

東京大学現代日本研究センター

2023年度年次報告書

UTokyo

Center for Contemporary  
Japanese  
Studies

2023

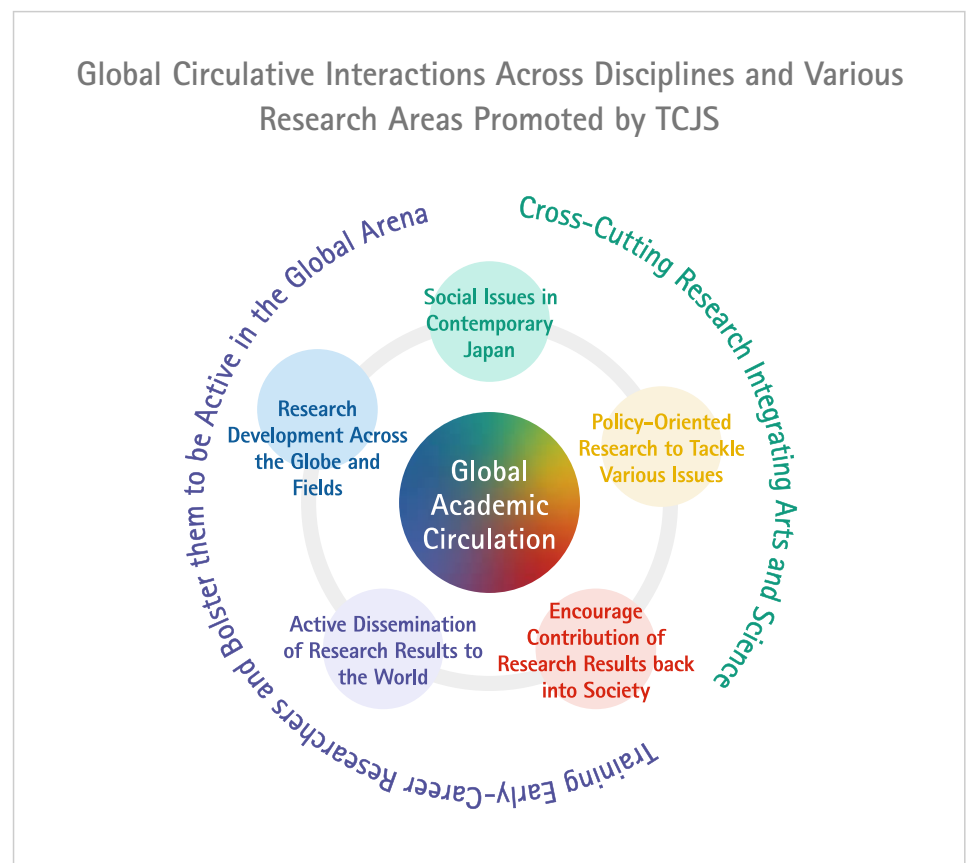
Annual Report

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## FROM the DIRECTOR

The primary aim of TCJS is to become a platform that is open to all researchers, young and senior, from all over the world to discuss social issues found not only in Japan but also in other nations and regions. I proudly tell you that TCJS has continued to play a critical role in stimulating innovative global collaborations and research in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, as well as being a driving force to encourage various types of innovations to contribute to the future of our planet to some extent. We will keep working to promote global collaboration to achieve an inclusive and better future.



## FROM the DIRECTOR

I feel honored to inform you that the UTokyo Center for Contemporary Japanese Studies (TCJS) has continued to be very active during the 2023 academic year, and I am proud of our activities, which invited around 60 speakers from various research backgrounds and nationalities, including many prominent graduate students and young scholars, for seminars. I personally learned a lot from each presentation, and I am confident that the participants in the seminars and workshops felt the same.

The year 2024 started with the Noto Peninsula earthquake, and I am very sorry for those who lost their families, friends, and someone precious. We are facing a difficult and challenging time, and I feel assured of how critical it would be to work together across countries and disciplines through our activities. As a researcher, I would keep working to contribute to a better future, even if it were small.

The Center for Contemporary Japanese Studies will end at the end of March 2024, but I will continue such collaborative activities with those with various backgrounds, nationalities, ages, and genders in different forms. I would like to thank you all for your support and enthusiasm for us.



