* アマノン国往還記 (Record of a Voyage to Amanon, 1986) and Shōno Yoriko's 笙野頼子 (1956-) *Suishōnaisendo* 水晶内制度 (World Within the Crystal, 2003). What these texts have in common is the fact that the all-female worlds they portray are not so much the locus of utopian hope – as, for instance, 'Whileaway' in Joanna Russ's epochal *The Female Man* (1975) – but rather the object of ambivalent dis-identification. What to make of this ambivalence?

Locating these texts within the broader context of utopian thought, feminist speculative fiction and feminism in Japan, I will demonstrate that, while these texts do constitute a critical negotiation of sexism and patriarchy in Japan, their ambivalence towards all-female worlds also bespeaks a systemic problem within the feminist discourses they reference. That is, by taking a closer look at the sexual politics of these texts (as opposed to their gender politics), I attempt to show that this ambivalence is not simply an expression of doubt about 1) the political potential of feminist separatism or 2) utopianism more generally, but 3) must also be understood as an effect of heteronormativity.



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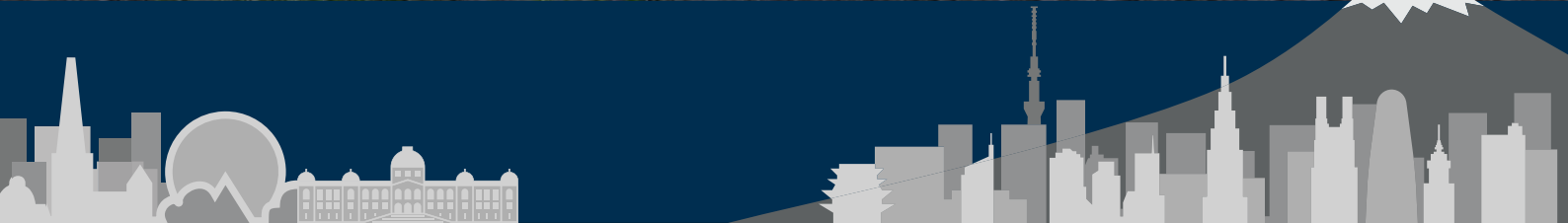
Stefan Würrer is a graduate student (Ph.D.) at Tokyo University's Department for Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies, Research Institute Assistant at International Christian University's Center for Gender Studies and Lecturer at Musashi University. In his Ph.D. project he explores the utopian potential of self-construction in Shōno Yoriko's work from a feminist/queer perspective. His research interests include modern and contemporary Japanese literature, feminist/queer theory, and the cultural history of gender & sexuality in Japan.



u:japan lectures

SEASON 2 | SPRING 2021

- 
- #1 2021-03-04 **Jasmin Rückert** (HHU Düsseldorf) **Geschlecht und Faschismus**
 - #2 2021-03-11 **Nora Kottmann & Elisabeth Scherer** (DIJ & HHU Düsseldorf) **Love in the Time of COVID-19**
 - #3 2021-03-18 **Anne Aronsson** (Universität Zürich) **Conceptualizing Robotic Agency**
 - #4 2021-03-25 **Katharina Hülsmann** (HHU Düsseldorf) **Transcultural Potentials of Dōjinshi Culture**
 - #5 2021-04-15 **Gabriele Vogt** (LMU München) **Local Governance in Okinawa**
 - #6 2021-04-22 **Katarzyna J. Cwiertka** (Leiden University) **The packaging revolution of postwar Japan**
 - #7 2021-04-29 **Edward Mack** (University of Washington) **Japanese Literary Nationalism**
 - #8 2021-05-06 **Aya Homei** (Manchester University) **Science for Governing Japan's Population**
 - #9 2021-05-20 **Uchida Yukiko** (Kyoto University) **Interdependent well-being**
 - #10 2021-05-27 **Christoph Brumann** (MPIEF) **From Private to Public and Back? The Townscape Councils of Kyoto**
 - #11 2021-06-10 **Brian Victoria** (Kyoto) **Zen and the Art of Ending Taishō Democracy**
 - #12 2021-06-17 **Conny Reiher** (Freie Universität Berlin) **Revitalizing rural Japan through crafts**
 - #13 2021-06-24 **Brigitte Steger** (Cambridge University) **Waste disposal as consumption work**



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Geschlecht und Faschismus in Darstellungen der japanischen Siedlungs- aktivitäten in der Mandschurei

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Jasmin Rückert



Thursday
2021-03-04
18:30~20:00
online

<https://japanologie.univie.ac.at/ujapanlectures>



Geschlecht und Faschismus in Darstellungen der japanischen Siedlungs- aktivitäten in der Mandschurei

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Jasmin Rückert

Thursday
2021-03-04
18:30~20:00
online

Während des Bestehens des „Puppenstaats“ Manchukuo investierten der japanische Staat und in der Mandschurei ansässige japanische Firmen mit unterschiedlichen Mitteln in die Verbreitung propagandistischer Repräsentationen der Region. Ein Beispiel für solche Propagandaproduktionen ist die Zeitschrift *Manshū Gurafu* („Manchuria

dschurischen Gesellschaft für Amateurfotografie prägten das Magazin maßgeblich. Sie bedienten sich stilistisch unter anderem aus dem Kanon sowjetischer Propaganda um die technologische Überlegenheit und einen von Japan angeleiteten Modernisierungsprozess des besetzten Gebiets zu demonstrieren. Gleichzeitig wurde über *Manshū Gurafu* auch das Bild eines idyllischen, utopischen und zur Besiedlung durch japanische Siedler bereitstehenden Landes vermittelt. Die Darstellungen der japanischen Siedler und Siedlungsaktivitäten stehen im Fokus dieses Vortrags. Insbesondere wird dabei die Inszenierung von Geschlecht, Jugend und Gemeinschaft und deren ideologische Aufladung in den Blick genommen. Die Analyse der Zeitschrift ist Teil eines DFG-geförderten Projekts zur Untersuchung visueller japanischer Propaganda unter besonderer Berücksichtigung von Ästhetiken, die sich geschlechtlicher Darstellungen bedienen.



Jasmin Rückert studierte an der Universität Wien und der Universität Paris VII Diderot Japanologie, Kunstgeschichte und Gender Studies. Seit 2017 arbeitet sie als wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin an der Heinrich Heine Universität Düsseldorf und ist dort Projektmitarbeiterin bei Prof. Dr. Andrea Germer in dem Forschungsprojekt „Faschismus und Geschlecht: Visuelle Propaganda im Japan der Kriegszeit“.

Graph“), die im Mittelpunkt dieses Vortrages steht und unter Berücksichtigung des zeitgeschichtlichen Kontextes vorgestellt wird. *Manshū Gurafu* wurde zwischen 1932 und 1944 herausgegeben und von der Südmandschurischen Eisenbahn finanziert. Der frühere Avantgarde-Fotograf Fuchikami Hakuyō und seine Kollegen in der Man-

schlecht, Jugend und Gemeinschaft und deren ideologische Aufladung in den Blick genommen. Die Analyse der Zeitschrift ist Teil eines DFG-geförderten Projekts zur Untersuchung visueller japanischer Propaganda unter besonderer Berücksichtigung von Ästhetiken, die sich geschlechtlicher Darstellungen bedienen.

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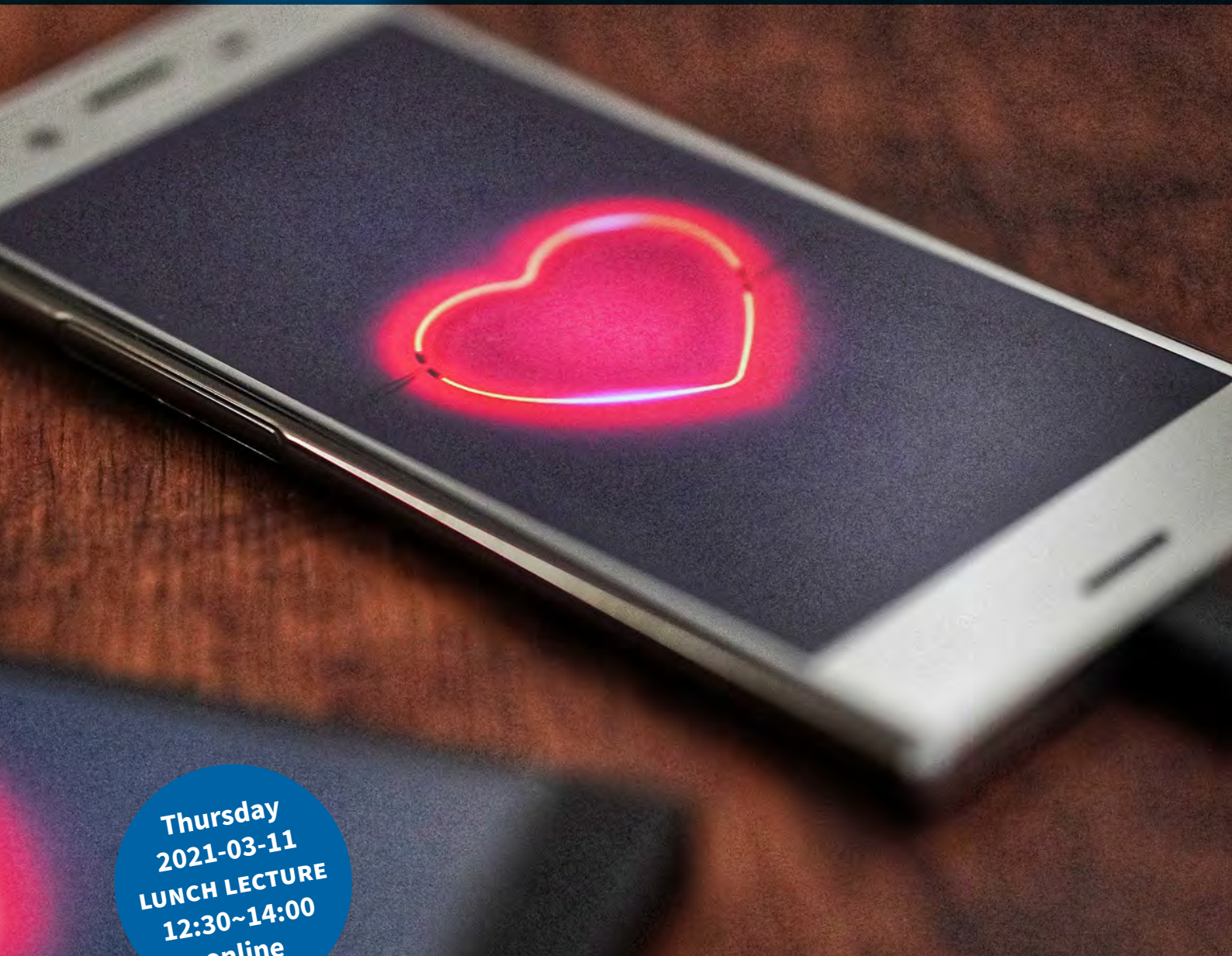
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Love in the Time of COVID-19

The 'New Normal' in the TV Series *#rimorabu* (“Remote Love”)

A virtual *u:japan lecture* by Nora Kottmann & Elisabeth Scherer



Thursday
2021-03-11
LUNCH LECTURE
12:30~14:00
online

<https://japanologie.univie.ac.at/ujapanlectures>



Love in the Time of COVID-19 The ‘New Normal’ in the TV Series *#rimorabu* (“Remote Love”)

A virtual *u: japan* lecture by Nora Kottmann & Elisabeth Scherer

Television series in Japan frequently deal with life plans and life choices of (young) adults and, in so doing, serve as a way to negotiate societal normality. Often, one focus of these series is on unmarried women („singles’) of different age groups. One such example is the recent television series *#rimorabu. Futsū no koi wa jadō* (*#remote love. Ordinary love is a wrong course*; NTV 2020) which aired from mid-October to late December 2020. The series is situated in the context of the ongoing pandemic

and discusses how calls for self-restraint and the avoidance of ‘the 3Cs’ – closed spaces, crowds and close contact situations – affect the dating- and love-life of unmarried individuals. In our talk, we address challenges on the production side, critically discuss depictions of a ‘new normal’ in the context of current single- and gender-discourses in Japan and show that the series, while being extremely up-to date on the one hand, falls back on old narrative patterns on the other hand.



Elisabeth Scherer is a Japanese studies researcher and e-learning professional at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf. Her areas of research interest include popular culture, intermedia, rituals and gender studies. She is the editor of *Reconsidering the Cultural Significance of NHK’s Morning Dramas* (special issue of *East Asian Journal of Popular Culture*, 2019).



Thursday
2021-03-11
LUNCH LECTURE
12:30~14:00
online

Nora Kottmann is Senior Research Fellow at the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) in Tokyo. Her research focuses on issues related to gender, intimacy, mobility, space, and (not) belonging. Recent publications include the co-edited volume *Studying Japan. Handbook of Research Designs, Fieldwork and Methods* (2020; with Cornelia Reiher).



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Conceptualizing Robotic Agency

Social Robots in Elder Care in Contemporary Japan

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Anne Aronsson

Thursday
2021-03-18
18:30~20:00
online



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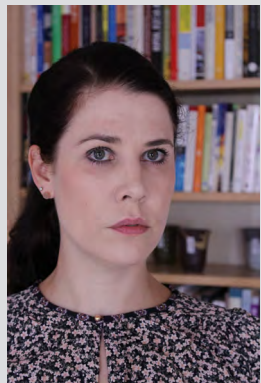
Conceptualizing Robotic Agency Social Robots in Elder Care in Contemporary Japan

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Anne Aronsson

Thursday
2021-03-18
18:30~20:00
online

Japan is a hyper-aging society; it has one of the highest life expectancies in the world and is undergoing a demographic transition that Western nations have yet to experience. The Japanese government is encouraging robotic solutions to address its elder care labor shortage, and authorities have therefore adopted an agenda of introducing social robots. However, increasing numbers of people in Japan are becoming emotionally attached to anthropomorphic machines, and their introduction into elder care may

tween humans attributing agency to a being and those beings having the inherent ability to produce agency and how we might understand that difference if unable to access the minds of other humans, let alone nonhumans, some of which are not even alive in the classical sense. Using the example of an interaction between an elderly woman and a social robot, I engage with these questions; discuss linguistic, attributed, and inherent agencies; and suggest that a processual type of agency might be most appropriate for understanding human-robot interaction. Machines are already embedded in our lives, but, as we start to treat machines as if they are almost human, we may begin to develop habits that cause us to treat humans as almost machines. We therefore need to consider not only what social robots can do, both now



Dr. Anne Stefanie Aronsson is a postdoctoral fellow in the Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies at the University of Zurich and her current research focuses on elderly care in Japan and the use of robotic care devices, with a focus on social robots and emerging emotional technologies. She obtained her doctor's degree in socio-cultural anthropology from Yale University, United States.

She has authored several publications, including "Social Robots in Elderly Care: The Turn Toward Machines in Contemporary Japan," *Japanese Review of Cultural Anthropology*, as well as her monograph *Career Women in Contemporary Japan: Pursuing Identities, Fashioning Lives*. New York: Routledge.

thus be perceived as contentious by elders, caregivers, and family members. By exploring human engagement with social robots in the care context, this presentation argues that rapid technological advances in the twenty-first century will see robots achieve some level of agency, contributing to human society by carving out unique roles for themselves and by bonding with humans. Nevertheless, the questions remain of whether there should be a difference be-

and in the future, but also what humans will become by increasingly forming relationships with machines. I suggest that elderly people can develop an emotional attachment to social robots by attributing agency to them, and, as machine-learning routines grow more sophisticated, those robots will eventually interact with humans in such an insightful way that the division between attributed and inherent nonhuman agency might become meaningless.

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Transcultural Potentials of *dōjinshi* Culture

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Katharina Hülsmann

Thursday
2021-03-25
18:30~20:00
online

<https://japanologie.univie.ac.at/ujapanlectures>



Transcultural Potentials of *dōjinshi* Culture

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Katharina Hülsmann

Thursday
2021-03-25
18:30~20:00
online

In this talk I will present findings of an ethnographic study of *dōjinshi* (amateur comics) culture that I conducted for my PhD thesis. *Dōjinshi* is a term that is used to describe subcultural publications in Japan that are usually self-published and exchanged at specialised events. Most of the works exchanged at these gatherings make use of scenar-

they are mainly being exchanged in printed form and not digitally over the internet. The fan artists thus utilise a robust infrastructure to produce and exchange their works with like-minded fans.

I will illustrate how Japanese *dōjinshi* artists produce cultural capital and social capital within their communities and how they navigate conflicts with outsiders, such as media right holders, and within their own community. For my field study, I focussed on Japanese *dōjinshi* artists who produce fan works based on western entertainment media franchises, such as the Marvel Cinematic Universe. One of the focus points of my study was to trace the potentials for



Katharina Hülsmann is a PhD candidate at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Germany. She is co-editor of the German-language volume *Japanische Populärkultur und Gender* [Japanese Popular Culture and Gender] (2016). In 2017 she conducted field work supported by a PhD grant from the German Institute for Japanese Studies in Tokyo (DIJ). Her research interests include representations of gender in popular culture and fannish works, fan/producer relationships in the digital age, comics studies, as well as transcultural dynamics of fandom.

ios and characters from commercially published media, such as manga, anime, games, movies or television series and can be classified as fan works, poaching from media franchises and offering a vehicle for creative expression. What sets these works apart from fannish forms of expression, like fan fiction, in the anglophone sphere, is, that

transcultural spreading of Japanese fan works and fannish exchange within local and global fan communities. The talk thus aims to give a brief overview of how *dōjinshi* exchange and the local community functions, and then delves deeper into the examination of *dōjinshi* culture as a potentially transcultural phenomenon.

