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Migration, Aging and Japan's Sustainable Society

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Natalie-Anne Hall

Thursday
2025-10-30
18⁰⁰~19³⁰



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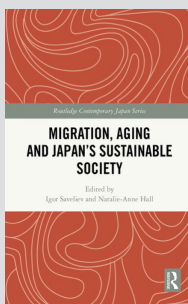
The labour shortages experienced by Japan due to societal aging are a harbinger of challenges soon to face nations throughout the developed world. Immigration has long been considered one of the fastest ways to counter this problem, but Japanese governments have been notoriously cautious about adopting this strategy.

This volume is the first to examine migration in Japan from the view of sustainable society and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including 'Good Health and Wellbeing', 'Decent Work', and 'Reduced Inequalities'. While migrants are frequently rendered policy tools or policy problems, the chapters contribute important empirical and historical insights into the human face of migration. The book addresses a broad range of issues, including migrants' diverse contribution to urban society, minority aging, caregiving, and hate speech. How do Vietnamese villagers secure employment in Japan, and why do some disappear? Can the circular migration of Southeast Asian nurses under

EPA agreements be sustained? With many of these groups and issues having rarely been addressed in English-language scholarship thus far, this book offers an invaluable bridge between scholars based in Japan and around the world. The voices, analyses and recommendations offered here will be of interest to scholars, policymakers, and third-sector actors supporting migrants. In this talk, I give an overview of the key contributions from each chapter before focusing in on Chapter 6, which is about online 'hate speech'. This chapter calls for attending to Japan's unique techno-social context when studying this phenomenon, and for the centring of racism within this. With renewed academic and media attention to 'anti-foreigner' sentiment in the wake of Sanseito's recent electoral breakthrough, now is an important moment to consider carefully the direction of scholarship on online hate and the implications of this for equality and social justice for migrants and ethnic minority groups in Japan.



Dr Natalie-Anne Hall is a Lecturer in Social Sciences at Cardiff University, Wales, UK. Her research centres on how and why people engage with contentious politics and contested truth online, particularly far-right and racist ideologies. Her debut monograph, *Brexit, Facebook, and Transnational Right-Wing Populism* (Lexington Books, 2023), is a sociological account of the power of social media platforms and anti-immigration politics to expose new audiences to far-right ideas and conspiracy theories; it was shortlisted for the British Sociological Association Philip Abrams Prize. Natalie-Anne is co-editor of *Migration, Aging and Japan's Sustainable Society* (Routledge, 2025), and in addition to a PhD in Sociology from the University of Manchester, UK, she also holds an MA in International Development from Nagoya University, Japan, and a BA in Languages and Applied Linguistics from Griffith University in her home country of Australia.



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