**Shirahase, Sawako**

Director, UTokyo Center for Contemporary Japanese Studies  
Professor, Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology The  
University of Tokyo

# TCJS in NUMBERS

## What We Have Achieved

As of 3/15/2024

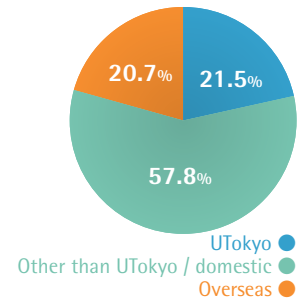
### Seminar Series

Presentations by Senior Researchers

Conducted Once a Month

Total Number of Seminars = **15**

Total Number of Attendees = **469**



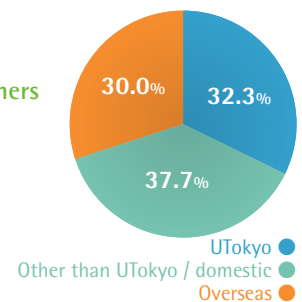
### Early-Career Scholar Forum

Presentations by Assistant Professors & Postdoctoral Researchers

Conducted Once a Week

Total Number of Seminars = **10**

Total Number of Attendees = **167**



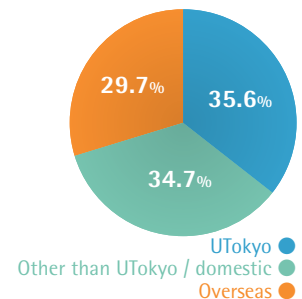
### Graduate Student Forum

Presentations by Second Year Graduate Students

Conducted Once a Week

Total Number of Seminars = **7**

Total Number of Attendees = **118**



The graphs above show the data about the affiliations and countries of those who participated in the TCJS Seminar Series, Early-Career Scholars Forum, and Graduate Student Forum respectively. This year, the number of participants from overseas increased from one eighth to one fifth for all event series. In addition, for the Graduate Student Forum, participants from affiliations other than UTokyo increased dramatically, while the number of participants became three times larger compared to last year for the Early-Career Forum, which is quite encouraging. We can see that TCJS is becoming well recognized in wider fields and areas of research. We would like to keep moving forward towards completing the missions of TCJS, such as encouraging students and researchers of younger generations to be more actively involved in our activities. We are happy to tell that the TCJS has been as active as before this year. 15 Seminar Series, 10 Early-career Scholar Forums, and 7 Graduate Student Forums were held and, in every seminar, very active and productive discussions and exchanges of ideas could be held after them. In particular, it was fortunate to get some positive feedbacks from speakers including graduate students.

# TCJS in NUMBERS

## What We Have Achieved

### AFFILIATION OF PRESENTERS

#### OVERSEAS

GEAC

(Gender Equality Advisory Council)

Harvard University

Indiana University Bloomington

Sciences Po

Technical University of Munich  
(TUM)

University of California,  
Los Angeles

University of Maine

University of Michigan

University of North Texas

University of Oxford /

Waseda University

University of South Australia

#### JAPAN

Kansai University

Meiji Gakuin University

Ochanomizu University

Sophia University

Senshu University

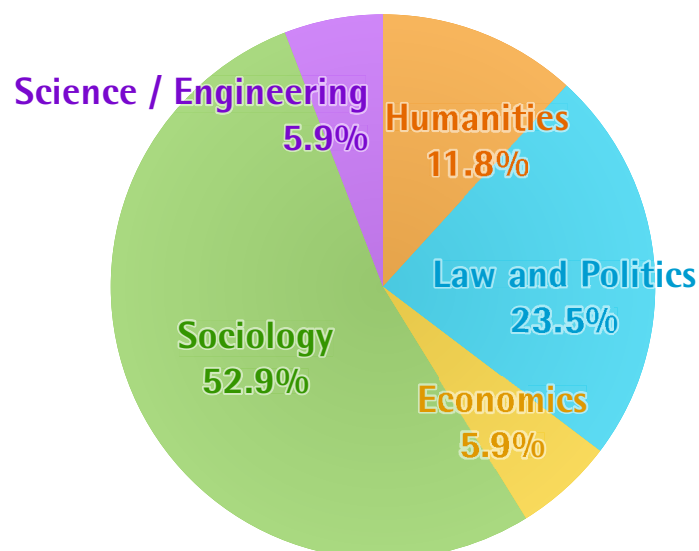
The University of Tokyo

Tokyo University of Science

Tokyo Collage

Tsukuba University

### NUMBERS OF PRESENTERS BY DISCIPLINE



# OUR MEMBERS

## Board Members

### Shirahase, Sawako



Director, UTokyo Center for Contemporary Japanese Studies  
Professor, Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, The University of Tokyo, Sociology, Social Stratification, Social Demography, Change in Family and Social System