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Local Governance in Okinawa A Case Study from Oku

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Gabriele Vogt

Thursday
2021-04-15
18:30~20:00
online

<https://japanologie.univie.ac.at/ujapanlectures>



Local Governance in Okinawa A Case Study from Oku

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Gabriele Vogt

Thursday
2021-04-15
18:30~20:00
online

Oku, a hamlet of less than 200 inhabitants in Okinawa's Yanbaru region, is known as a place of alternative economy, rich social capital and vivid local self-governance. The basis to this is the hamlet's local shop, the so-called *kyōdōten* (共同店). Founded in the early 20th century as a private initiative, to ensure the distribution of Oku's rich forest

has expanded beyond the shop administration and shaped the model of governance within the hamlet itself. The Oku *kyōdōten* model has spread in Okinawa and occasionally beyond, and today, while several shops already had to close their shutters amidst population aging, outmigration and the wider distribution of chain supermarkets, several dozen cooperatively run shops still persist.



Gabriele Vogt holds the Chair of Japanese Studies / Social Sciences at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, Germany. She has been studying local politics and civic engagement in Okinawa for more than twenty years, and has also extensively researched population aging, eldercare and international migration to Japan. Among her recent publications is a co-authored piece with Ken V. L. Hijino, "Identity politics in Okinawan elections: The emergence of regional populism" (*Japan Forum*, 33:1, 2021), and a monograph entitled *Population aging and international health-caregiver migration to Japan* (Springer, 2018).

resources, and later of agricultural products such as tea and citrus fruits, the *kyōdōten* as a cooperatively run shop has taken over a central economic position in the hamlet. It has served as a meeting point for the hamlet's inhabitants and various local organizations, thereby providing a space for community-building. Its organizational structure, which is based on principles of direct democracy

administrative autonomy from outside governance on a municipal level. Today, however, against the backdrop of demographic change and developmental initiatives in Yanbaru, the store's future is anything but certain. By analyzing the *kyōdōten* model, I assess the potential and the limitations of economic vitality, social support and political autonomy in the marginalized regions of Japan.

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From Glass to Plastics

The Packaging Revolution of Postwar Japan

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Katarzyna J. Cwiertka



Thursday
2021-04-22
18:30~20:00
online

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From Glass to Plastics

The Packaging Revolution of Postwar Japan

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Katarzyna J. Cwiertka

Thursday
2021-04-22
18:30~20:00
online

In May 2020 the Abe government launched an ambitious strategy of reducing Japan's disposable plastic waste by 25 percent within the next decade. Although it remains to be seen how far the government will succeed in this mission, a much more interesting question is why the country has turned into the world's second-highest user per capita of plastic packaging. Plastic has infiltrated the Japanese packaging market at a phenomenal speed. In terms of quantity (expressed in weight), its share more than doubled during the last three decades of the twentieth century, from around 9% in the

1970s to around 19% in the early 2000s. Since plastic is relatively light compared to other packaging materials, its success becomes even more apparent from the perspective of value. Comprising just 4.6% of the total value of Japanese packaging industry in 1958, by 2005 it skyrocketed to 30%. This paper will explore the forces behind the packaging revolution that took place in Japan during the 1950s and 1960, and the impact of these early decades on the rise of the culture of wrapping as we know it today.



Katarzyna J. Cwiertka is Chair of Modern Japan Studies at Leiden University. She is an expert on food history of modern Japan and Korea, both as a domain of culture and as a window into historical inquiry that extends beyond the realm of cuisine and nutrition. Cwiertka is the author of *Modern Japanese Cuisine: Food, Power and National Identity* (Reaktion Books 2006), *Cuisine, Colonialism and Cold War: Food in Twentieth Century Korea* (Reaktion Books 2012), *Himerareta washokushi* (Shinsensha 2016), and *Branding Japanese Food: From Meibutsu to Washoku* (University of Hawaii Press 2020). She has also edited several volumes with a larger geographical focus, including *Asian Food: The Global and the Local* (University of Hawai'i Press 2002), *Critical Readings on Food in East Asia* (Brill 2012), *Food and War in Mid-Twentieth-Century East Asia* (Ashgate 2013), and *Consuming Life Post-Bubble Japan: A Trans-disciplinary Perspective* (Amsterdam University Press 2018). Currently, Cwiertka is working on a book manuscript on the history of food packaging in Japan.

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Japanese Literary Nationalism and Brazil, 1908-1941

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Edward Mack



Thursday
2021-04-29
18:30~20:00
online

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Japanese Literary Nationalism and Brazil, 1908-1941

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Edward Mack

Thursday
2021-04-29
18:30~20:00
online

In this talk I will present a history of the marketplace for Japanese-language literary texts in Brazil, prior to the Second World War, and an analysis of an award-winning story written there during that period, Sonobe Takeo's "An Age of Speculative Farming" 園部武夫「賭博農時代」(1932), after which I will speak briefly about what I think they tell us about "modern Japanese literature."

The talk will add to a growing discourse on the colonial and minority literary practices that chal-

lenges a naturalized conception of a homogeneous ethnic nation-state and an unproblematic national literary culture. This study tries to extend this challenge, by drawing attention to another "marginal" element, that of the migrant, or diasporic, communities in the Americas. Rather than merely making the rubric of national literature more inclusive, or proposing an alternative rubric, however, I will speculate on the necessity and impact of such collective rubrics themselves.



Edward Mack is Associate Professor of Japanese at the University of Washington in Seattle. His first book, *Manufacturing Modern Japanese Literature: Publishing, Prizes, and the Ascription of Literary Value* (Duke, 2010), combined an empirical study of the literary publishing industry in Japan with a disciplinary critique focused on the notion of literary "purity." His forthcoming book, *Acquired Alterity: Migration, Identity, and Literary Nationalism* (California, 2021), is structured similarly, combining a history of Japanese-language literary activities in Brazil with a continuation of the disciplinary critique, this time focused on the concept of the nation as it is applied to literary texts.

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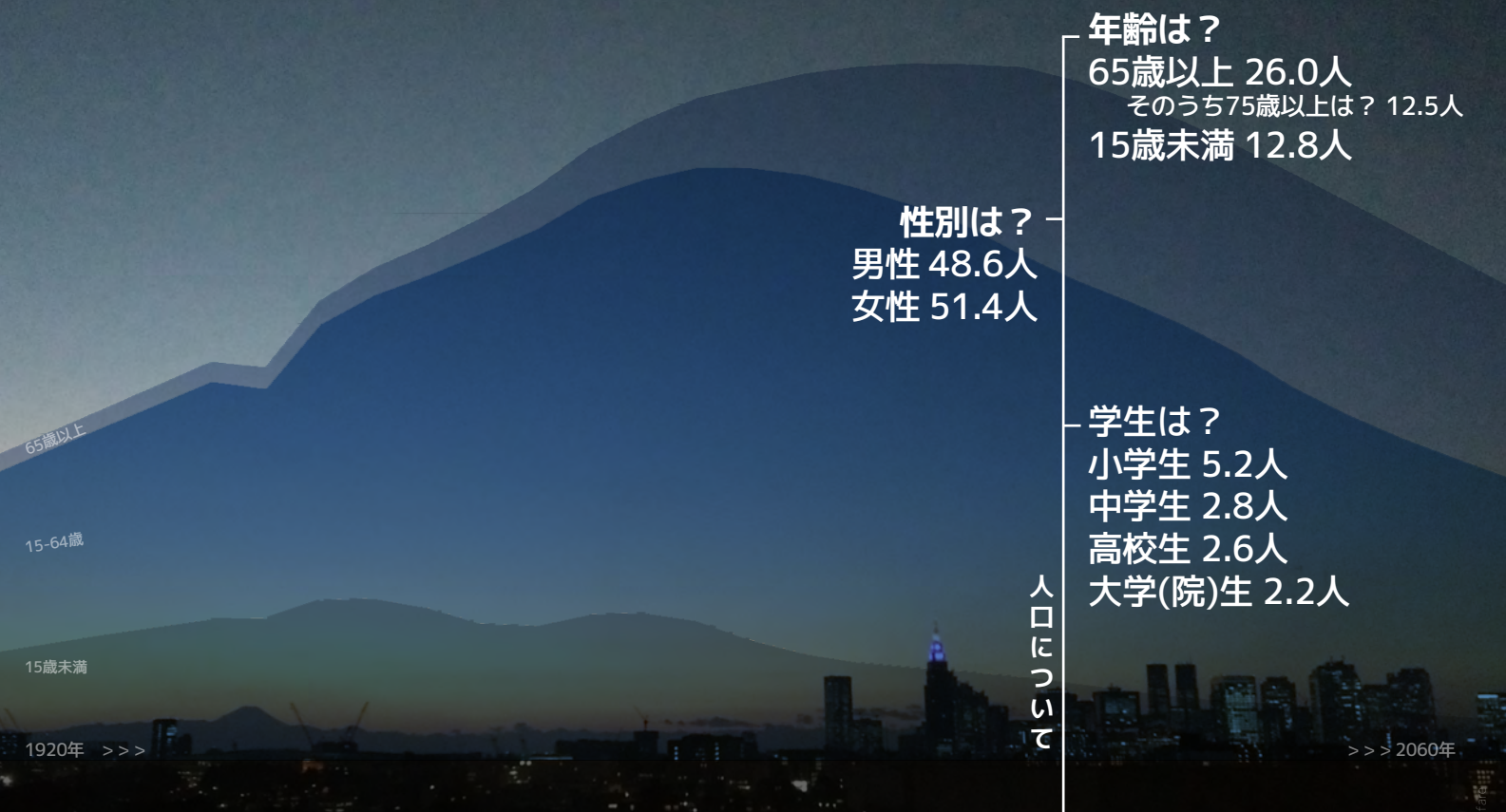


Science for Governing Japan's Population

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Aya Homei

Thursday
2021-05-06
18:30~20:00
online

100人でみた日本



日本を100人の国に例えてみました。
それぞれの直近の数字である。
(平成22年~平成26年)

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Science for Governing Japan's Population

A virtual *u: japan* lecture by Aya Homei

Thursday
2021-05-06
18:30~20:00
online

In Japan and elsewhere, population is seen as a fundamental index for a nation's political economy. Also, the demographic knowledge is regarded as key to understand the societies that comprise the nation. For this reason, population issues such as ageing population and low fertility have been a matter of concern for the government for long, and

reviewing the medico-scientific fields and practices emerged in Japan between the 1860s and 1950s that were mobilized by the concept of population. I show how the notion of population we are familiar with today – in Japanese, *jinkō* – and the fact that population became a natural object of state inquiry and policy, are both a product of the political transformation of Japan into a modern nation state and an empire in the latter half of the nineteenth century and the development of modern science and medicine that kept a symbiotic relationship with the political change.



Aya Homei is Lecturer in Japanese Studies at the University of Manchester. She has been studying the politics and practice of reproduction and population in modern Japan, and more recently, family planning, development politics and health diplomacy in northeastern Asia. Among her recent works include the special issue she co-edited with Professor Yoko Matsubara at Ritsumeikan University (“Critical approaches to reproduction and population in post-war Japan”, *Japan Forum*, 2021). Currently, Aya is preparing a monograph, *Science for Governing Japan's Population*.

policymakers have collaborated with population experts to come up with solutions to these problems.

But where do these assumptions about, and political actions for, the population come from historically? What role has the science of population played in the governing of Japan's population? In this presentation, I will tackle these questions by

By showing the symbiotic relationship between science and the state's effort to govern Japan's population, I argue that the science of population was directly shaped by the ideologies, institutional agendas and socio-political conditions that surrounded the science, and that the official policies established as a result of this symbiotic relationship ultimately became somewhat detached from the demands of people's everyday lives.

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How independently oriented values induce positive outcomes in Japanese interdependent organizations

A virtual *u: japan* lecture by Uchida Yukiko

Thursday
2021-05-20
12:30~14:00
online

<https://japanologie.univie.ac.at/ujapanlectures>



How independently oriented values induce positive outcomes in Japanese interdependent organizations

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Uchida Yukiko

Thursday
2021-05-20
12:30~14:00
online

How do Japanese workers seek and feel well-being? How do we foster and maintain cultural values (e.g., independence, interdependence) in our daily activities? This talk aims to provide direct evidence for the theoretical assumption that cultural values and systems exist at the group level (organization) and that they are functionated under the corresponding socio-ecological contexts such as job mobility. We collected data from various business organizations in Japan. Each organization has its own values. For example, in some organizations, independent-oriented culture (e.g., promotion-oriented, competition-oriented) could become dominant,

while other organizations are more likely to sustain traditional interdependent-oriented culture (e.g., prevention-focused, group harmony-oriented). Using a large-scale survey with a sample over 3,000 employees working in Japanese organizations, we examined the prediction that independence orientation at the organization-level promotes positive outcomes (e.g. cooperative social interactions) only under high job mobility environments. Our findings carry important theoretical implications in understanding how cultural psychological constructs interact with local socio-ecological environments to constitute self-sustaining cultural systems.

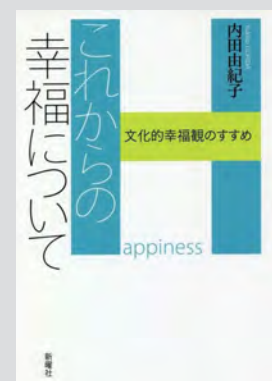


Dr. Uchida Yukiko is currently a professor of social and cultural psychology at the Kokoro Research Center, Kyoto University.

Upon receiving her PhD in social psychology from Kyoto University in 2003, she started her academic career as a visiting researcher at the University of Michigan and Stanford University. Since 2008, she has been based at the Kokoro Research Center.

As a cultural psychologist, she studies the psychological mechanisms behind the experience of emotions like well-being. She is a 2019-20 Berggruen fellow at CASBS, Stanford University.

<http://kokoro.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en2/staff-en/yukiko-uchida-en/>



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From Private to Public and Back? The Townscape Councils of Kyoto

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Christoph Brumann

Thursday
2021-05-27
18:30~20:00
online



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From Private to Public and Back? The Townscape Councils of Kyoto

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Christoph Brumann

Thursday
2021-05-27
18:30~20:00
online

For over half a century, Kyoto has not just been a stronghold of history and tradition but also of conflicts about the built environment and how to shape it. The famous townscape debates (*keikan ronsō*) reached a climax around 2000 and provoked the new building code of 2007 that regulated heights, shapes, designs and views to a degree unseen in Japan. Daring as this imposition of public control on privately owned urban space appeared at the time, it is widely seen as a success today. Instead of following up with more fine-grained rules for individual neighbourhoods, however, Kyoto City introduced the “local townscape councils” (*chiiki keikanzukuri kyōgikai*) of which there are a dozen by now. Whenever such a group forms and receives the mayor’s blessing, builders must consult it for building anything within their territory, in the assumption that locals know best what fits their area. Building on two decades of ethnographic

fieldwork, the lecture discusses the experience and significance of these townscape councils. The city’s move of empowering the locals may appear regressive, as a re-privatisation of what had just been made more public. Closer inspection reveals, however, that the councils are not the local layperson’s voice they are made to be, and tacit cooperation with city officials also arises. Reviewing cases observed in 2019/20, I will show that the councils, despite the non-binding nature of the consultations, can achieve major improvements. When builders do not care for their local reputation and instead wish to profit from real estate speculation and hotel construction fed by the (pre-Covid) tourist boom, however, limitations are obvious and frustration is mounting. A full sharing of urban space therefore has still some way to go, even in the Japanese city that has gone furthest in making it a public concern.



Christoph Brumann is Head of Research Group at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle, and Honorary Professor of Anthropology at the University of Halle-Wittenberg. His earlier work on Japan led to the book *Tradition, Democracy and the Townscape of Kyoto: Claiming A Right to the Past* (2012), the co-edited volumes *Making Japanese Heritage* (2010) and *Urban Spaces in Japan: Cultural and Social Perspectives* (2012), and articles and book chapters on these topics as well as on utopian communes and gift-giving practices. He also wrote *The Best We Share: Nation, Culture and World-Making in the UNESCO World Heritage Arena* (2021) and *Die Kunst des Teilens: Eine vergleichende Untersuchung zu den Überlebensbedingungen kommunitärer Gruppen* (1998), co-edited *World Heritage on the Ground: Ethnographic Perspectives* (2016) and *Monks, Money, and Morality: The Balancing Act of Contemporary Buddhism* (2021), and published numerous anthropological journal articles, including on the concept of culture and the cultural consequences of globalisation.

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Zen and the Art of Ending Taishō Democracy

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Brian A. Victoria

Thursday
2021-06-10
18:30~20:00
online



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Zen and the Art of Ending Taishō Democracy

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Brian A. Victoria

Thursday
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In the case of Germany, the manner in which the Nazi's rose to power has been carefully researched and documented. With the notable exception of the role the Nazis may have played in the Reichstag fire of February 27, 1933, there remains little to be discovered. However, in the case of Japan, the same cannot be said. That is to say, the debate continues as to what led to, and who was responsible for, the demise of democratic governance in Japan, a period popularly known as "Taishō democracy" (1926-1933).

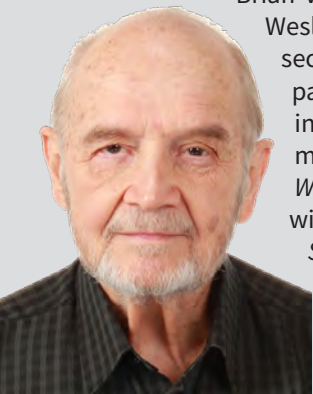
resulted in the death of Japan's prime minister, Inukai Tsuyoshi. Taken together, the death of these three men brought an end to political party-based cabinets reflecting the will of the voters. From then on, through the end of WW II, Emperor Hirohito and his advisors appointed and removed successive prime ministers.