### McElwain Mori, Kenneth



Professor, Institute of Social Science, The University of Tokyo  
Comparative Politics, Constitutional Design, Elections and Public Opinion, Political Economy

### Okazaki, Tetsuji



Professor, Graduate School of Economics, The University of Tokyo  
Japanese Economic History, Comparative Economic History

### Saito, Mareshi



Professor, Graduate School of Economics, The University of Tokyo  
Chinese Literature, East Asian Classical Studies

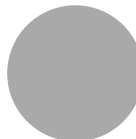
## Associate Members

### Fukunaga, Mayumi



Associate Professor, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, The University of Tokyo

### Kage, Rieko



Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo

### Kato, Koichi



Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo

### Maruyama, Jun-Ichi



Project Professor, Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, The University of Tokyo

### McElwain Mori, Kenneth



Professor, Institute of Social Science, and TCJS Board Member, The University of Tokyo

### Mino, Takashi



Deputy Director, Humanities Center, The University of Tokyo

### Mizuno, Hirota



Project Research Fellow, Humanities Center, The University of Tokyo

### Nukaga, Misako



Professor, Graduate School of Education, The University of Tokyo

### Okazaki, Tetsuji



Professor, Graduate School of Economics, and TCJS Board Member, The University of Tokyo

### Sato, Yukiko



Professor, Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, The University of Tokyo

## OUR MEMBERS

### Tamaruya, Masayuki



Professor, Graduate Schools for Law and Politics, The University of Tokyo

### Toya, Riina



Associate Professor, Institute of Industrial Science, The University of Tokyo

### Watanabe, Hidenori



Professor, Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies, The University of Tokyo

### Aoki, Naomi



Associate Professor, Graduate School of Public Policy, The University of Tokyo

## International Advisory Board Members

### Brinton, Mary C.



Professor, Director, Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University

### Curtis, Gerald L



Professor, Burgess Professor Emeritus Columbia University

### Goodman, Roger



Professor, Nissan Professor of Modern Japanese Studies and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Oxford

### Gordon, Andrew



Professor, Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University

### Lie, John



Professor, University of California, Berkeley

### PARK, Cheol Hee



Professor, Graduate School of International Studies (former dean), Former Director of Institute for Japanese Studies Seoul National University

### Raymo, James M.



Professor, Department of Sociology, Princeton University

### Arthur, Stockwin



Professor, Former Nissan Professor of Modern Japanese Studies, and Director, Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies, University of Oxford

### Vogel, Steven



Professor, Chair of the Political Economy Program, Il Han New Chair in Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley



# RESEARCH

## Gender in Japan

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The Gender in Japan project was introduced at the UTokyo Center for Contemporary Japanese Studies (TCJS) in January 2021. Gender equality is among one of the most important and urgent issues in Japan today. Unfortunately, it is also an old issue on which there has been very little progress. Japan's gender gap is evident not only in its labor market, but also within families and society at-large. We initiated the Gender in Japan Seminar Series to cover these issues and invited speakers not only from academia but also from the government and business areas.

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DEC 12

Farberger, Caroline | Chair, Board Executive, Investor

Nuyens, Hedwige | Chair of European Women on Boards

### **Female Leaders in Global Era**

International Symposium on Gender Gap in Economic Empowerment

The gender gap in Japan is very large, and one of the reasons for this is the small number of female leaders in various fields. At this conference, Hedwige Nuyens, Chair of European Women on Board (EWOB), and Caroline Farberger, Partner and Board Member of Wellstreet Venture Capital, will discuss the current conditions and issues with which female leaders are struggling, particularly in for-profit and non-profit organizations. Ms. Nuyens and Ms. Farberger will talk about how to encourage women and develop various policies to nurture female leaders. They will introduce not only good practices but also ongoing issues on this issue in Europe and advise Japan and Asian regions.

# RESEARCH

## Gender in Japan

We would like to encourage the active exchange of various opinions between the speakers and participants. We welcome as many participants with different backgrounds as possible, including students and young people.



Hedwige Nuyens



Caroline Farberger



# RESEARCH

## Demography & Inequality in East Asia

UTokyo and Princeton University Strategic Partnership

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East Asia, including Japan, is one of the best fields to scrutinize current demographic issues represented by lowering fertility rates and aging population. We can find both commonalities and differences within East Asia, and we believe it would be more valuable to study it with South America, and other Asian regions. Based on the common interests of the members of the University of Tokyo and Princeton University, we had a summer workshop inviting mainly young scholars from Asia.

The Research on East Asian Demography and Inequality (READI)

JUL 15

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From Population Growth to Demographic Scarcity: Emerging Challenges to Global Primary Education Provision in the Twenty-first Century

---

Understanding the Trends in the Inequality of Educational Opportunity in East

---

Determinants and Consequences of School Choice Strategies in China

---

Identifying the Role of High School in Educational Inequality: A Causal Mediation Approach

---

Time-Use of Screen Devices Among Preschoolers in China

# RESEARCH

## Demography & Inequality in East Asia

UTokyo and Princeton University Strategic Partnership

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What They Want, What They Do: Classed Parenting in a  
'Universal Concerted Cultivation' Society

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Class and Generation Differences in Parenting Styles: An  
Example of Taiwan

---

Gender Differences in the Temporal Trends of Living  
Arrangement among Korean

---

Why Did Fertility Stop to Fall for the Ice-Age Cohorts in Japan?

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Socioeconomically Unequal Fertility Responses to China's  
Relaxation of the One-Child Policy

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Gender and Fertility of Highly Educated Women: A  
cross-national Comparison of Two-Sex TFR

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Less Sex, Fewer Children: Associations of Coital Frequency and  
Socioeconomic Status with Fertility among Married Men in  
Japan

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Transition to the Empty Nest and Parent's Well-being in Japan

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Breathing Inequality: Assessing Air Pollution Exposure Burdens  
Among Sociodemographic Groups

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Is Well-Being in Adulthood Determined by Childhood  
Experiences?

# RESEARCH

## Demography & Inequality in East Asia

UTokyo and Princeton University Strategic Partnership

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Intergenerational Reproduction and Self-assessed Mental Health in Adulthood in China

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Upper Secondary Educational Attainment of Japan-born Immigrants

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The Contingent Impact of Immigration on Status Perception among Natives: Longitudinal Evidence from South Korea

---

Language as a Channel of Upward Mobility? Children's Putonghua and English Abilities across Locals and Mainland Immigrant Families after Hong Kong's Handover to China

---

Nonstandard Employment and Support for Elderly Parents in Urban China

JUL 16

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Punishing "Gender Deviants"? Women Born in the Year of the White Horse and College Prestige

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Changes in Geographic Accessibility to College and Inequality of Educational Opportunity in Japan

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The Effect of Higher Education Expansion on Subjective Social Status in Taiwan: A Mechanism-Based APC Analysis

# RESEARCH

## Demography & Inequality in East Asia

UTokyo and Princeton University Strategic Partnership

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Adaptive Educational Expectation: How Does Parental Educational Expectation Respond to Child Academic Performance in Various Family Contexts?

---

Educational Assortative Mating Patterns during the Chinese Reform Era: Inter-cohort and Gender Differentials in the Positional Value of Education

---

Growing Educational Gaps in Bridal Pregnancy: Diverging Destinies in South Korea

---

Understanding the (De)Coupling of Marriage and Fertility Intentions: A Comparative Quasi-Experimental Study in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore

---

More to Give in Marriage? County-Level Sex Ratios and Marriage Payments in Two Marriage Cohorts in China

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Linked Lives: An Extended Dyadic Perspective on Income Trajectories in China

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Income Inequality and Demographic Changes in Japan

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Educational Gradients in Political Attitudes: A Comparative Analysis of East Asian and Western Contexts

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Multidimensionality of Sexual Orientation in Japan: Understanding Sexual Orientation Identity, Sexual/Romantic Attraction, and Sexual Behavior beyond Western Societies

# RESEARCH

## Demography & Inequality in East Asia

UTokyo and Princeton University Strategic Partnership

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Family and College Major Choice in China: The Gendered Effect of Socioeconomic Status and Sibling

---

Unexpected Gendered Sorting into College: High School Students' Expectations in a Gender Inegalitarian Context

---

Perceived Threats to Masculinity and Hostile Sexism Against Women: Evidence from Survey Experiment in South Korea

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Gender-role Attitudes and Marriage Desires Among Unmarried Adults in South Korea,

---

The Rising Burden of Dementia in Chinese Families: Evidence from a Kin-Based Dependency Index Kai Feng University of Pennsylvania

---

Disentangling Greying Labor Force: An Age-Period-Cohort Analysis to the Task Composition of Older Workers

---

Decade Change in the Life Expectancy of Intergenerational Coresidence in East Asia: 2006-2016

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Wealth Inequality in the Super-aged Society, Japan

# RESEARCH

## Book Talk Series

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As part of our project to introduce research from Japan, we have now launched the Book Talk Series to introduce and discuss books by Japanese researchers published in Japanese. Commentators are invited to talk about the main themes discussed in the books.