Until the recent publication of my book, *Zen Terror in Prewar Japan: Portrait of an Assassin*, the role

the Zen school of Buddhism played in the incidents described above has remained completely unknown. That said, the claim is not made that the Zen faith of Inoue Nisshō, leader of the terrorist band, was the cause of the killings that took place. Instead, Zen is identified as what may be called an "enabling mechanism" whose doctrines, as well as praxis, served to make the killings possible, i.e., by providing

both the ethical justification and the spiritual/mental strength required for the band's terrorist acts.

This presentation will begin with an introduction to the political and historical dimensions of the two incidents described above. Thereafter, the focus will shift to an examination of the nature of Zen in prewar Japan that enabled it to serve as an enabling mechanism for terrorist acts and, concurrently, the demise of democracy in prewar Japan.



Brian Victoria is a native of Omaha, Nebraska and graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University. He holds a M.A. in Buddhist Studies from Sōtō Zen sect-affiliated Komazawa University in Tokyo, and a Ph.D. from the Department of Religious Studies at Temple University. Brian's major writings include *Zen Terror in Prewar Japan: Portrait of an Assassin* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2020), *Zen At War* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2006); *Zen War Stories* (RoutledgeCurzon, 2003); *Zen Master Dōgen*, coauthored with Yokoi Yūhō (Weatherhill, 1976); and a translation of *The Zen Life by Sato Koji* (Weatherhill, 1972). In addition, many of Brian's journal articles may be found on thezenseite here: <http://www.thezenseite.com> Brian is currently a non-resident Senior Research Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies and a fully ordained Buddhist priest in the Sōtō Zen sect.

There can be little doubt that the Blood Oath Corps Incident (*Ketsumeidan Jiken*) of spring 1932 played an important role in Japan's gradual slide into totalitarianism. The importance of this incident is further strengthened by the May 15th Incident of 1932, for in reality it was but the second stage of the Blood Oath Corps Incident. While the first incident resulted in the deaths of only two Japanese leaders, a politician and a businessman, the second stage

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Revitalizing rural Japan through crafts

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Cornelia Reiher

Thursday
2021-06-17
18:30~20:00
online



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Revitalizing rural Japan through crafts

A virtual *u: japan lecture* by Cornelia Reiher

Thursday
2021-06-17
18:30~20:00
online

National revitalization programs and policies for rural areas in Japan are based on the concept of homogenous and single-issued local identities. This approach has proved to be inapt to fight regional inequality, economic decline in rural areas and related problems such as depopulation and aging. Nevertheless, revitalization strategies in rural Japan

national Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties. This title comes with privileges, but also constrains creativity and excludes new and innovative actors. In my presentation, I compare two towns in rural Kyūshū and their different approaches to “traditional” crafts and art in their revitalization strategies to discuss how cultural heritage in the realm of crafts can enable or



Cornelia Reiher is professor of Japanese Studies at Freie Universität Berlin and vice director of the Graduate School of East Asian Studies. Her main research interests include rural Japan, food studies, globalization and science and technology studies.

Her recent publications include a special issue on fieldwork in Japan (2018), book chapters on transnational protest movement(s) in Asia (2019), and urban-rural migration in Japan (2020) and the methods handbook *Studying Japan: Handbook of research designs, fieldwork and methods* (2020, co-edited with Nora Kottmann).

often reduce local complexity to one or two features/products. These features can be “traditional” crafts like pottery, lacquer ware, Japanese paper (*washi*) or textiles. Japanese crafts are admired for their high quality and those preserving traditional crafts techniques are designated bearers of intangible cultural property (or “living national treasures”) under the

constrain rural revitalization in Japan. While Arita (Saga Prefecture) is famous for its 400 years of porcelain production and home of several “living national treasures”, Taketa (Ōita Prefecture) has no acknowledged crafts tradition. However, the town’s mayor is inviting urbanites with new ideas for the revitalization/establishment of a local crafts tradition in order to attract

tourists and to revitalize the local economy. The emerging hybrid forms of “traditional” crafts in both cases will shed light on the power relations between national and local policymakers, craftsmen and the institutions shaping and preserving cultural heritage and “traditional” crafts in Japan.

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A hug on trash day ハグは資源ゴミの日 Actualising social order through household waste disposal practices

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Brigitte Steger

Thursday
2021-06-24
18:30~20:00
live & online



This lecture takes place at the Campus of the University of Vienna.
For more information and to register for the live event please visit

<https://japanologie.univie.ac.at/ujapanlectures>



A hug on trash day ハグは資源ゴミの日

Actualising social order through household waste disposal practices

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'We hug on Tuesdays. That's easy to remember as it is recyclables rubbish day.' This is how Mikuri in the popular TV drama 'Nigeru wa haji da ga yaku ni tatsu' ('The Full-time Wife Escapist'; TBS 2016) lays out one of the contractual conditions for her marriage of convenience. In so doing, she inadvertently indicates the extent to which waste disposal and recycling practices structure daily life in Japan.

Following the realisation that Japan needed to increase recycling rates in order to deal with its growing amount of household waste, the 'Containers and Packaging Recycling Law' (*Yōki hōsō risaikuru-hō*) that was implemented in 1997 has reorganised waste disposal and recycling practices. Municipalities are now in charge of collecting and handling waste, and residents follow detailed rules that govern the sorting

and disposal of their household waste.

There are considerable regional differences, but the two basic categories are 'rubbish' (*gomi*), which is mostly incinerated before being taken to landfill, and 'resources' (*shigen*), which are collected for recycling.

In this presentation Steger analyses notions of cleanliness and the categorisation of household waste and examines how individuals, households and neighbourhoods deal with their rubbish. Steger argues that cleanliness and litter-free streets are not simply a cultural characteristic of Japanese society but the result of everyday practices of waste sorting and disposal that actualise the social order. The presentation is based on the preliminary findings of her ongoing research project 'Rubbish! Disposing waste, negotiating community'.

Brigitte Steger (PhD Vienna) is a Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in Modern Japanese Studies at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of Downing College. In her research, she has always been intrigued by questions of the cultural and social embeddedness of seemingly natural, bodily matters and daily life. Her main research projects have dealt with notions of sleep, time and cleanliness, which have also guided her investigation of life in tsunami evacuation shelters in Yamada town, Iwate prefecture.

Steger is the chair of the Japanese Gender Research Group at Cambridge, which recently published *Beyond Kawaii: Studying Japanese Femininities at Cambridge* (Lit 2020), and is also Secretary General of JAWS, the Japan Anthropology Workshop. She is a Co-Investigator at the Cambridge Circular Plastics Centre (CirPlas) and leads a project on 'Cleanliness, convenience and good citizenship: Plastic and waste in everyday life'. Her project team has launched the publication of the special collection titled 'The bag and beyond: Social science and the social life of plastic' in *Worldwide Waste: Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies* (2021). Steger has recently published an article on the ethnologist Oka Masao, the founder in 1938 of the Institut für Japankunde at the University of Vienna, and is currently working on a book-length manuscript on sleep habits during the Heian period.



This lecture is presented live at the Campus of the University of Vienna (registration required).



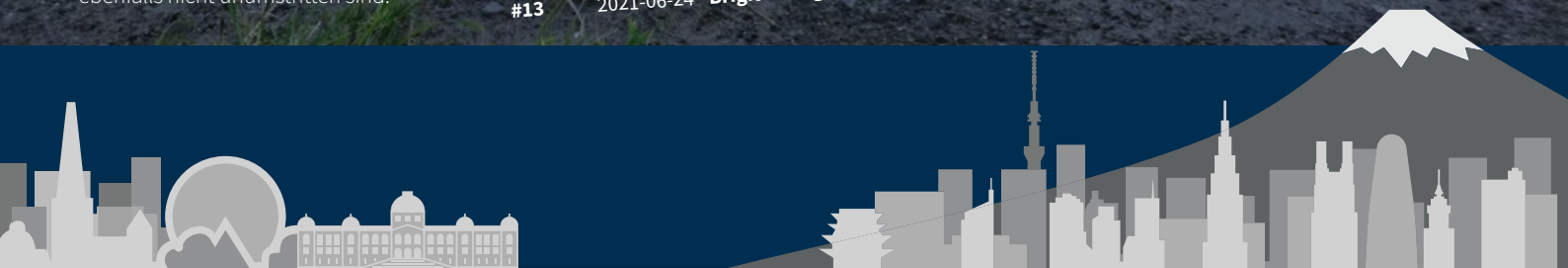
u:japan lectures

SEASON 2 | SPRING 2021

Die Wiener Schule der Japanforschung verfügt über eine lange Tradition der innovativen Auseinandersetzung mit Themen am Puls der Zeit. Im Rahmen von *Campus Aktuell* bietet die Japanologie im Sommersemester 2021 die Vortragsreihe *u:japan lectures* an. Immer donnerstags referieren Expert*innen zu aktuellen Themen aus den Bereichen Gesellschaft und Kultur Japans.

Japan wird 2021 wieder große mediale Beachtung finden: Die Welt erinnert sich an das Tōhoku-Erdbeben am 11. März vor zehn Jahren. Der daraus resultierende Tsunami und die Kernschmelze im Atomkraftwerk Fukushima I hatten große internationale Auswirkungen und warfen Fragen zur Verfasstheit der gegenwärtigen japanischen Gesellschaft auf. Darüber hinaus sollen diesen Sommer die Corona-bedingt verschobenen Olympischen Sommerspiele und Paralympics in Tokyo stattfinden, welche ebenfalls nicht unumstritten sind.

- #1 2021-03-04 **Jasmin Rückert** (HHU Düsseldorf) **Geschlecht und Faschismus**
- #2 2021-03-11 **Nora Kottmann & Elisabeth Scherer** (DIJ & HHU Düsseldorf) **Love in the Time of COVID-19**
- #3 2021-03-18 **Anne Aronsson** (Universität Zürich) **Conceptualizing Robotic Agency**
- #4 2021-03-25 **Katharina Hülsmann** (HHU Düsseldorf) **Transcultural Potentials of Dōjinshi Culture**
- #5 2021-04-15 **Gabriele Vogt** (LMU München) **Local Governance in Okinawa**
- #6 2021-04-22 **Katarzyna J. Cwiertka** (Leiden University) **The packaging revolution of postwar Japan**
- #7 2021-04-29 **Edward Mack** (University of Washington) **Japanese Literary Nationalism**
- #8 2021-05-06 **Aya Homei** (Manchester University) **Science for Governing Japan's Population**
- #9 2021-05-20 **Uchida Yukiko** (Kyoto University) **Interdependent well-being**
- #10 2021-05-27 **Christoph Brumann** (MPIEF) **From Private to Public and Back? The Townscape Councils of Kyoto**
- #11 2021-06-10 **Sabine Frühstück** (UC Santa Barbara) **East Asia, Bodies, Antibodies**
- #12 2021-06-17 **Conny Reiher** (Freie Universität Berlin) **Revitalizing rural Japan through crafts**
- #13 2021-06-24 **Brigitte Steger** (Cambridge University) **Waste disposal as consumption work**



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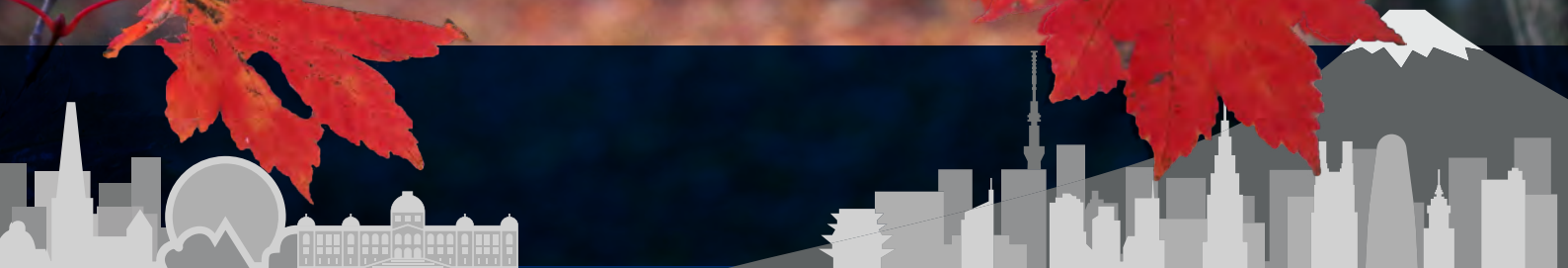
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SEASON 3 | FALL-WINTER 2021/22



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Tatamis and Concrete

Antonin Raymond and the challenges of early
modern architecture in interwar Japan

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Yola Gloaguen

Thursday
2021-10-14
18:30~20:00
online



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Tatamis and Concrete

Antonin Raymond and the challenges of early modern architecture in interwar Japan

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Yola Gloaguen

Thursday
2021-10-14
18:30~20:00
online

Antonin Raymond is one of few Western architects who allow us to explore the dynamics at work in the development of modern architecture in a non-Western context. Together with his wife and work partner Noemi Pernessin, the Czech born American architect arrived in Japan on the eve of 1920 to join Frank Lloyd's international team and assist with the building of the new Imperial Hotel in Tokyo. Soon, Raymond opened his own office in the capital, setting out to become

and Japanese lifestyles by Tokyo's international elites. It also reveals the technical challenges of fire and earthquake-proof construction in the domestic field. This is reflected in both the spatial design and construction techniques adopted by Raymond and his office over the first 15 years of his practice, drawing both on the international modernist idiom of the interwar period and the characteristics of premodern local architecture.



Yola Gloaguen is a post-doctoral researcher at the East Asian Civilizations Research Centre in Paris, France. After receiving her degree in Architecture from Paris La Villette School of Architecture, she became a postgraduate student at Kyoto University and studied the history of modern architecture in Japan, with a focus on cultural and technological exchange between Japan and the Western world.

In 2016, Yola Gloaguen obtained a PhD from École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris, with her dissertation entitled *Les villas réalisées par Antonin Raymond dans le Japon des années 1920 et 1930. Une synthèse entre modernisme occidental et habitat vernaculaire japonais*. Since then she has regularly contributed papers and book chapters to publications on the history of Japanese architecture and landscape. She is currently preparing the publication of a monograph based on her PhD dissertation.

one of the pioneers of modern architecture in Japan. The human and technical challenges taken on by the architect and his international team are embodied in a large body of work produced between 1921 and 1938, particularly a large number of private houses and villas designed in Tokyo and its surrounding resort areas. Such works reflect the increasing demand for the design of a dwelling suited to both a Western

and his team developed a way of design based on the appropriation and adaptation of selected elements of the Japanese vernacular into the Western modernist idiom, which itself had to be re-evaluated in the particular context of Japan. Through the medium of architecture, this talk offers a reflection on the reassessment of the usual binaries of Western influence and Japanese adaptation.

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Frauen als groteske Monster

Weiblichkeit und Abjektion in den Werken Kirino Natsuos

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Anna-Lena von Garnier

Thursday
2021-10-21
18:30~20:00
online



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Frauen als groteske Monster

Weiblichkeit und Abjektion in den Werken Kirino Natsuos

A virtual *u: japan* lecture by Anna-Lena von Garnier

Thursday
2021-10-21
18:30~20:00
online

Die japanische Autorin Kirino Natsuo (*1951) erhebt sich in ihrer Literatur bewusst gegen die patriarchalen Machtstrukturen Japans, das sie als „Bubblonia“ bezeichnet, in Anlehnung an die Wirtschaftsblase der 80er Jahre und ihr Platzen im Jahr 1990, was wirtschaftliche Stagnation und sozialen Verfall nach sich zog. Sie ist größtenteils bekannt durch ihre Kriminalgeschichten, die sich dem so genannten „gesellschaftskritischen Krimi“ (*shakaiha*) zuschreiben lassen. Kirino zeichnet in ihren Werken ein dystopisches Bild Japans, in dem ihre Figuren mit Prekariat, Einsamkeit und der Unmenschlichkeit des kapitalistischen Systems konfrontiert werden.

Im Vortrag beschäftige ich mich mit ihren Werken „Out“ (1997) und „Grotesque“ (2003), in denen Kirino ihre weiblichen Protagonistinnen in einem patriarchalen System agieren lässt, das keine weibliche Agenda zulässt und Frauen, die von der traditionellen Geschlechterrolle der Hausfrau und Mutter abweichen, bestraft. Weibliche Figuren, die in die männlich dominierte Arbeitswelt vordringen oder sexuelle Selbstbestimmung entwickeln möchten, werden als „Monster“ und „grotesk“ bezeichnet und die Subversion gegen bestehende Geschlechterrollen skandalisiert und abgewertet.



Anna-Lena von Garnier studierte von 2007 bis 2014 Modernes Japan und Kunstgeschichte an der Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf. Während des Studiums absolvierte sie von 2009 bis 2010 ein Auslandsjahr an der Ryūkyū-Universität in Okinawa, Japan. Seit 2016 ist sie Promotionsstudentin und am Institut für Modernes Japan der Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf. In ihrem Dissertationsvorhaben beschäftigt sie sich mit der Inszenierung weiblicher Körper in der Literatur moderner japanischer Autorinnen am Beispiel von Kôno Taeko, Kirino Natsuo und Kanehara Hitomi.

Obwohl Kirino sich nicht als feministische Autorin versteht, stehen gender-orientierte Thematiken in ihren Werken häufig im Vordergrund und in den Lebensgeschichten ihrer Figuren zeichnet sie unter anderem strukturelle, sexistische Diskriminierung am Arbeitsplatz, Sexualisierung und die Abwertung älterer Frauen in einer männerdominierten Gesellschaft nach. Ihre Herangehensweise ist meist intersektional und zeigt auch Schwierigkeiten anderer marginalisierter Gruppen auf. Die starke Zäsur durch den Zusammenbruch der Wirtschaftsblase 1990 wird in Kirinos Werken besonders deutlich.