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OCT 26


Koppenborg, Florentine | Technical University of Munich  
Japan's Nuclear Disaster and the Politics of Safety  
Governance: Why Japan Struggles to Revive Nuclear Power

In this book, Florentine Koppenborg argues that the regulatory reforms taken up in the wake of the Fukushima disaster on March 11, 2011, directly and indirectly raised the costs of nuclear power in Japan. The new Nuclear Regulation Authority resisted capture by the nuclear industry and fundamentally altered the environment for nuclear policy implementation. Independent safety regulation changed state-business relations in the nuclear power domain from regulatory capture to top-down safety regulation, which raised technical safety costs for electric utilities. Furthermore, the safety agency's extended emergency preparedness regulations expanded the allegorical backyard of NIMBY demonstrations. Antinuclear protests, - mainly lawsuits challenging restarts - incurred additional social acceptance costs. Increasing costs undermined pro-nuclear actors' ability to implement nuclear power policy and caused a rift inside Japan's "nuclear village." Small nuclear safety administration reforms were, in fact, game changers for nuclear power politics in Japan.



# RESEARCH

## Book Talk Series


 *Japan's Nuclear Disaster and the Politics of Safety Governance*  
by Florentine Koppenborg, Kodansha, Cornell University Press,  
June 15, 2023

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NOV 30

Duthie, Torquil | University of California, Los Angeles  
Man'yōshū and the Imperial Imagination in Early Japan

七世紀後期から八世紀初頭にかけて、ヤマト宮廷が帝国として文学的に表象された。実際には、ヤマトまたは「日本」は、モデルにした華夏大帝国に匹敵するほどではなかったが、全世界が一人の帝王に支配されるという、つとに漢代およびそれ以前の古典に表明された理念を追い求めた。ヤマトの帝國的國家への転換が促されたのは、七世紀後期の宮廷で読み書き能力が急激に拡張したこと、またその結果、華夏文明のもろもろの行政技法や芸文の諸形態が導入されたことに起因する。本書は、まず上代日本における帝国の文学的レトリックを幅広く考察したうえで、独自の帝国世界としてのヤマト宮廷の表象に『万葉集』における在来語の詩歌がいかに関与したかという、いっそう特殊な論件に進んでいく。

 『万葉集と帝國的想像』 by Torquil Duthie, Kachosha Press, November 2023

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FEB 1

Bamkin, Sam | The University of Tokyo, Center for Global Education

Goodman, Roger | The Nissan Professor of Modern Japanese Studies and the Warden of St Antony's College at the University of Oxford

Enacting Moral Education in Japan: Between State Policy and

# RESEARCH

## Book Talk Series

### School Practice

Moral education is one of the most controversial areas of Japanese education, and recently underwent a period of reform as part of a suite of nation-building policies. However, research on moral education is largely based on policy studies. It regularly overlooks the agency and political awareness of teachers and school administrators, who combine scepticism, indifference and appreciation toward aspects of moral education, experienced as everyday practice. Whilst the analysis of policy debates, curriculum and textbooks represents a mature body of research, even baseline studies of moral education in the classroom or the teacher's room are scarce.

Based on extensive data collection at multiple levels of the education system, this book looks beyond written policy to explore how teachers and school administrators make sense of moral education reform, and how they translate it into practice. It aims to better understand (1) what changes were made to moral education practice locally during its reform, and how this compares to the 'intentions' of national policy; (2) how teachers mediated the implementation of national policies; (3) the changing roles of the Ministry of Education, boards of education, and other actors in policy enactment; and (4) the theoretical implications understanding moral education, the Japanese education system, and policy enactment.

The book presents a new perspective on the complexity of education policymaking in the space between policy and practice.

 *Enacting Moral Education in Japan: Between State Policy and*

# RESEARCH

## Book Talk Series

*School Practice*, by Sam Bamkin, Routledge, December 2023.