Dies erinnert stark an Julia Kristevas Theorien zum Abjekten. Kristeva definiert das Abjekte als einen Zusammenbruch der symbolischen Ordnung, der durch den Verlust der Unterscheidung zwischen Subjekt und Objekt hervorgerufen wird und sich meist durch Gefühle des Ekels äußert. Die grundlegendste Form von Abjektion stellt dabei Ekel vor Essen oder Verwesung dar, jedoch findet sich Abjektion auch in der Störung bestehender gesellschaftlicher Ordnungen und in diesem Sinne können auch feministische Strömungen und Subversionen gegen bestehende Geschlechterrollen als abjekt gedeutet werden. Im Vortrag soll daher herausgearbeitet werden, inwiefern weibliche Handlungen und Lebensentwürfe innerhalb der patriarchalen Welt Kirinos als subversiv und somit abjekt gelesen werden können.

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What Does the Individual Stand for? Victims, Survivors and Noble Spirits in Japanese Memorial Museums

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Frauke Kempka & André Hertrich (ÖAW)



Thursday
2021-10-28
18:30~20:00
online

<https://japanologie.univie.ac.at/ujapanlectures>



What Does the Individual Stand for? Victims, Survivors and Noble Spirits in Japanese Memorial Museums

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Emotionally highly charged representations of individuals have become a prominent feature in many museums commemorating atrocities around the world. However, similar exhibition designs do not necessarily imply similarities in the contents of an exhibition or in its contributions to debates on commemoration. As a means to convey very divergent narratives about the war we will focus on representations of individuals at the Women's Active Museum (WAM), the Yûshûkan and Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. All three museums refer to WWII, but are otherwise worlds apart in their contributions to debates on how to commemorate the war in Japan.

The WAM is a small private museum. It commemorates women who were exploited for sexual slavery by the Imperial Japanese Military around Asia, the so-called comfort women. Its exhibition places a strong emphasis on Japanese perpetratorship and the victimization of the women survivors. Since the state's involvement in and responsibility for the systematic perpetration of sexual slavery is often broadly rejected by conservative or right-wing actors in debates on WWII commemoration, the WAM is taking a critical stance towards mainstream debates. The Yûshûkan however represents a completely different brand of war memorialization. It is part of the Yasukuni Shinto Shrine, where the spirits of 2.5 million Japanese war dead are enshrined and deified. The Yûshûkan exhibits artifacts that are attributed

to the individuals worshipped as "noble spirits" at Yasukuni Shrine. The exhibition stresses their humanity as loving husbands or dutiful sons and daughters and highlights their death as the ultimate sacrifice for their loved ones, alongside emperor and nation. Whereas the Yûshûkan seeks to present its "noble spirits" as role models for today's generation, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum places its focus on the victimization of the city's population by the atomic bomb and the horrors of nuclear warfare. Especially the new exhibition which opened doors after an intensive renovation in 2019, puts the stories of beloved ones killed by the atomic bomb in the centre of its attention. Thus, the exhibition aims at "psychologically impact and [...] emotionally grip the visitors" (City of Hiroshima) by concentrating on the individual victim and the feeling of loss and grief.

We are therefore presenting findings from three Japanese museums that are representing opposing ways of commemorating WWII. Yet, individual photographs, personal artifacts and biographies are on display in all three exhibitions. In our presentation we are unravelling the different expositions of individuals within the WAM, the Yûshûkan and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. Assuming that "an exposition is always also an argument" (Bal 1996), we outline the museums' arguments as a contribution to the ongoing debates on how to commemorate WWII in Japan.



Frauke Kempka is an Associated Researcher with the Globalized Memorial Museums ERC project at the Institute of Culture Studies and Theatre History, Austrian Academy of Sciences. She holds a Ph.D. in Japanese Studies from Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany and an M.A. degree in East Asian Art History and Japanese Studies from Freie Universität Berlin.

André Hertrich is a Post-Doc Researcher with the Globalized Memorial Museums ERC project at the Institute of Culture Studies and Theatre History, Austrian Academy of Sciences. He holds an M.A. in Modern History and Japanese Studies from the Ludwig-Maximilians University (Munich), an M.A. in Peace and Conflict Studies from the Philips University (Marburg) and a Ph.D. degree in Japanese Studies from the University of Hamburg.



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Das Ende des Intimen

Raumkonstruktionen in Murata Sayakas *Satsujin Shussan*

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Ronald Saladin

Thursday
2021-11-04
18:30~20:00
hybrid

<https://japanologie.univie.ac.at/ujapanlectures>



Das Ende des Intimen Raumkonstruktionen in Murata Sayakas *Satsujin Shussan* (2014)

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Ronald Saladin

Thursday
2021-11-04
18:30~20:00
hybrid

Vor 100 Jahren war Mord etwas Böses.

[...]

Tatsächlich dauerte es etwas, bis das Mordgeburts-System, das besagt, dass man einen Menschen töten darf, wenn man zehn Babys geboren hat, in Japan akzeptiert wurde. [...]

Aber deshalb kann ich alles ertragen. Und während ich es ertrage, wird der Mord zum Lichtblick meines Lebens. [...]

Noch zu unserer Kindheit haben wir in einer falschen Welt gelebt. Mord wurde als etwas Schlechtes angesehen. Mordgelüste zu verspüren wurde auf geradezu hysterische Art und Weise mit Wahnsinn gleichgesetzt. [...] Aber die Welt wurde korrigiert. Dadurch, dass ich zu einem „Geburtsmenschen“ geworden bin, wurde meine Mordlust zum Nährstoff des Lebens unserer Welt. Darüber bin ich wirklich sehr glücklich.

(Murata Sayaka, *Satsujin Shussan*, 2014)

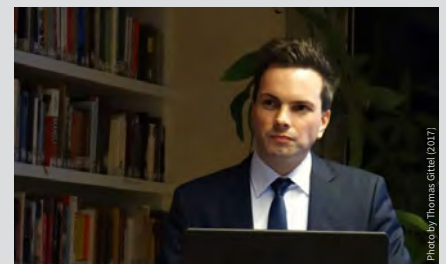
Murata Sayaka, die spätestens mit ihrem Roman *Konbini ningen* (2016, dt. „Die Ladenhüterin“) einen großen internationalen Erfolg gefeiert und damit auch außerhalb Japans Bekanntheit erlangt hat, wird angetrieben von dem in Frage stellen gegebener Tabus. Für sie persönlich ist das Schreiben ein Weg zu ergründen, woher die negativen Gefühle stammen, die durch diese Tabus evoziert werden. So fragt sie beispielsweise, wieso Notwehr oder aber die Todesstrafe erlaubt sind, wenn Mord doch eigentlich als Tabu gilt? Es ist typisch für Muratas Schaffen, sich mit den Spannungen zu befassen, die zwischen dem Auftreten, was als soziale Norm verstanden wird, und Dingen oder Menschen, die sich aus irgendeinem Grund nicht daran anpassen können oder wollen.

In Ihrer Kurzgeschichtensammlung *Satsujin Shussan* [Mordgeburt] beleuchtet Murata das Thema Liebe und Sexualität. Dabei handelt es sich um Themen, die die Autorin grundlegend

in den meisten ihrer Werke behandelt. Bei den Kurzgeschichten dieses Bandes geht es vor allem darum, wie Liebe und Sexualität im Spannungsverhältnis zu Gesellschaft und Staat stehen. Dies trifft insbesondere auf die Geschichte zu, die dem Band ihren Namen gibt.

In diesem Vortrag werde ich die Kurzgeschichte *Satsujin Shussan* mit einem Fokus auf Raumkonstruktionen analysieren. Dabei werde ich sowohl unter Bezug auf Foucaults Konzept der Heterotopie, Lotmanns Semiosphäre als auch narratologisch untersuchen, inwiefern Murata Raumkonstruktionen nutzt, um das Spannungsgefüge zwischen Individuum und Gesellschaft anhand von Sexualität und Fortpflanzung zu thematisieren und zu fokussieren. Dabei fragt sie nicht nur danach, wo Privates endet und öffentlicher Einfluss auf intimste Bereiche des Lebens beginnt, sondern karikiert ebenso, inwiefern „Normales“ unumstößlich als „normal“ angesehen werden kann.

Ronald Saladin ist Juniorprofessor für Japanologie an der Universität Trier. In Forschung und Lehre beschäftigt er sich mit japanischer Gegenwartsliteratur, Medien und Populärkultur, die er unter anderem aus Perspektive der Sozialwissenschaft, Gender Studies und Cultural Studies untersucht. Seine Dissertation ist 2019 unter dem Titel *Young Men and Masculinities in Japanese Media – Unconscious Hegemony* bei Palgrave Macmillan erschienen.



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Zuflucht in Shanghai

The Port of Last Resort

Filmscreening and Director Talk

A special *u:japan* lecture with Paul Rosdy

Thursday
2021-11-11
18:30~20:30
screening on site
hybrid talk



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| Synopsis |

THE PORT OF LAST RESORT presents the little-known story of nearly 20,000 European Jewish refugees who fled to Shanghai in the years 1938-41. Shanghai was a free port that did not require papers for entry, and became the “last resort” to find a safe haven from the Nazis. This lost world is revealed through the memories of four survivors, and through a collage of rare and remarkable film footage. Extraordinary images of refugees and uncommon views of Chinese life create a compelling vantage point for understanding and experiencing this story of survival.

... more about the film <https://www.rosdyfilm.com/port>

| Director's Statement |

I made this film because I wanted to know what it was like for a person of my home country – or any other country, to be – all of a sudden – declared an enemy of the state that actually exists, among other things, for to protection of this very same citizen. What was it like for a person to be thrown out of his home country, all their belongings taken away, and finding refuge in a city like Shanghai? What happened there and how did people survive?

For me, to understand the history of my home country it was not enough to just read about it and know the story. Making this film made me much more aware of what these people had to go through, something that today hardly anyone imagines can happen again. Though it just did happen not long ago in Bosnia & Hercegovina.

Shanghai was for most refugees a lost time. They survived but often lost their youth, lost their chance for an education and after these 10 years they had to start all over again for the 2nd or 3rd time. But time did pass, people became older and so their chance for a happy and successful life. As Sig Simon says in the film: The bad is buried by the good.

For me this is a positive story, a story of survival with all its hardship, facts and memories that usually are not mentioned in history books: human feelings about their struggle to survive. To know what this is like I made the film. I know how privileged I am in being able to make this film and I am grateful for that. I know from the response of the people who were in Shanghai, that they appreciated that their story was finally told.

Paul Rosdy, June 1999

Born and raised in Vienna, **Paul Rosdy** worked in the tourism industry and traveled the world, in the 1980s, for American Express, including the Soviet Union, China, and the USA. In 1990 he moved to Vancouver, Canada, where he completed a film curriculum. His first film was called *You Don't Look For Street Signs When You're In A Jungle* (1991), followed by *Release Day* (1992), both of which dealt with life in prison. In New York he founded Pinball Films with Joan Grossman and they released *The Port of last Resort – Zuflucht in Shanghai* in 1998, about the 20,000 Jewish refugees who escaped the Nazis for Shanghai. Then he turned to Central Europe to film *New World* (2005) a poetic travelogue, from the old world to the new. In 2009, Rosdy wrote and directed *Černobílá Barevná* (Black White Color), a Czech production about transformations in the Northern Bohemian brown coal fields. In 2011 he released *The Last Jew from Drohobych*, a portrait of Alfred Schreyer, whose incredible life story spans all the upheavals of the 20th century. In 2012 Rosdy began a long journey through the cinema landscape and history of Vienna, from 1896 until today. *Kino Wien Film* (Vienna's Cinemas) premieres at the 2018 Viennale Film Festival.



Photo by Wolfram Wainovic

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Japankoreanische *hibakusha* als Irritation nationaler Narrative

Die Erzählung *Saihate no futari* von Sagisawa Megumu

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Maren Haufs-Brusberg

Thursday
2021-11-18
18:30~20:00
online



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Japankoreanische *hibakusha* als Irritation nationaler Narrative Die Erzählung *Saihate no futari* von Sagisawa Megumu

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Maren Haufs-Brusberg

Thursday
2021-11-18
18:30~20:00
online

Die Schriftstellerin Sagisawa Megumu (鷺沢萌, 1968-2004) gilt sowohl als Autorin von Prekariatsliteratur als auch von japankoreanischer Literatur. Nachdem sie erst nach ihrem frühen literarischen Debut 1987 entdeckte, dass ihre Großmutter väterlicherseits koreanischer Herkunft war, begann sie, sich intensiv mit der japankoreanischen Minderheit in Japan zu beschäftigen und ab 1994 Texte hierzu zu veröffentlichen. In meinem Vortrag setze ich mich mit Sagisawas 1999 publizierter Erzählung *Saihate no futari* („Zwei Menschen am Rande“) auseinander.

Im Mittelpunkt der Erzählung steht eine junge Frau, die ein uneheliches Kind eines US-Soldaten und einer Japanerin ist. Sie arbeitet in einer Bar, wo sie sich in einen Gast verliebt, einen Japankoreaner, der deutlich älter ist als sie. Die Beziehung zwischen beiden währt jedoch nur wenige Monate, da der Japankoreaner bald an Leukämie

Wie anhand der knappen Zusammenfassung der Erzählung deutlich wird, entwirft *Saihate no futari* bereits durch die Figurenkonstellation ein komplexes Netz an Beziehungen und Verweisen, dessen Fäden gewissermaßen in der Figur des Ungeborenen zusammenlaufen: Dessen Vorfahren väterlicherseits sind koreanischer Herkunft. Seine Großeltern emigrierten als Folge der Kolonialisierung Koreas und des von Japan geführten Pazifikkriegs nach Japan, wo die Großmutter Opfer des US-amerikanischen Atombombenabwurfs auf Japan wurde. Dieser bedeutete für Japan die rasche Kapitulation, für die USA den Sieg und für Korea die Befreiung von der japanischen Kolonialherrschaft. Seine Großmutter mütterlicherseits hingegen ist Japanerin und der Großvater mütterlicherseits ein US-Soldat, der im Zuge des Vietnamkriegs in Japan stationiert war, womit auch auf den Kalten Krieg, in dem die nukleare Bedrohung eine wesentliche Rolle spielte, verwiesen wird.

In meinem Vortrag richte ich meinen Fokus auf die Figuren der japankoreanischen *hibakusha* in der Erzählung, nämlich der Mutter des Japankoreaners

als *hibakusha* der ersten Generation und ihren Sohn als *hibakusha* der sogenannten zweiten Generation, und arbeite heraus, inwiefern diese vor dem Hintergrund der geschilderten komplexen Figurenkonstellation sowohl vorherrschende nationale japanische Narrative als auch US-amerikanische Narrative der Atombombenabwürfe irritieren.



Maren Haufs-Brusberg M.A. studierte mit interdisziplinärer Ausrichtung Japanologie, Politikwissenschaften, Philosophie und Soziologie an der Universität Trier. 2007/2008 absolvierte sie als DAAD-Stipendiatin ein Studienjahr an der *Tōkyō kokusai daigaku* in Kawagoe, Saitama. Nach ihrem Studium war sie von 2013 bis 2018 als Lehrbeauftragte in der Japanologie der Universität Trier tätig, wo sie auch ihr Promotionsvorhaben zu Verflechtungen von Ethnizität und Gender in der japankoreanischen Gegenwartsliteratur begann. Von August bis Oktober 2018 forschte sie hierfür als Stipendiatin am Deutschen Institut für Japanstudien (DIJ) in Tokyo. Seit ihrer Rückkehr nach Deutschland ist sie wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin am Institut für Modernes Japan an der Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf.

verstirbt. Wie sich im Nachhinein herausstellt, war er der Nachkomme einer *hibakusha*, denn seine ebenfalls in mittleren Jahren verstorbene Mutter war eine Überlebende des Atombombenabwurfs auf Nagasaki. Die Erzählung endet damit, dass die Protagonistin bemerkt, dass sie schwanger ist.

als *hibakusha* der ersten Generation und ihren Sohn als *hibakusha* der sogenannten zweiten Generation, und arbeite heraus, inwiefern diese vor dem Hintergrund der geschilderten komplexen Figurenkonstellation sowohl vorherrschende nationale japanische Narrative als auch US-amerikanische Narrative der Atombombenabwürfe irritieren.

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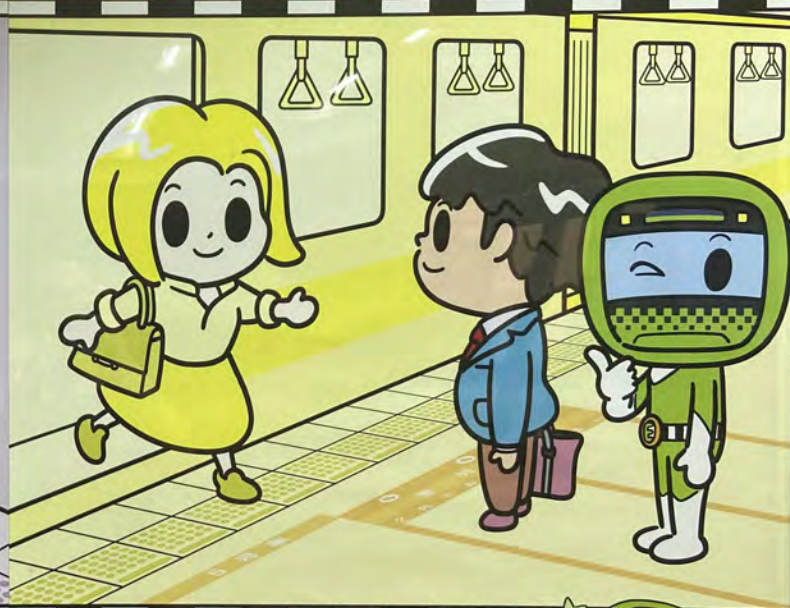
“Manner Posters” and the Management Of Passenger Etiquette on Japanese Urban Railways

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Christoph Schimkowsky

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Thursday
2021-11-25
18:30~20:00
hybrid



“Manner Posters” and the Management Of Passenger Etiquette on Japanese Urban Railways

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Christoph Schimkowsky

Illustrated posters appealing to passenger conduct – so-called “manner posters” (*manā posutā*) – are ubiquitous in Japanese public transport spaces. Usually issued by public transport providers, Japanese manner posters target a broad range of potentially problematic passenger behaviours such as the “correct” way to transport luggage or hold a smartphone on a crowded train. Notably, manner posters usually avoid straightforward prohibitions or modes of address that could be perceived as moralizing by passengers. Instead, they attempt to encourage desirable commu-

This lecture provides an introduction to manner posters as a friendly yet pervasive media presence in Japanese urban transport environments. It offers a glimpse behind the curtain of manner poster production by exploring the corporate and creative considerations driving poster design and deployment. Drawing on expert interviews with transport, advertising and design professionals, alongside analysis of archival materials, the talk provides an overview of the content, production pathways, history, and design motivations of manner posters. While there is a

tendency in popular and academic discourse to understand manner posters as a strategy of social control, this lecture contends that corporate manner improvement poster initiatives are not primarily concerned with disciplining passengers but satisfying customer sensibilities. It examines company and



Christoph Schimkowsky is a PhD researcher in the Department of Sociological Studies and the School of East Asian Studies at the University of Sheffield studying passenger manner improvement initiatives by Japanese railway providers. He holds MA degrees in Anthropological Research Methods (SOAS, University of London) and International Relations (Waseda University), as well as a BA degree in Political Science & Social and Cultural Anthropology (University of Göttingen) and was a visiting research fellow at Keio University and Waseda University when conducting fieldwork for his doctoral thesis. Christoph’s work has appeared in *Japanese Studies*, *Contemporary Japan*, and *Mobilities*, among others. His research interests include urban mobilities, visual communication, and the management of everyday conduct and public life in contemporary cities.

ter conduct in a polite, friendly, or humorous manner. To do so, manner posters employ highly creative designs featuring cultural references, cute characters or elaborate drawings. This has repeatedly brought them to public attention in Japan and abroad, as seen in Tokyo Metro’s well-known “Please do it at home” poster series or Seibu Railway’s series of woodblock print (*ukiyo-e*)-themed posters.

designer perspectives on posters’ content, design, and limitations to argue that manner poster production is not driven by normative conceptions of “good” and “bad” passenger behaviour, but is primarily shaped by concerns about customer sensibilities and satisfaction.

Thursday
2021-11-25
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Help (Not) Wanted

Immigration Politics in Japan

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Michael Strausz

Thursday
2021-12-02
18:30~20:00
online



Help (Not) Wanted

Immigration Politics in Japan



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Help (Not) Wanted Immigration Politics in Japan

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Michael Strausz

Thursday
2021-12-02
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Why has Japan's immigration policy remained so restrictive, especially in light of economic, demographic, and international political forces that are pushing Japan to admit more immigrants? Michael Strausz will answer this question by drawing on insights from nearly two years of intensive field research in Japan. In addition to answering this question by outlining the central argument

"*Help (Not) Wanted* provides some historical background, rich macrolevel data, and a coherent analysis. It makes a fine appetizer for students setting out to acquaint themselves with international migration to Japan, the various behind-the-scenes entanglements of the current policy output, and the overall question of how policy making in Japan works." — *Monumenta Nipponica*

"...a well-written book that addresses an important and timely issue. Strausz's original argument and research make it an interesting read to scholars from political science, Japanese studies and migration studies. The accessibility of this book also makes it fantastic for use in an undergraduate course in Japanese society or politics." — *Journal of Contemporary Asia*



Michael Strausz is an Associate Professor of Political Science and the Director of Asian Studies at Texas Christian University. He earned his PhD in Political Science from the University of Washington in 2007. He is currently editing a collection of essays by an interdisciplinary group of scholars tentatively titled *The Past and Future of Immigration in Japan* which aims to put recent immigration reforms into context. His book *Help (Not) Wanted: Immigration Politics in Japan* was published in 2019 with SUNY Press.

of his 2019 book, *Help (Not) Wanted: Immigration Politics in Japan*, this presentation provide context to recent developments in Japanese immigration policy – particularly the December 2018 decision to admit more than 300,000 foreign manual laborers, the immigration policy response to the COVID pandemic, and the role of immigration in the 2021 House of Representatives election.



Publisher: SUNY Press
Date: August 1, 2019
Language: English
Print length: 214 pages
ISBN: 9781438475530

UB Wien: <https://ubdata.univie.ac.at/AC15547871>

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Community-based Renewable Energy Structures

A Case of Small Hydropower in a Japanese Rural Community

A virtual *u:japan lunch lecture* by Fukumoto Junko

Thursday
2021-12-09
12:30~14:00
online



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Community-based Renewable Energy Structures

A Case of Small Hydropower in a Japanese Rural Community

A virtual *u:japan lunch lecture* by Fukumoto Junko

Thursday
2021-12-09
12:30~14:00
online

Since the Fukushima nuclear accident in 2011, Japan has started to turn its attention towards renewable energy. Before the accident, renewable energy attracted little attention in Japan, and the rate of expanding energy production in that direction was very low. Unlike Austria or Germany, Japan has been slow to implement new institutional or political measures to stimulate the expansion of renewable energy, which is why it is still not among the popular ways of energy production. Further, the public's interest regarding renewable energy is rather low and the popularization due to social movements cannot be anticipated anytime

introduction of small hydropower generation is still scarce.

However, while their numbers remain low, it is indisputable, that small hydropower plants are looking back on a long history within Japan. How are they being sustained, even though they receive neither favorable treatment by official the government, nor support by citizen's high environmental consciousness?

In this presentation I will use an ethnographic case-study to disclose, how the preservation

of small hydropower plants hinges on the traditional ways in rural communities throughout Japan. In order to find a realistic way to expand the usage of renewable energy in Japan it is essential to first understand the current



Junko Fukumoto is a lecturer at Fukuoka Prefectural University. After graduating from Waseda University, she continued her studies at Kumamoto University, specializing in Community Sociology, Environmental Sociology and Rural Sociology. Using ethnographic fieldwork, she focusses mainly on research regarding depopulated rural hamlets, the application of renewable energy and topics regarding life in rural areas, such as the problems surrounding agricultural leaders and damages due to wildlife.

soon. Due to Japan's rather steep topography, one might expect small hydropower generation to be an obvious choice of energy production. However, just like other forms of renewable energy, the

state of rural communities. While considering the aspects mentioned above, I will introduce the structures and equality of rice cultivation in rural hamlets in Japan.

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ISLANDS FOR LIFE

Art Projects and Post-Growth Philosophies in Japan

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Adrian Favell

Thursday
2022-01-13
18:30~20:00
online

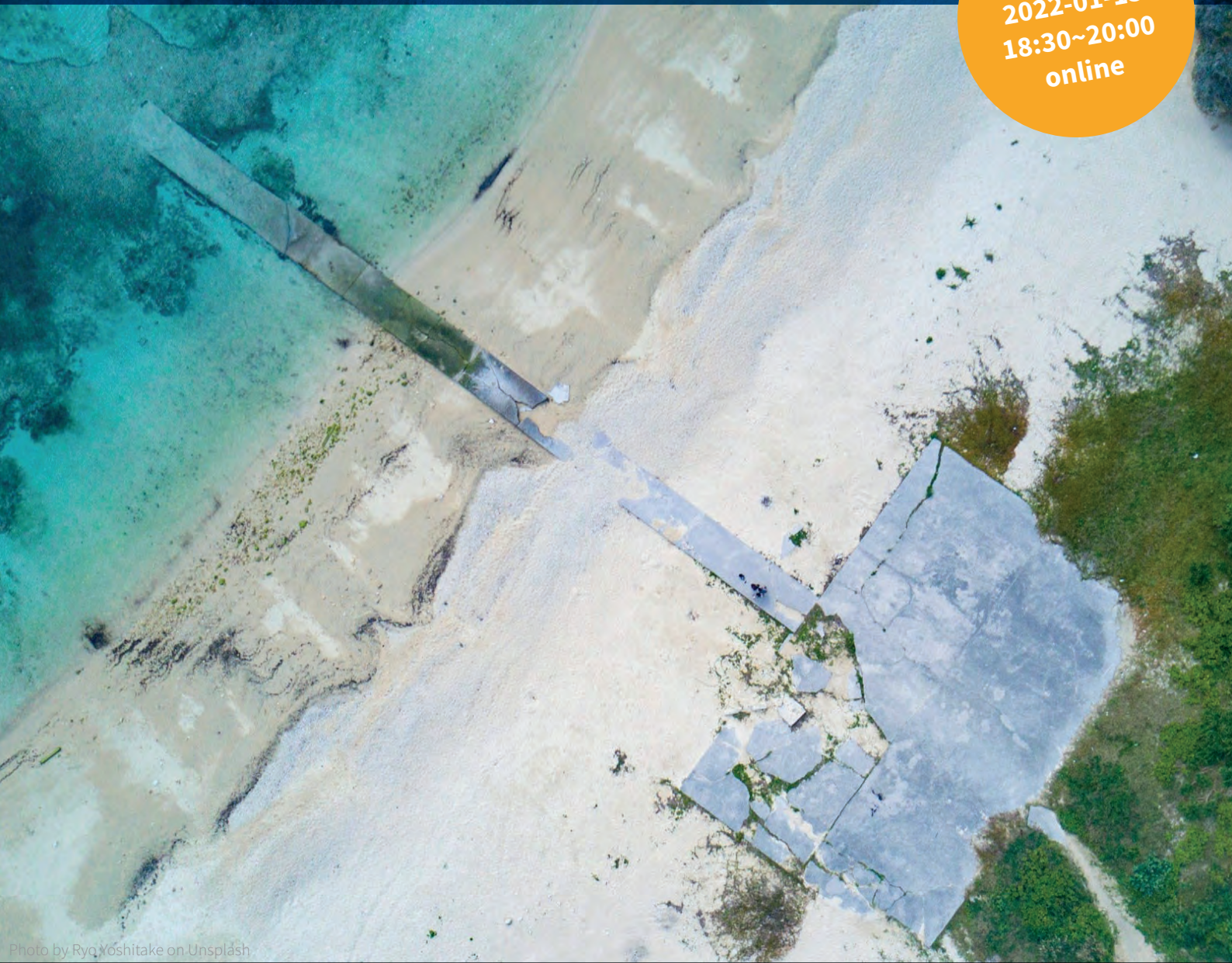


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ISLANDS FOR LIFE

Art Projects and Post-Growth Philosophies in Japan

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Adrian Favell

Thursday
2022-01-13
18:30~20:00
online

Japan offers one of the most dramatic examples of population decline and urban/rural polarization in the world. Although mostly off the radar of contemporary art theory discussions about “socially engaged art”, this context has provided some of the most creative international examples of bi/tri-ennales and art projects working in remote locations with socially isolated, ageing populations.

Yanagi, including one I have participated in, the Momoshima Art Base. While these projects draw on the almost limitless resources offered by the voluntary participation of young “lost generation(s)” artists and creatives as well as abundant empty properties in remote locations, a younger generation have responded in their

own way to Japan’s stagnation and dilemmas over housing and art careers, with anarchist-like ideas of autonomous self-sufficiency and collective organisation. Here I consider the examples of Chaos Lounge, Kyohei Sakaguchi, Parplume and Shibu House.

These various projects raise interesting questions about the

progressive intention of their ideas about the post-growth condition in Japan, as well as the particular politics of art organisation and participation in these contexts.



Adrian Favell is Chair in Sociology and Social Theory at the University of Leeds, UK and Director of the Bauman Institute. He is the author of various works on immigration politics, citizenship, multiculturalism and cosmopolitanism. In 2006-7 he was a Japan Foundation Abe Fellow in Tokyo, leading to the publication of *Before and After Superflat: A Short History of Japanese Contemporary Art 1990-2011* (2012). A revised, updated and expanded 2nd edition of this book, including a full discussion of more recent post-disaster and post-growth art projects since 2011, will be published in 2022 by the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures (SISJAC). He has also published essays in *Art in America*, *Bijutsu Techo*, *Impressions*, *Artforum*, *ART-iT* online, and for the catalogue of a exhibition in 2021 on *Tokyo: Art and Photography* at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. He is currently working on a book about “post-growth” art and architecture in Japan, a long term collaboration with the architect Julian Worrall, University of Tasmania. More info: www.adrianfavell.com

My presentation will discuss in particular the ideas and practice developed by art producer Fram Kitagawa in Niigata’s Echigo Tsumari (a triennale that has been running since 2000), as well as the Seto island based art projects of the artist Yukinori

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Tensions of Making and the Art of Breaking

Putting Salt Fields to Rest in 19th Century Japan

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Aleksandra Kobiljski

Thursday
2022-01-20
18:30~20:00
online

塩製秘録

The Secrets of Salt Making (1816)

申置
一身代ハ一種乃產子ノ託
せおく産のらば吾家の如きは
鹽田田地永納の三種小
かつしかくち置るべき也
天災凶荒、変亂等ハあふ
りて之三種中孰きの安
穩ニ保つべきを得べき理あり
平常の生計ハ身代の三か
一と心得たらんハ老き出た
るもへし



Tensions of Making and the Art of Breaking

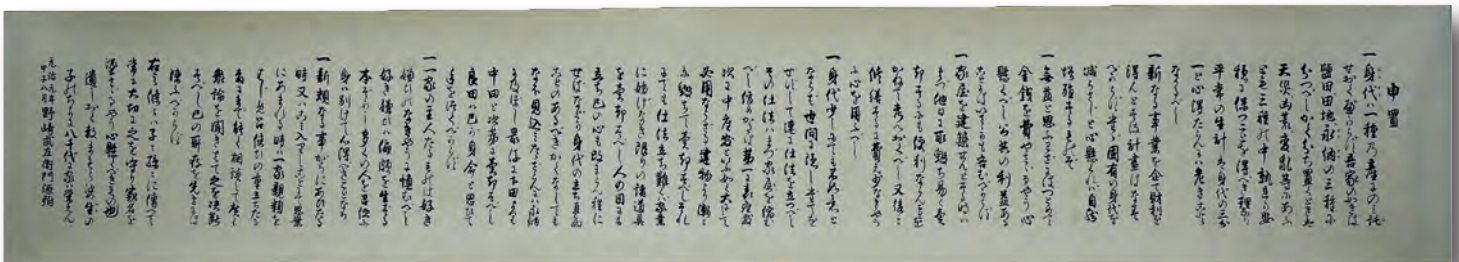
Putting Salt Fields to Rest in 19th Century Japan

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Aleksandra Kobiljski

Thursday
2022-01-20
18:30~20:00
online

Drawing on a preliminary reading of *The Secrets of Salt Making* 塩製秘録, an 1816 salt-making manual by a little-known Japanese salt-maker Miura Genzô 三浦源蔵 (?-1835), this lecture seeks to address the change in production dynamics in the Seto Inland Sea re-

gion in the first half of the 19th century. In so doing, this talk contributes to the rethinking of the nature of Japan's early industry and conceptualization of profit.



Aleksandra Kobiljski is Senior Researcher in Modern and Contemporary History at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS). Before joining the CNRS she taught at University of Belgrade and Harvard University. Since 2022, she is the Principal Investigator of J-InnovaTech, a European Research Council (ERC) funded project which explores structuring characteristics of Japan's early industry from 1800 to 1885 (ERC StG GA 805098).

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Transition from Painted to Painter The Female Body of Okinawa and its Women Artists

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Eriko Tomizawa-Kay

Thursday
2022-01-27
18:30~20:00
online



KYAN Chie (2012)
"Mother's Poetry"
母の詩

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Transition from Painted to Painter The Female Body of Okinawa and its Women Artists

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Eriko Tomizawa-Kay

Thursday
2022-01-27
18:30~20:00
online

In pre-war Okinawa, while male painters were striving to be recognized and acknowledged by central art circles, with the exception of female students under the tutelage of Okinawan male teachers, opportunities for Okinawan women as artists were extremely limited. The emergence of Okinawan female artists had to wait until the post-war period. This paper discusses the significance of depictions of Okinawan women

This paper examines three issues: first, how the representations of the Okinawan female body were appropriated to express the relationship between subjugated Okinawa and mainland Japan, and justify discrimination against the Okinawan people. Secondly, during the post-war period, how Okinawan female artists establish their careers and identity under

the periphery of the nation-states of Japan and the patriarchy in Okinawa. Finally, I discuss contemporary Nihonga, which is also labelled as contemporary Ryukyu painting, painted by female artists in Okinawa. This presentation will also reconsider con-



Eriko Tomizawa-Kay is lecturer in Japanese Language and Culture, at School of Politics, Philosophy, Language and Communication Studies, the University of East Anglia. She specializes in modern Japanese art history, particularly *nihonga* (Japanese style painting).

She is the organizer of 2019 international conference, entitled “Okinawan Art in its Regional Context: Historical Overview and Contemporary Practice”. The conference report (Japanese/English) will be available on the website shortly as *Sainsbury Institute Occasional Papers 2*.

Her publications include ‘Reinventing Localism, Tradition, and Identity: The Role of Modern Okinawan Painting (1630s - 1960s)’ In *East Asian Art History in a Transnational Context*, edited by Tomizawa-Kay, E. & Watanabe, T. Routledge, 2019.

wearing Ryukyuan apparel - a favourite subject of both Japanese painters and Okinawan male painters during the war emergency period (1930s and 1940s) - in order to elucidate the social complexities of Okinawan women at that time when Okinawa was under the dominion of the Japanese Empire.

temporary Okinawan painting by female painters in relation to both Japanese and East Asian art histories in order to cast a new view of Okinawan painting as the living Traditional Painting, and also Modern Okinawan Painting as a descendant of Ryukyu.