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FEB 9

Ochiai, Emiko | Professor, Faculty of Sociology, Kyoto Sangyo University

『親密圏と公共圏の社会学 ケアの20世紀体制を超えて』

(Sociology of the Intimate and Public Spheres: Beyond the 20th-century Care Regime)

「人が生きること」とそれを支える「ケア」が今日の社会の中に正  
当に位置づけられていないという問題関心を抱き続けてきた。20  
年来の論考を集めた本書では、社会の自己認識の学である社会  
科学に「生」と「ケア」を「内部化」すべく、歴史的・人口学的・アジア  
的という3つの視点をもつ枠組みを提案し、世界各地の現状を分  
析する。欧米圏では1930年代から1970年までの「短い20世紀」に  
国家・経済・家族の3者を主要なセクターとする近代社会の典型  
的な構造が確立して「ケアの家族化」が定着し、その後にこの体制  
が変容して「ケアの脱家族化」が起きている。他方、東アジアと東  
南アジアでは、さまざまな方向への「ケアの脱家族化」が実現され  
ているものの、「ケアの家族化・再家族化」も同時に起きており、  
「主婦化」と極低出生率も見られる。「圧縮近代」において複数の  
論理が絡まり合っているのである。

 『親密圏と公共圏の社会学 ケアの20世紀体制を超えて』  
落合恵美子 著(2023年 有斐閣)

# RESEARCH

## Big IDEAS: SDGs Dialogue Series

Collaborative Research with the United Nations University

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Under the leadership of Senior Vice-Rector Sawako Shirahase, the United Nations University (UNU) Centre launched a new project called “Big Ideas: SDG Dialogue Series” to introduce and encourage in-depth discussions on various sustainable development goals (SDGs) related issues at UNU. The UNU is made up of 13 research institutes, each with different strengths, focal points, and disciplines. All 13 institutes carry out valuable research activities related to the SDGs at UNU. “Big Ideas” are for all who wish to know more about UNU, and especially for those who reside in Japan, the hosting country, but are not familiar with what they do. The dialogue aims to increase the knowledge that the people have in Japan about UNU research and institutes, particularly as most institutes are located outside of Japan.

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APR 4

Abdool Karim, Quarraisha | Associate Scientific Director at the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA)

Preventing HIV in Women: Addressing Gender Inequities with Science

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MAY 26

Passarelli, David | Director of the United Nations University Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR) in New York

A Breakthrough for People and Planet: The UN

# RESEARCH

## Big IDEAS: SDGs Dialogue Series

Collaborative Research with the United Nations University

Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board Report on  
Effective Multilateralism

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JUN 13

望月大平 | 国際移住機関 駐日代表

持続可能な開発に貢献する人の移動と日本での移住の役割

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JUN 20

Narita, Eiko | Chief of the United Nations Population Fund  
(UNFPA) Representation Office in Tokyo

Tech Innovation for Adolescents and Youth: Big Idea, Big  
Success?

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JUL 11

Hirabayashi, Kunihiro | Secretary General of the  
ASEAN-Japan Centre

Shaping and Co-creating a Future of Prosperity and  
Sustainability with Young People

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JUL 19

Gilpin, Raymond | Chief Economist and Head of the Strategy,  
Analysis and Research Team at the Regional Bureau for Africa,  
United Nations Development Programme in New York.

Reclaiming the 21st Century: The Case for Structural  
Economic Transformation in Africa

# RESEARCH

## Big IDEAS: SDGs Dialogue Series

Collaborative Research with the United Nations University

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SEP 26

前川佑子 | 国連プロジェクト・サービス機関 (UNOPS) 駐日事務所  
長

SDGs達成のために現場で具体的な行動を: UNOPSの活動

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OCT 24

Gisselquist, Rachel | Senior Research Fellow at UNU-WIDER in  
Helsinki, Finland

Addressing Group-based Inequality: A Range of Measures

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NOV 1

Modéer, Ulrika | UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director  
of the Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy

What We Expect at COP28 in November

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DEC 14

Houinato, Maxime | Regional Director of the UN Women East  
and Southern Africa Regional Office

UN Women in East and Southern Africa

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JAN 16

Ito, Ayaki | UNHCR Representative in Japan

The SDGs and Forced Displacement: The Last One Percent

# RESEARCH

## Big IDEAS: SDGs Dialogue Series

Collaborative Research with the United Nations University

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FEB 27

Oakes, Robert | Senior Researcher at UNU-EHS

Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change: Building  
Capacity Through E-learning