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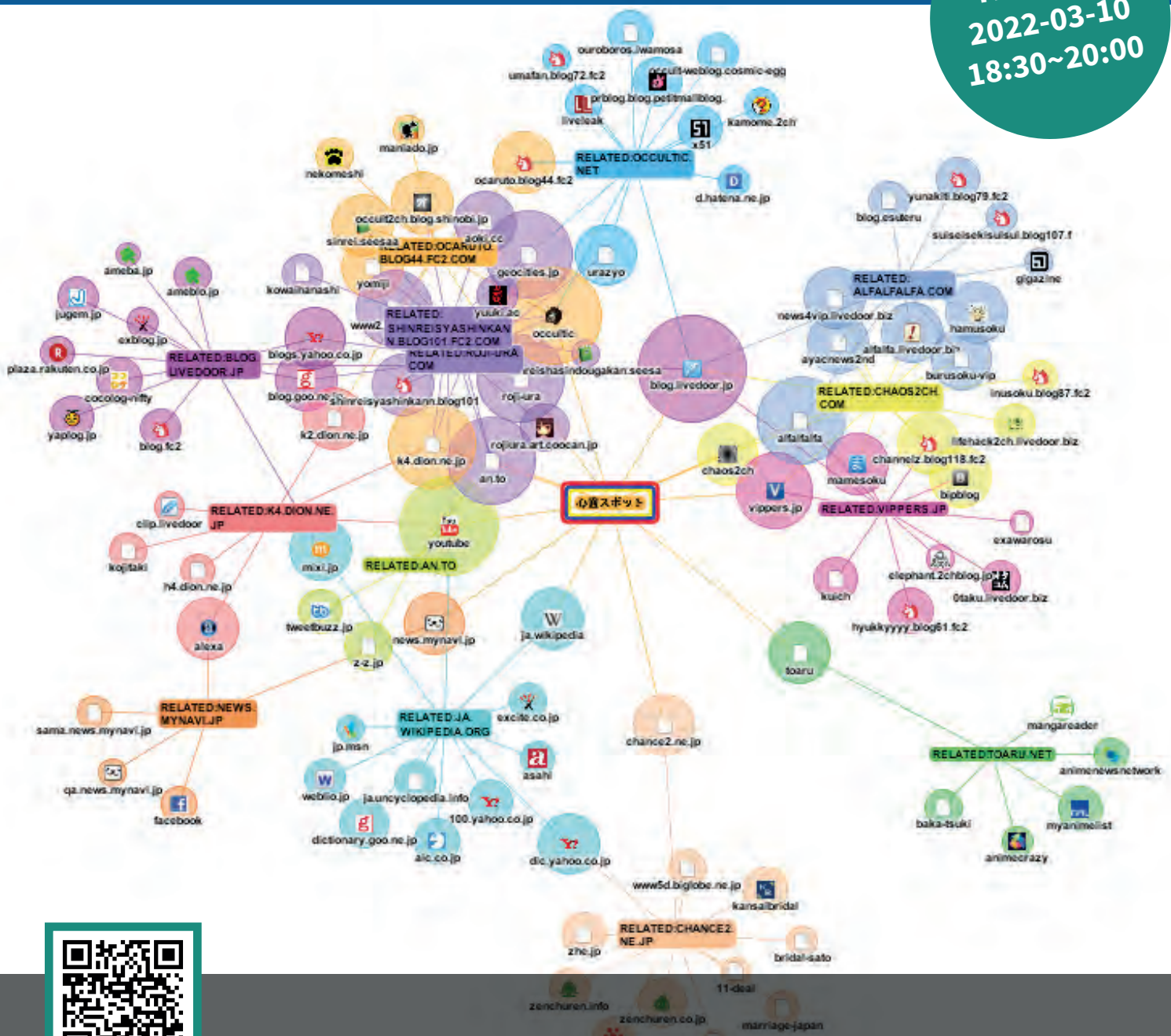




They Heard it Through the Grapevine Rumour Spreading, Poisonous Knowledge and the Political Ecology of Hauntings in Contemporary Japan

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Andrea De Antoni

Thursday
2022-03-10
18:30~20:00



<https://japanologie.univie.ac.at/ujapanlectures>



They Heard it Through the Grapevine

Rumour Spreading, Poisonous Knowledge and the Political Ecology of Hauntings in Contemporary Japan

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Andrea De Antoni

Thursday
2022-03-10
18:30~20:00

Anthropological research on rumours and gossip has pointed out their relation with formations of identity, politics and resistance. Recent studies have argued that a focus on gossip allows an understanding of politics “from below,” especially from the viewpoint of the people whose voices are rarely heard in the public sphere. Rumours are also entangled with the re-creation of social memory, especially in relation to what anthropologist Veena Das (2007) termed “poisonous knowledge”, i.e. knowledge that emerges after ways of being with others have been brutally damaged, and that is not openly talked about. Similarly, anthropological studies of hauntings have focused on rumours as ways of re-creating memories related to perceived injustice. Such studies, however, tend to provide a comparatively “flat” representation of rumours.

While relying on ethnographic data gathered through fieldwork in Kyoto and Mutsu (Aomori Prefecture), in this presentation I will propose a more situated and relational approach for a political ecology of rumours. I will show that, while rumours about ghosts in contemporary Japan share generalized connections with “poisonous knowledge” such as memories of unsettled deaths or discrimination, the “poisonous-ness” of such knowledge varies greatly according to the networks through which rumours spread. I will argue that rumours partake in processes of formation and othering of neighbourhoods and localities, for their agency relies not only on acts of telling, but also on the material aspects of the environment.



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Andrea De Antoni (Ph.D.) is an Italian socio-cultural anthropologist with a main interest in religion and spirituality, and currently associate professor at Kyoto University. His main research area is contemporary Japan, but he has carried out ethnographic research also in Italy and Austria. His fields of inquiry include experiences with spirits and social suffering, especially in relation to the perception of space and place (particularly places related to death and the afterlife, as well as haunted places), rumors and discrimination, construction of social memory and “tradition”, tourism and commodification, spirit/demonic possession, exorcism and religious/spiritual healing. From a theoretical perspective, he focuses on the anthropology of the body, the perception of the environment, affect and emotions. He published extensively on these topics in English and Japanese. He authored *Going to Hell in Contemporary Japan: Feeling Landscapes of the Afterlife, Othering, Memory and Materiality* (Routledge, forthcoming 2022), and co-edited several books and special issues of academic journals. He is also the coordinator of the international networks “Skills of Feeling with the World: Anthropological Research on the Senses, Affect and Materiality,” and of a research group on affect and religious/spiritual healing based at Kyoto University.

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Urban Migrants in Rural Japan

Between Agency and Anomie in a Post-growth Society

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Susanne Klien



Thursday
2022-03-17
Lunch Lecture
12:30~14:00



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Urban Migrants in Rural Japan

Between Agency and Anomie in a Post-growth Society

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Susanne Klien

Rural areas have generally been associated with stagnation, depopulation and lack of perspectives. In my book, published by SUNY Press in 2020, I aim to radically rethink the stereotype image of countryside in Japan and beyond. Drawing on nine years of multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork across the country, I argue that the Lehman Shock in 2008, the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011 and increasingly harsh conditions of the job market have set the path for a new role of rural areas as experimental grounds for innovative projects. I will focus on three themes that feature in the book. I will introduce selected narratives by urban newcomers to show the paradox between aspiration to a better work-life-balance and the reality of persistent overwork and (self-)exploitation.

Second, I will discuss changes in the way rural Japan has recently been presented in various media. Third, I will examine entrepreneurial projects and discuss how budding entrepreneurs negotiate their daily lives between self-determination and structural constraints. Last, I will reflect on fieldwork in rural Japan during the pandemic and the insights I have obtained through follow-up interviews with my interlocutors in 2021.

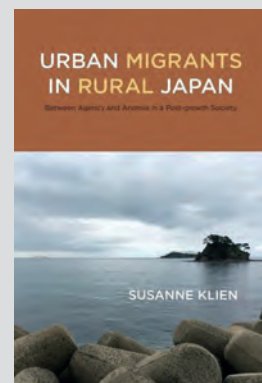
More details about the book:

<http://www.sunypress.edu/p-6846-urban-migrants-in-rural-japan.aspx>

Thursday
2022-03-17
Lunch Lecture
12:30~14:00



Susanne Klien (PhD, University of Vienna) is Associate Professor at the Modern Japanese Studies Program, Hokkaido University. Her main research interests include transnational lifestyle migration, intangible cultural heritage, regional revitalization and emerging forms of tourism, demographic change and alternative forms of living and working in post-growth Japan. Her monograph *Urban Migrants in Rural Japan: Between Agency and Anomie in a Post-growth Society* (State University of New York Press 2020) was awarded the 2020 Choice Outstanding Academic Title. She recently co-edited a special issue on the theme of *Exploring Rural Japan as Heterotopia* with Paul S. Hansen in *Asian Anthropology* (2022).



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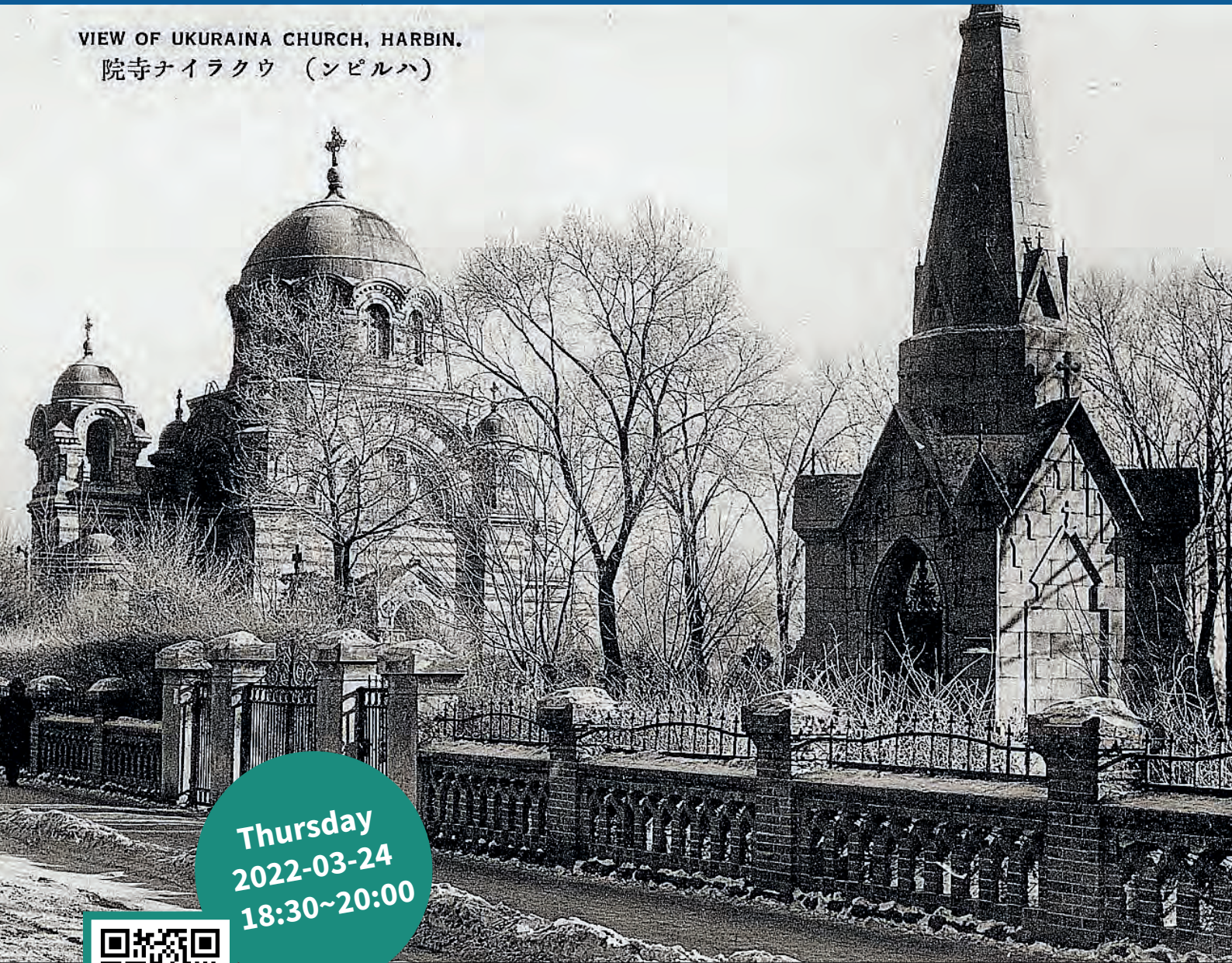
Ukrainian Diaspora in Occupied Manchuria

Articulating the Needs for the Independent State (1932-1945)

A hybrid *u:japan lecture* by Olga Khomenko

VIEW OF UKURAINA CHURCH, HARBIN.

院寺ナイラクウ (ンピルハ)



Thursday
2022-03-24
18:30~20:00



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Ukrainian Diaspora in Occupied Manchuria

Articulating the Needs for the Independent State (1932-1945)

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Olga Khomenko

Thursday
2022-03-24
18:30~20:00

Since the abolition of serfdom in the Russian Empire and during the Chinese Railway construction and Stolypin reforms, both before and after the Russian Revolution, many Ukrainians moved to and lived in the Far East and China. For Ukrainians, who by their Cossack nature in the pursuit of freedom sought lands far from political centers and historically tended to settle in border areas, the Far East and Manchuria became safe havens from the Russian Empire where they could live and create their “little Ukraine” more freely away from the oppressive power of the capitals of Petersburg and Moscow.

This talk is based on a book called “The Far Eastern Odyssey of Ivan Svit” published in Ukraine last December and telling a story of forgotten 100 000 people Ukrainian diaspora in Manchuria and its leader, Ivan Svit (1897–1989), a forgotten Ukrainian journalist, editor, historian, and social activist. They actively communicated with Japanese authorities under the occupation and advanced the processes of the self-identification of Ukrainians in the Far East and broader North-East Asia. The story of Ivan Svit is a microhistory of the life of Ukrainians in the Far East and Asia. Besides working in Russian Far East as a journalist, in China as a stamp dealer, a journalist and an editor running a couple of Ukrainian printed media publications included the “Manchurian Herald” (1932-1937) and “The Call of the Ukraine” (1941-1942) as well as radio programs, Svit helped to print a Map of Green Ukraine (1937) and to publish the first Ukrainian Japanese dictionary (1944). Thanks to the social, cultural, and political activities of enthu-

siasts like Ivan Svit and print media they ran, from the nationally diverse masses, they created a new social structure - the Ukrainian community, so-called imaginary Ukraine in Asia.

By the end of World War II, Svit worked as a self-proclaimed Ukrainian consul and helped to evacuate large groups of Ukrainians from China. Through his work activity, Svit knew many of the participants in those historical events, which later enabled him to become a historian and write two books called “Short History of the Ukrainian Movement in the Far East/Asia (Harbin, 1938) and «Ukrainian-Japanese Relations (1903-1945). Historical Survey and Observations” (NY,1972).

Active community members, such as Ivan Svit under Japanese occupation in Manchuria, did not give up and continued actively communicating with authorities, emphasizing their need for an independent Ukrainian state. Thanks to his communication skills, Svit became an important figure in the community, a cultural bridge, and a mediator between people of different political and cultural backgrounds in Northeast Asia. The story of Ivan Svit as a representative of the forgotten Ukrainian diaspora in Asia is an excellent example of Ukrainian identity creation through the printed media far away from the mainland, history of an active dialogue between West and East, and Ukrainian public and cultural diplomacy.



Dr. **Olga Khomenko** (Ольга Хоменко) is an Associate Professor and Japan Program Director at Kyiv Mohyla Business School (KMBS), The National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy Ukraine. She holds a PhD in Area Studies, specifically on the history of Japan, from the University of Tokyo (2005), a PhD in world history from the Ukrainian Academy of Science (2013), and an MBA from the Kyiv School of Economics (2017). From 2018 to 2020, she was a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Harvard University, USA, at the Ukrainian Research Institute and Davis Center. Her research interests include the history of post-war Japan, the history of Japanese business and consumption culture, the history of Ukraine-Japan relations, with a focus on Ukrainians in the Far East and Manchuria under Japanese occupation, as well as the history of the creation of Ukrainian national identity and Ukrainian literature. Her recent book *The Far Eastern Odyssey of Ivan Svit* [original Title *Далекосхідна одісея Івана Світа*] was published in 2021, by Laurus in Kyiv. As well as her recent Japanese book *Ukrainians who crossed the borders* [original Title *国境を超えたウクライナ人*] was published in February of 2022, by Gunzoshia in Tokyo.



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History of Early Bilateral Relations between Japan and Hungary

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Tóth Gergely

Thursday
2022-03-31
18:30~20:00



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History of Early Bilateral Relations between Japan and Hungary

A virtual *u:japan* lecture by Tóth Gergely

Thursday
2022-03-31
18:30~20:00

2019 marked the 150th Anniversary of bilateral relations between Hungary (as part of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy) and Japan. In order to commemorate this occasion, this presentation will walk you through the results of a decade-long interdisciplinary research by giving an overview of the early history (1869-1913) of Hungaro-Japanese relations in 5 specific thematic blocks: I. History of Modernization; II. History of Expeditions and Travel; III. Diplomatic and Economic History; IV. Cultural, Literary and Art History; V. History of Ideologies. Were there any similarities between Hungary and Japan in terms of modernization? Did they keep an eye on each other's progress? How did the Hungarian side of the Monarchy perceive relations

with Japan? How was Hungary represented in Japan? Who were the Hungarian and Japanese actors who shaped this relationship? Why did Japanese travelers come to Hungary? Why did Hungarians travel to Japan? What were the main channels of knowledge exchange between Hungary and Japan? What were the main areas that sparked interests about Japan in Hungary and vice-versa? How did Japan appear in Hungarian literary works? How did Japonism appear in the Hungarian side of the Monarchy? How could an alternative belief of Hungarian-Japanese kinship influence this relationship before the First World War? This presentation will offer answers to these and many other questions.