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MAR 6

Nordström, Anders | former Ambassador for Global Health,  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden

Advancing the Concept of Global Health

# 2023-24 SEMINARS

## List of Presenters

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### SEMINAR SERIES

p.25-27

Maeda, Ko	Holbrow, Hilary	Le Galès, Patrick
Nozawa, Shinji	Nemoto, Kumiko	Minagawa, Yuka
Elliott, Anthony	Silverberg, Laurie	Vekasi, Kristin
Alexy, Allison	Toyofuku, Miki	

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### EARLY-CAREER SCHOLAR FORUM

p.28-30

Uchikura, Yu	Guangfeng, Ou	Mori, Izumi
Asano, Takaaki	Stortini, Paride	Momose, Yurie
Banjo, Kenji	Matsumoto, Tomoko	Matano, Misaki
Woźny, Anna		

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### GRADUATE STUDENT FORUM

p.31-32

Beppu, Takayoshi	Gagnon, Etienne	Ciavarella, Charlotte
Hummer, Holly	Cherry, Peyton	Linkous, Joshua
Yamada, Anju		



# 2023-24 SEMINARS

## SEMINAR SERIES

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MAY 11

Maeda, Ko | The University of North Texas

Wedge Issue Politics in Japan: Why Not Revising the Constitution Helps the Pro-Revision Ruling Party

Japan's opposition has been fragmented into many parties, which has been giving an electoral advantage to the LDP. I argue and demonstrate that the issue of constitutional revision is working as a wedge issue that is preventing the opposition supporters from getting unified under a single major opposition party. This finding implies that the LDP is better off electorally if it raises the salience of the constitution issue but does not achieve the goal of revising it.

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JUN 8

Holbrow, Hilary | Indiana University

The Long Shadow of the Secretary: Gendered Job Segregation and Attitudes towards Women

The World Economic Forum claims that "Japan's gender gap can be solved through equality from the top!" Acting on this belief, the Kishida government is aiming to fill 30% of leadership positions with women by 2030. These actions and arguments can be traced to the idea that, when women enter management in greater numbers, attitudes towards and treatment of women improve. But what if this has it backwards? What if our attitudes come not primarily from whom we see when we "look up" the organizational hierarchy, but from whom we see when we "look down"? Using novel data from a large Japanese manufacturing firm, I show that attitudes towards women are less favorable where women are overrepresented among low-status job holders.

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JUL 5

Le Galès, Patrick | Sciences Po

Olympic Games in Paris : what sort of urban transformation for whom ?

In most developed large metropolis, housing price increase has led to more inequalities and spatial segregation. The governance of those metropolis is under pressure to deal with those through urban development project and housing construction while promoting economic competition to attract people and capital. On top of this the climate crisis is defining a new set of policy priorities with different social consequences. As the most popular mega event, the Olympic game reflect those tensions and contradictions. The paper will present the case of Paris 2024, contrasting the goals to combine the event with social urban renovation project and sustainable development. It will stress the political dynamics of the state elites, left wing municipalities, business interests and protest movements. As many analysts of Tokyo Olympics tend to emphasise the triumph of "unrestrained capital without sustainable principles" (Aramara, 2023), the paper will conclude by speculating on the social consequences of Paris Olympics and a call for more comparison.

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SEP 7

Nozawa, Shinji | Meiji Gakuin University

Children of divorce and stepfamilies in Japan: the socially invisible and academically understudied

Children of divorce and stepfamilies have been gradually gaining academic and social attention in Japan. Two decades of our research on stepfamilies in Japan has produced two contradicting models of stepfamilies as key factors in understanding stepfamily dynamics. The first is the "scrap and build" household type (the substitute family model), and the second is the expanded and interconnected household type (the enduring family model). The former model assumes that once a custodial parent remarries or re-partners, the other biological parent must be replaced by a stepparent. However, in the latter model, the child's biological parents remain as (custodial) parents irrespective of the parents' marital status. A series of family law reforms based on the Rights of the Child seem to have socially and culturally normalized the latter model in Western societies. This presentation discusses how and why the former model is still dominant in Japan, affecting many children's well-being and life course.