Tóth Gergely is an independent researcher from Hungary, Budapest. He holds an MA in Japanese Studies from Gaspar Karoli University of the Reformed Church in Budapest, Hungary and has spent 2 years at Waseda University in Tokyo as a MEXT student. His interdisciplinary research is revolving around the history of relations between Hungary in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and Meiji + Taisho-era Japan during the 1869-1913 period. He is constantly working on the re-evaluation, demistification, objectivation of the early Hungaro-Japanese relations, by applying a critical approach. Publications: *Japán-Magyar Kapcsolattörténet 1869-1913*, Gondolat, Budapest, 2018

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Let's make it an inconvenient place here

Opposing over-tourism in Kyoto's Gion before and during the pandemic

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Miloš Debnár

Thursday
2022-04-07
18:30~20:00



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Let's make it an inconvenient place here

Opposing over-tourism in Kyoto's Gion before and during the pandemic

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Miloš Debnár

Gion district in Kyoto is one of the popular symbols of the ancient capital and Japan with its preserved architecture, culture of *geimaiko* and tea houses. As such, the area became a highly popular destination for foreign tourists particularly in the recent years and at the same time, one of the symbols representing adverse effects of over-tourism. Despite being moderately frequent-

This presentation analyzes the main problems related to over-tourism and why and how the international tourism is perceived mainly as a problem rather than an opportunity. Despite being an entertainment district, the representatives of the South district

Thursday
2022-04-07
18:30~20:00

of Gion have been actively opposing increasing tourism as well as looking for and implementing countermeasures in cooperation with the city and universities. Moreover, such activities continue even during the corona virus pandemic which brought tourism to a halt. The sudden disappearance of the tourists from the streets led to expressions of relieve, yet at the same time it continued to be a topic of discussion leading to a de-



Miloš Debnár is a lecturer at the Faculty of International Studies, Ryukoku University in Kyoto. He received his Ph.D. in sociology from Kyoto University in 2014 and his main research interests are sociology of European migration to Japan and the issue of over-tourism in Kyoto. His main publications on these two topics include a monograph *Migration, Whiteness, and Cosmopolitanism: Europeans in Japan* (Palgrave, 2016) and *Coping with the inbound tourism in Gion – resisting the touristic gaze* (Intercultural Studies, 2019).

ed tourist destination in Kyoto for a longer period, the streets of Gion became flooded with tourists in the 2010s and issues related to the manners of the tourists, zero-dollar tourism, and the simple presence of crowds became negatively perceived by local residents and affects their business and everyday life.

velopment of manner promotion online project as a preparation for the expected masses of tourists. Despite and because of the active resistance to over-tourism in recent years, as well as despite the physical absence of tourists during the pandemic, the (foreign) tourist and tourism became integral part of the district.

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Oshi-katsu, Supporting activity

Recognition and Intimacy as Commodities from the Anthropological Study of Japanese *josei-muke* Adult Video Fan Communities

A virtual *u:japan lunch lecture* by Maiko Kodaka

Thursday
2022-05-05
12:30~14:00



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Oshi-katsu, Supporting activity

Recognition and Intimacy as Commodities from the Anthropological Study of Japanese *josei-muke* Adult Video Fan Communities

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Thursday
2022-05-05
12:30~14:00

Oshi-katsu 押し活 (*oshi* signifies an object of support while *katsu* is an activity), or supporting activity is a popular Japanese term to signify an act of support or to cherish on someone or something that one really likes. *Oshi-katsu* is often viewed positively because it provides mental welfare for those who engage (NHK news January 18th 2022); however, such activities heavily depend on the financial capacities of those who do the supporting.

sites and captures heterosexual women who had been neglected as audiences as a new market. Despite the media attention that the new genre has garnered as a female sexual emancipation, the phenomenon is supported by “fans” of *Eromen* and *Lovemen*.

Based on fieldwork at a series of *Eromen* and *Lovemen* fan events and interviews with those self-identified fans, it has become apparent that

female fans look for intimate interactions with male actors at these events in order to be recognized as feminine and have their confidence restored. Axel Honneth’s theory of recognition (1995) argues that recognition has to be mutual in order to work socially; however, in this case, the monetary



Maiko Kodaka is a PhD candidate in Anthropology and Sociology at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Before joining SOAS, she was awarded a BA in Art from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies in 2014. Born and raised in Tokyo, her main academic interest is gender, sexuality, and power dynamics in Japanese mass media. Her doctoral research is an anthropological study of the fan culture of pornography aimed at women in Japan, which is funded by the Sasakawa Studentship Programme and a JRC Fuwaku Scholarship. She also works as a freelance writer for Japanese web magazines.

My research exploratory looks at female fans of male porn actors in *josei-muke* Adult Videos (AV) in Japan, as a form of *oshi-katsu* in order to explore its gendered dynamics. The genre of *josei-muke* is a form of pornography aimed at heterosexual women that features good-looking male porn actors; *Eromen* and *Lovemen*. This new genre has emerged in reaction to the decline of mainstream porn studios due to the popularity of porn streaming web-

transaction changes the intentions of each actor (female fans / *Eromen* and *Lovemen*). For *Eromen* and *Lovemen*, it is about money and fame. On the other hand, female fans gain recognition even though they have to pay for it. The research draws on conversations with female fans to elucidate the expectations fans have regarding their interactions with *Eromen* and *Lovemen*, and how this fan community influences their everyday lives.

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International students and their organisations in Japan during the pandemic and beyond

A virtual *u:japan lunch lecture* by Polina Ivanova

Thursday
2022-05-12
12:30~14:00



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International students and their organisations in Japan during the pandemic and beyond

A virtual *u:japan lunch lecture* by Polina Ivanova

Thursday
2022-05-12
12:30~14:00

This research examines the impact of changing times of the COVID-19 pandemic on international students enrolled at Japanese universities and on their support organisations. The crisis has significantly affected studies, health, social life, finances and career plans, both of those students staying inside the country and those stranded overseas and unable to enter their study destination. This study views international student mobility through the lens of human security and sees students as transnational agents instead of passive service recipients or guests in a conventional “guest-host” paradigm. The study increasingly relies upon digital methods of data collection: online interviews and observation of online events for international students organised by Japanese universities and alternative support providers, such as nonprofits, peer support groups, university clubs and informal hobby

groups. Forced by the pandemic, international student support organisations (ISSOs) had to adapt to the “new normal”; however, elderly volunteers often failed to catch up with time and technology changes. In the absence of adequate support, especially during the first year of the pandemic, international students proactively searched for solutions and solidarity outside their universities and pre-pandemic support providers.

As a result, transnational political activism emerged as an outcome of modern times, technologies and challenges of the pandemic. The study also follows more recent developments after the vaccine rollout, the spread of the Omicron wave and highlights fluidity of the immigration status of international students sometimes leading to their precarity.



Polina Ivanova is a visiting researcher at Ritsumeikan University and a lecturer at Kyoto University of Foreign Studies. She holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from Ritsumeikan University. Her research interests lie in the areas of civil society, migration, and international education. Her doctoral research examined thirty civil society organisations supporting international students in the Kansai area of Japan and their contribution to creation of social capital in local communities. In addition, she participated in three collaborative projects in Japan, Australia, and the United States. Based on this work, Polina published five peer-reviewed articles and presented her findings at academic conferences, workshops and lecture series in the United Kingdom, Germany, Mexico, the United States, and Japan.

Her recent projects focus on international students’ loneliness and social engagement in the United States and Japan, and civil society response to the pandemic in Japan, Australia, and the United States in the context of international student support.

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East Asian Reactions to Russia's War in Ukraine

Governmental and Civil Society Responses

A hybrid *u:eastasia* lecture by Gerstl, Denney, Mandl & Khomenko

Thursday
2022-05-19
17⁰⁰~19⁰⁰



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East Asian Reactions to Russia's War in Ukraine

Governmental and Civil Society Responses

A hybrid *u:eastasia* lecture by Gerstl, Denney, Mandl & Khomenko

While the European Union and its member states strongly condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February and have since provided humanitarian or even military support to Ukraine, the responses of the governments in North-east and Southeast Asia are less unified. Japan, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan joined the Western countries in sanctioning Russia, clearly emphasizing Russia's responsibility for launching the war. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida drew a parallel to China's perceived assertiveness in the South and East China Sea. Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen emphasized the unity of the Ukrainian citizens "to fight against the invasion by a powerful country". Other nations, including Indonesia and Vietnam, but also the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), do neither make comparison to China's policies nor openly criticize Russia. Rather, they demand to end the war, find a peaceful resolution and refer to rather abstract principles of international law.

This panel discussion will analyze the various strategic, economic and domestic motives of the governments to either unequivocally condemn Russia or to avoid naming and shaming Moscow. Moreover, the panelists will also (discuss the) point to different reactions of civil societies in East Asia which are not necessarily in line with the positions taken by the respective national governments. The spectrum is (also very) quite broad (and not necessarily in line with the positions taken by the respective national governments), ranging from strong support for Ukraine to some sympathies for "strongman" Vladimir Putin allegedly fighting against a US-dominated international order. By bringing together the perspectives of the national governments and the civil societies, this panel aims to initiate a multi-faceted (and comprehensive) discussion of East Asian reactions to Russia's war against Ukraine.



Agnes S. Schick-Chen is Associate Professor of Chinese Studies and Vice-Director of Studies at the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna. Her main fields of research and teaching are the developments of legal and political culture in the PRC, Taiwan and Hong Kong. She has published books and papers on related topics, e.g. the discourse on Chinese legal culture and processes of coming to terms with the past in China and Taiwan.

Alfred Gerstl is Associate Professor at the Department of Asian Studies at Palacký University Olomouc (Czech Republic) and President of the Central European Institute of Asian Studies (CEIAS), a transnational think tank (Bratislava, Olomouc and Vienna). In addition, he is sessional lecturer at East Asian Economy and Society (EcoS) and University of Continuing Education Krems. He is a specialist in International Relations, notably on Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific region. His recent research focuses on the economic and strategic impacts of China's Belt and Road Initiative on Southeast Asia and the South China Sea dispute.



Dr. Olga Khomenko is an Associate Professor and Japan Program Director at Kyiv Mohyla Business School (KMBS), The National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy Ukraine. She holds a PhD in Area Studies, specifically on the history of Japan, from the University of Tokyo (2005), a PhD in world history from the Ukrainian Academy of Science (2013), and an MBA from the Kyiv School of Economics (2017). From 2018 to 2020, she was a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Harvard University, USA, at the Ukrainian Research Institute and Davis Center. Her research interests include the history of postwar Japan, consumption culture, Ukraine-Japan relations.



Dr. Steven Denney is a lecturer of East Asian Economy and Society in the Department of East Asia Studies at the University of Vienna. He is a comparativist that specializes in East Asian affairs with a focus on the Koreans. His core research interests lie at the intersection of migration, citizenship, and entrepreneurship studies. He also reads and contributes to studies in democracy and authoritarianism. Steven holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Toronto, an M.A. in Global Affairs and Policy from Yonsei University, and a B.A. in Political Science from Harding University.



Martin Mandl is a Junior Researcher at CEIAS and an Editorial Member of "ASIEN - The German Journal of Contemporary Asia". He teaches on the political systems and international relations of East Asia and offers intercultural training on the region. As a passionate cook and former hospitality manager, Martin's research is focused on the use of food in Taiwan's public diplomacy.



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Japanesia (Yaponesia), the Arc of Ryūkyū, and Shimao Toshio's Cultural Resistance against the Colonial Politics of the Past

A virtual *u:japan lunch lecture* by Shinnosuke Takahashi

Thursday
2022-06-02
12:30~14:00



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Japanesia (Yaponesia), the Arc of Ryūkyū, and Shimao Toshio's Cultural Resistance against the Colonial Politics of the Past

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Thursday
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Shimao Toshio (1917-1986) is probably one of the most celebrated authors in the history of post-war Japanese literature. Shimao's literary works were highly praised by his contemporaries, for example the literary critic Okuno Takeo, who called Shimao a 'master' of surrealist literature. Yet, Shimao's works have also been seen as controversial, especially those related to his concept of *Japanesia*. First appearing in 1961, *Japanesia* is Shimao's re-

Asia and the West. In contrast, Shimao insists on the significance of the Pacific Ocean and island communities as a forgotten bedrock of Japan's cultural life both in the past and present. While this concept is often seen as Shimao's critical intervention in the discourses about Japan's cultural homogeneity through his foregrounding of its deep geo-cultural diversity,

some critics have disapproved, warning us of Shimao's uncritical stance towards Japan's colonial legacies in the Pacific. One of the key issues that have rarely been addressed in this regard is the historical context in which Shimao conceived his concept.

Therefore, this presentation probes Shimao's

cultural politics in light of his community activities and trans-oceanic journeys as well as the content of his texts, especially during his first decade living in Amami-Ōshima. Historical analysis of *Japanesia* will allow us to have a clearer understanding of the criticality and the limit of the concept, which, I argue, is still of some great value to reflect upon today.



Shinnosuke Takahashi is a lecturer in Asian Languages and Cultural Programme at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand. Prior to his appointment at Victoria University, he taught at Kumamoto University, Kobe University, and the Australian National University where he obtained his doctoral degree.

His publications include *Transnational Japan as History: Empire, Migrants, and Social Movements* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015); and *Transpacific Visions: Connected Histories Across North and South* (Lexington, 2021). He is currently writing up his first monograph, *The Translocal Islands: The Okinawan Struggle and Grassroots Regionalism*.

presentative concept for revisiting the meaning of Japanese nationhood in the course of its historical development, not from the perspective of the centres of power, but from marginalised regions such as the southern islands and north-eastern region. The concept of *Japanesia* also questions Japan's elite cultural orientations which he argues have been centred around the continental worlds, i.e.,



Millennials' Senses of Inequality Class, Gender, and Legitimation of Differences in Tokyo

A virtual *u:japan* lunch lecture by Yuki Asahina

Thursday
2022-06-23
12:30~14:00



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Millennials' Senses of Inequality Class, Gender, and Legitimation of Differences in Tokyo

A virtual *u:japan lunch lecture* by Yuki Asahina

Thursday
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12:30~14:00

Today's young adults face a labor market where precarity is the norm rather than the exception. They also confront the widening crevasse between the rich and the rest and persistent gender disparities. Scholars argue that this generation's shared experience of hardship shaped acute sensitivity to injustice, making them a 'new political generation.' In Japan, however, despite two decades of economic stagnation and a widening gap between the haves and have-nots, various surveys report that young citizens are surprisingly content with their situation; a sociologist called them 'the happy youth of a desperate country.' This talk examines how Japanese young adults experience inequality as something 'natural' with a particular

focus on their experience of work. Drawing on longitudinal interview data and through a lens of comparison with the case of Seoul, South Korea, where young citizens maintain a strong sense of injustice, I show the persistent tendency among Japanese millennials to interpret inequality as a matter of individual efforts and talents. Then, I will examine differences in the ideas that various groups of young adults use to justify the inequalities they observe. Finally, I will ask when and how inequality and insecurity are experienced as 'unjust' to the extent that young adults can no longer tolerate them by focusing on the experience of precariously employed young men and women.



Yuki Asahina is Assistant Professor in the Graduate School of International and Area Studies at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, South Korea, where he teaches about Japanese society, inequality, and qualitative research methods. He received his PhD in sociology from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and was previously a postdoctoral fellow at the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies and an affiliate of the Weatherhead Research Cluster on Comparative Inequality and Inclusion at Harvard University. His research has appeared or is forthcoming in *Sociology*, *Politics & Society*, *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, and *Contemporary Japan*, among other journals.

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Neighborhood Tokyo

Creative Urban Milieus as Places of Innovation and Polarization

A virtual *u:japan lunch lecture* by Heide Imai

Thursday
2022-06-30
12:30~14:00



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Neighborhood Tokyo

Creative Urban Milieus as Places of Innovation and Polarization

A virtual *u:japan lunch lecture* by Heide Imai

Thursday
2022-06-30
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Against the background of the new attractiveness of urban centers, creative people are gaining more and more importance as potential initiators for various urban development processes. On the one hand, the activation and participation of these creative people is important in order to integrate innovative potential into various development processes, on the other hand, creative people are showing increasing interest in the development of their city and are demanding their participation.

In Tokyo, creatives represent a relatively hidden but important part of the larger creative ecosystem, made up of many different influential stakeholders (e.g. state, city authorities, big companies and foreign investors), all of which actively contribute to its functioning. As such, creative actors occupy a unique meta-position between the two worlds of creativity, as they are both part

of everyday neighborhood life and part of the larger economic system in which they (want) to thrive. Therefore, they also can also be described as ‚facilitators‘, bridging the two dimensions of Tokyo’s creative ecosystem, as their hybrid, bi-directional role enables the important exchange between systematic/economic and neighborhood creativity.

This lecture aims to illuminate and better understand the role of existing creative urban milieus in the urban development of Tokyo. Various neighborhoods of Tokyo are introduced and ‚walked through‘ (Bakurochō, Hikifune, Kyōjima, Ichigaya, Kiyosumi Shirakawa, Kōenji, Kuramae) to capture how milieu-bound creativity as a collective network resource has and is affecting Tokyo’s urban development, especially during and after the Covid -19 Pandemic.



Dr. **Heide Imai**, Architect and since 2020 Associate Professor at Senshu University, Faculty of Intercultural Communication, and Research Associate at Keio University, studied architecture, cultural studies and urban sociology in Leipzig, Rotterdam, Oxford and Manchester. Author of *Tokyo Roji: The Diversity and Versatility of Alleyways in a City in Transition* (Routledge, 2017), *Asian Alleyways: An Urban Vernacular in Times of Globalization* (with M. Gibert-Flutre, Amsterdam University Press, 2020), *Creativity in Tokyo : Revitalizing a Mature City* (with M. Ursic, Palgrave Macmillan, 2020). She is primarily concerned with urban places, through which we can understand urban development processes between revitalization and decay, creativity and sustainability. A new publication on the subject entitled *Everyday Yokohama – Neighborhoods between Decline and Revival* will be published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2022.

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Where a Nuclear Meltdown and Sexwork Intersect: Discovering the stories in the film “Boys for Sale”

A *u:japan* lecture film screening & talk by Thomas Ash

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Thursday
2022-10-06
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Where a Nuclear Meltdown and Sexwork Intersect: Discovering the stories in the film “Boys for Sale”

A *u:japan* lecture film screening & talk by Thomas Ash

Boys are selling sex in Japan. Who is buying?

In the Tokyo district of Shinjuku 2-chome there are bars that specialize in “Urisen”, young guys who have sex with men. This documentary is an illuminating look into a rarely seen world that tantalizingly shows the humanity of sex work.

On topics as varied as the health of children following the Fukushima nuclear disaster („In the Grey Zone“, 2012 and „A2-B-C“, 2013), death and dying („-1287“, 2014 and „Sending Off“, 2019) and the treatment of asylum-seekers in immigration detention („Ushiku“, 2021), the films of Thomas Ash broadly deal with themes of health, medicine and human rights.

While many of his films share the same quiet and observational style, „Boys for Sale“ (2017) is an outlier in terms of the production visuals and soundtrack, yet Thomas’s influen-

男の子たちが売るセックスを買うのは・・・？ウリ専と共に・・・それは、男性にセックスを売る主にストレートの男の子・・・彼らが如何にして雇われたか、その職務や生活状況、彼らの体験が今、明らかとなる。東京・新宿二丁目を舞台に、売春行為は江戸時代より今日へと続く。

ce is strongly felt, particularly in the depth and flow of the interviews with his subjects.

In his speech, Thomas will speak about his conscious effort to prevent „Boys for a Sale“ from becoming sensational and exploitative and how his desire to quietly listen led to discoveries mid-interview which would echo back to his earlier work in Fukushima in a way in which he never could have predicted.

Thursday
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Thomas Ash, born in America, earned an MA in Film and Television Production at the University of Bristol, UK (2005) and has lived in Japan for over 20 years. His first feature documentary was ‘the ballad of vicki and jake’ (2006), followed by two feature documentaries about children living in areas of Fukushima contaminated by the 2011 nuclear meltdown, ‘In the Grey Zone’ (2012) and ‘A2-B-C’ (2013), and one that dealt with themes surrounding health and medicine in Japan, ‘-1287’ (2014).

“Boys for Sale” (2017, dir. Itako), about male sex workers in Tokyo on which Thomas served as Executive Producer, screened in 40 film festivals across the world, receiving six awards for Best Feature Documentary. In 2019, Thomas released two films: “Sending Off” and “The Father’s Love Begotten”. Thomas’s newest documentary “Ushiku” (2021), is about asylum seekers to Japan who are detained at the infamous Ushiku immigration centre (More information on Thomas Ash’s website: <http://www.documentingian.com/>).

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Ryokan

Mobilizing Hospitality in Rural Japan

A hybrid *u: japan* lecture by Chris McMorran

Thursday
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Ryokan

Mobilizing Hospitality in Rural Japan

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Chris McMorran

Amid the decline of many rural communities in Japan, the hot springs village resort of Kurokawa Onsen is a rare, bright spot. Its two dozen traditional inns, or ryokan, draw hundreds of thousands of tourists a year eager to admire its landscape, experience its hospitality, and soak in its hot springs. As a result, these ryokan have enticed village youth to return home to take over successful family businesses and revive the community. What does it take to produce this family business and one of Japan's most relaxing spaces?

In this talk, I share the behind-the-scenes work that keeps a ryokan running smoothly, from the everyday tasks of cleaning, serving, and making guests feel at home, to the generational work of producing and training a suitable heir who can carry on the family business. I draw on nearly two decades of research in and around Kurokawa, including a year spent welcoming guests, carrying

luggage, scrubbing baths, cleaning rooms, washing dishes, and talking with co-workers and owners about their jobs, relationships, concerns, and aspirations.

I discuss how Kurokawa's ryokan mobilize hospitality to create a rural escape in contemporary Japan, emphasizing the strictly gendered work found in the ryokan, as well as the generational work of ryokan owners vs. the daily embodied work of their employees. I share the realities of ryokan work—celebrated, messy, ignored, exploitative, and liberating—and introduce the people who keep inns running by making guests feel at home.

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Chris McMorran is Associate Professor of Japanese Studies at the National University of Singapore. He is a cultural geographer of contemporary Japan focusing on the geographies of home across scale, from the body to the nation. He is the author of *Ryokan: Mobilizing Hospitality in Rural Japan* (University of Hawai'i Press), an ethnography of a Japanese inn, based on twelve months spent scrubbing baths, washing dishes, and making guests feel at home at a hot springs resort. He also has published research on tourism, disasters, gendered labor, area studies, field-based learning, and the evolution of grading. He co-produces the *Home on the Dot* podcast with NUS students, which explores the meaning of home on the little red dot called Singapore. Chris grew up in a small town in Iowa but has lived outside the U.S. for much of his adult life, including Japan and Singapore, which he calls home.

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Japanische Gartenkunst Ästhetik und Gestaltung

Eine japanisch-sprachige *u: japan lecture* mit YAMADA Takuhiro



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Japanische Gartenkunst Ästhetik und Gestaltung

Eine japanisch-sprachige *u: japan lecture* mit YAMADA Takuhiro

In diesem Vortrag gibt der Gartenbaumeister Takuhiro YAMADA Einblicke in die Ästhetik der japanischen Gartentradition und ihre verschiedenen Gestaltungen. Sein Familienbetrieb in Kyoto (Hanatoyo Landscape Co., Ltd./Kyoto) betreut seit Generationen Gärten von wichtigen Kulturerbestätten, wie beispielsweise die Gartenanlagen der kaiserlichen Villa Katsura Rikyu oder des Ryoanji-Tempels.



YAMADA Takuhiro (Gartenbaumeister)

Der ausgewiesene und international erfahrene Gartenbaumeister stammt aus einer Familie, die seit Generationen in der Gartenkunst tätig ist (u.a. für Gärten in Kulturerbestätten, wie Tempelanlagen und Samurai-Burgen).

Anlass seines Besuches in Wien ist die Restaurierung des japanischen Steingartens am Campus (Hof 2) der Universität Wien (s. Workshop „Japanische Gartenkunst hautnah“, vom 17. bis 19.10.2022. (Profilfoto, copyright: Yamada Takuhiro)



Photograph by K.T.Cannon-Eger

Der japanische Steingarten im Hof 2 des Campus ist die „Visitenkarte“ des Instituts für Ostasienwissenschaften. Er wurde 1999 anlässlich des 60-Jahre-Jubiläums des Faches Japanologie an der Universität Wien von Prof. Sepp Linhart initiiert, von Eishin Harada (Tokyo) konzipiert und gestiftet und von Hiraaki Kishimoto (Osaka) ausgeführt. Die Steine wurden eigens aus Japan importiert: Der Kies stammt aus

Kyoto, die Wellensteine von der Insel Shikoku, die Mikage-Steinkugeln aus Kobe und der Wasserfall-Felsen vom Berg Ikoma bei Nara. In der japanischen Gartenkunst ist der Zaun auch essenzieller Bestandteil: So symbolisiert der Bambuszaun dieses Gartens ein Schiff und verweist auf den Wunsch, Studierende mögen das erworbene Wissen in die Welt weitertragen.

Die Präsentation ist auf Japanisch und wird ins Deutsche gedolmetscht.

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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
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Depopulation, property, and land issues

Addressing the *akiya mondai* in regional Japan

A hybrid *u:japan lecture* by Niccolò Lollini

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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高森町の自助・共助・公助について

Selbsthilfe, Kooperation und staatliche Hilfe in Takamori-machi

Eine japanisch-sprachige *u:Japan lecture* mit TSURU Tomoyuki



Photograph by Endo Hiroshi (<https://www.endohrs.com>)

Thursday
2022-11-03
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高森町の自助・共助・公助について

Selbsthilfe, Kooperation und staatliche Hilfe in Takamori-machi

Eine japanisch-sprachige *u: japan lecture* mit TSURU Tomoyuki

阿蘇山のカルデラ内に位置する高森町は、地形上、様々な災害の危機に面しています。安全・安心に暮らすため、自分だけでなく隣近所のひと、集落のひと、行政の職員など、協力しながら過ごしています。

また、少子高齢化、人口の減少など様々な課題を抱え、町民だけでなく外部からの人材を招いて解決策を検討しています。今回は以下の3点について紹介します。

Takamori liegt in der Caldera des Aso-Vulkans und sieht sich aufgrund seiner topographischen Lage einer Vielzahl von Katastrophen gegenübergestellt. Um in Sicherheit leben zu können, ist eine Kooperation von den Bewohner*innen mit ihrer Nachbarschaft, der Siedlung, aber auch der Verwaltung unerlässlich. Zudem werden zunehmend Anstrengungen unternommen, vor dem Hintergrund der demographischen Herausforderungen auch Personen von außerhalb der Region einzuladen, sich in Takamori niederzulassen. Dieser Vortrag möchte Einblicke in das Leben in Takamori aus der Perspektive eines Lokalpolitikers geben und konzentriert sich dabei auf die folgenden Aspekte:

- 1) Vorstellung der Aktivitäten der *Chiiki Okoshi Kyōryokutai* (z.B. Die Frauenband oder Möglichkeiten der Förderung des Fremdenverkehrs).
- 2) Vorstellung der Aktivitäten der *Shūroku Shien-in* (Mitarbeiter*innen zur Unterstützung des Wohnorts), insbesondere Maßnahmen zur Unterstützung der älteren Bevölkerung sowie zur Revitalisierung der Gemeinde.
- 3) Vorstellung des Katastrophentrainings bei Naturkatastrophen.

津留智幸 [つるともゆき]

1965年生まれ (57歳)、高校卒業後、農業を継承 (コメ・花栽培)、1991年 結婚 (3人の娘)、2019年高森町議会議員に初当選 (現在1期目)

議員の仕事: 年4回の定例会・臨時議会に出席しての審議、行政のチェック・アドバイス、住民からの要望・意見の伝達、先進地視察

TSURU Tomoyuki (Lokalpolitiker)

geboren 1965, ist Landwirt (Reisanbau und Blumenzucht) und seit 2019 Abgeordneter im Stadtrat von Takamori-machi.

In dieser Funktion nimmt er an regelmäßigen Ratssitzungen teil, kontrolliert bzw. berät die lokale Politik und sammelt Meinungen der Bevölkerung.

- ① 地域おこし協力隊の活動について (女性だけの歌劇団・観光推進機構)
- ② 集落支援員の活動について (高齢者支援・集落の活性化)
- ③ 自然災害の避難訓練について

Der Vortrag wird in japanischer Sprache gehalten. Bei der Diskussion werden Fragen aus dem Publikum gerne auch ins Japanische übersetzt.

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Shurijō in 2022

The Politics of Cultural Heritage on the 50th Anniversary of Okinawa's Reversion

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Tze M. Loo

Thursday
2022-11-10
18³⁰~20⁰⁰

号外

琉球新報
THE RYUKYU SHIMPO

2019年(令和元年)
10月31日(木)
発行所 琉球新報社
郵便番号 〒900-8525
那覇市泉崎1-10-3
©琉球新報社2019年

首里城 全焼

正殿と北殿崩れる 未明に発生、消火続く



The Ryukyu Shimpo
newspaper extra
2019-10-31



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0120-395069



Shurijō in 2022

The Politics of Cultural Heritage on the 50th Anniversary of Okinawa's Reversion

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Tze M. Loo

Fifty years after Okinawa's reversion to Japan, the presence of U.S. military bases in the islands remains a source of deep friction between the prefecture and the central government in Tokyo.

despite Okinawa's attempts to stop it lays bare the profound asymmetry of power that endures between periphery and center.

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Tze M. Loo is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Richmond and is the author of *Heritage Politics: Shuri Castle and Okinawa's Incorporation into Modern Japan, 1879-2000* (Lanham: Lexington, 2014). Her current book project examines the transformations to Okinawa's ritual landscapes that accompanied Okinawa's incorporation into the modern Japanese nation state.

Okinawans' repeated opposition to base construction at Henoko and Tokyo's insistence on the base's completion despite that popular opposition has come to encapsulate and symbolize that friction. The fact that construction crawls forward

In contrast to the prefecture's limited range of options in the base issue, this talk considers Okinawa's deployment of its cultural heritage as a sphere of action from which a different picture of the prefecture emerges. Specifically, it shows how current plans to rebuild Shurijō – castle of the Ryukyuan court and putative symbol of Okinawan culture – following a devastating fire in 2019 suggest that the prefecture is strategically fashioning a more assertive self that gives it an ability to bend mainland agendas to better suit its purposes. This assertiveness impacts the castle's rebuilding project, but also has the potential to contribute to the current prefectural leadership's willingness to take a stronger position vis-à-vis Tokyo to safeguard Okinawa's interests.

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Furry Companions

Pets in Contemporary Japan

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Barbara Holthus

Thursday
2022-11-24
18³⁰~20⁰⁰



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Furry Companions

Pets in Contemporary Japan

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Barbara Holthus

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The accelerated interest in pets in especially urban Japan has not started with the pandemic but certainly has been intensified by it. For more than two years, as anti-Covid measures, Japanese had been told to engage in

void in human-human interaction. While the U.S. and some European countries reported near-empty animal shelters in the early phase of the pandemic due to a sudden spike in people adopting an animal, Japanese animal shelters saw less of that – as Japanese remain more inclined to “shop” a new family member at a pet shop than adopt a shelter animal.

The growing popularity of pets, together with the accompanying normative, social, and legal changes regarding pet ownership within Japanese society are the focus of this presentation. Data comes from interviews with pet owners, pet-business owners, shelter organizations and their volunteers, from participant observation at pet-related public events, in pet shops and pet cafes, as well as from the analysis of publications by the Ministry of the Environment, the National Police Agency, but also from sources such as Instagram, YouTube, as well as manga and TV drama. This presentation tries to highlight the embeddedness and changing role of pets in Japanese society.



Barbara Holthus, PhD in Sociology, Univ. of Hawaii at Manoa, is deputy director at the German Institute for Japanese Studies in Tokyo. Her research is on Japanese families, demographic change, happiness and well-being, the Tokyo Olympics, and social movements. Currently she is writing a book on pets in Japan.

physical distancing and “self-restraint”. This has led to many people spending extended periods of time at home while less time with family and friends. In response, pets as “substitute” family members often helped to fill the

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Transpacific Visions

Connected Histories of the Pacific across North and South

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Yasuko Hassall Kobayashi

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Transpacific Visions

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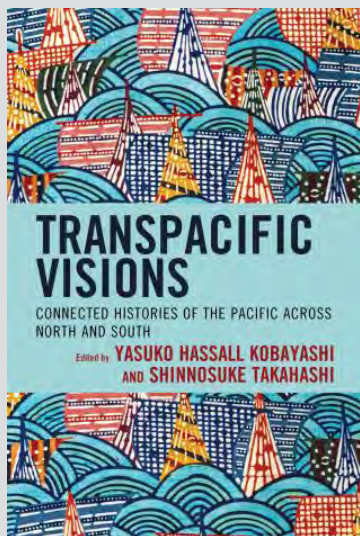
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This seminar talk is about the book *Transpacific Visions: Connected Histories of the Pacific across North and South*, published in 2021. While transatlantic history has been much investigated, its counterpart, transpacific history, has only recently attracted scholarly interest. In addition, the focus of transpacific history has been predominantly northern Hemisphere-centric connections, basically US-Asian connections: i.e., those between a hegemonic western country and Asian countries -- either as colonies, trust territories or independent countries (e.g., Hoskins & Nguyen 2014). However, there is more to be explained in the transpacific space beyond such a Northern Hemisphere-centric perspective.

This book argues that transpacific history cannot be comprehended without including “vertical” con-

nections; namely, those between the southern hemisphere and the northern hemisphere. It explores such connections by uncovering small histories of ordinary people’s attempts at événements which they undertake by means of uneven, unlevel, and multidirectional mobilities. In this way, this book goes beyond the usual notion of transpacific history as a matter of Northern Hemisphere-centric connections and enables us to imagine the transpacific space as a more dynamic and multi-faceted world of human mobilities and connections. By exploring cases whose actors include soldiers, missionaries, colonial administrators, journalists, essayists, and artists, the book highlights the significance of „vertical“ perspectives in understanding complex histories of the region.



Yasuko Hassall Kobayashi is Associate Professor at the College of Global Liberal Arts, Ritsumeikan University, Japan. She also holds the position of Assistant Executive Director, Division of Global Planning and Partnerships, Ritsumeikan University; and is an Honorary Associate Professor at the School of Culture, History and Language, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, the Australian National University. Her main research interest lies in transnational migration and mobilities occurring within the Asia and Pacific region, and in social histories of transnational migration and mobilities. Her two recent books are: (1) (in English, co-edited) *Transpacific Visions Connected Histories of the Pacific across North and South* (2021, Lexington Books), and (2) (in Japanese, co-authored) *A World History of Trade and Transportation* (2021, Seizendo-Shoten Publishing).



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