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SEP 14

Nemoto, Kumiko | Senshu University

Board Gender Diversity and Corporate Governance Reform in Japan

As many Japanese companies engage in corporate governance reforms to globalize their business management, some researchers debate whether Japanese companies are shifting their management toward the US corporate management model, which is based on strong shareholder presence and market efficiency with high CEO compensation and weak labor security. These corporate reforms, which include a large increase in foreign shareholders, also correspond with an increase in female board members. The number of female board members in Japanese companies has quadrupled over the last decade. Does this mean that Japanese companies are emulating Western corporate efforts to rigorously incorporate female top executives in their

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businesses? In this presentation, I examine how pressure from the Japanese government and foreign institutional investors plays a large role in increasing the number of female outside board members in many Japanese companies and how such changes in board diversity may help to remedy gender inequality in Japan.

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OCT 5

Minagawa, Yuka | Sophia University

The Importance of Well-Being in Understanding the Health of the Japanese Population

There is a well-established literature on the phenomenal health status of the Japanese population, but most of our knowledge is limited to mortality and prevalence of specific illnesses. Building on existing theoretical tenets surrounding how to measure health, this presentation explores the role of positive and negative health in the construct of the physical health status of the Japanese population. The findings suggest the importance of the positive aspect of health, such as life satisfaction, for understanding the health status of men and women in Japan. This point suggests an important direction for future research, given that relatively little is known about the role of positive health in the Japanese context.

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OCT 24

Elliott, Anthony | University of South Australia

Social Science after the Digital Revolution: Contrasting Developments in Artificial Intelligence in Australia and Japan

Artificial intelligence (AI) represents a new front line for the world and is powerfully reshaping the global economy. In this presentation, acclaimed sociologist Anthony Elliott reviews developments in AI, focusing especially on both policy and practical responses in Australia and Japan. The presentation will also introduce some recent research supported by the Toyota Foundation on changes now occurring in elderly care, associated with a raft of AI technologies. Elliott argues that personal life today is increasingly intertwined with networked technological systems and human-machine configurations, including relations with social robots. He concludes by highlighting the mix of opportunities and risks that the culture of AI portends.

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DEC15

Silverberg, Laurie | Scientific Officer, G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council (GEAC); Strategist, facilitator, communicator, and project leader, Intellerate Consulting

Forging your career path beyond the university: Gender and the job market

After spending many years in a clearly defined path of study, graduate students and early-career professionals may find the prospect of career development beyond the university an anxiety-inducing prospect. Rather than climb a predetermined "career ladder," one must be ready to forge a unique career path and apply one's graduate training in new and unexpected ways. While all job seekers contend with this challenge, research shows that women in particular are less likely to pursue career opportunities commensurate with their skills and expertise. This talk, which is aimed at both women and men, will provide practical guidance for developing a professional career in which one can excel and thrive. Topics covered will include reading and interpreting job descriptions, communicating academic experience to hiring managers, impostor syndrome, and navigating explicit and implicit gender bias.

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JAN 18

Vekasi, Kristin | The University of Maine

Economic Security is National Security: The Politics of Critical Minerals in the Indo-Pacific

Japan's international business practices face simultaneous and opposing trends: a general increase in patterns of diversification of trade and investment away from China and a deepening reliance on China in key sectors. State policy reflects this bifurcation. The state-led liberal strategy promotes regional economic integration (including with China), while the economic security approach focuses on supply chain resilience, critical technologies, and diversification away from China. This research investigates the economic and political pressures and incentives facing Japanese firms, and evaluates "derisking" versus "regional integration" strategies. Sectoral-level analysis finds no evidence suggesting that full-scale "decoupling" is currently occurring or likely to occur in the near future, but there is private-sector diversification in the Asia-Pacific region. Japanese business strongly supports globalization, and it is unlikely that the Japanese government will broadly implement policies that harshly restrict business opportunities with China. However, the analysis also indicates that industries under threat of economic coercion or severe disruption respond to government incentives and are actively diversifying.

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FEB 8

Alexy, Allison | the University of Michigan

The Politics of Child Custody in Japan and Beyond

In 2023, a committee from the Ministry of Justice announced the possibility that a joint custody option might be created for divorcing parents in Japan. Before this change, divorced parents must pick one person to hold legal custody, and now more than 80% of custody is granted to mothers. For decades, activists within and beyond Japan have been advocating for a joint custody option, focusing particularly on fathers' loss of rights and connections with their children after divorce. In particular, international cases of so-called "parental abduction," when one parent takes their child and refuses access to the other parent, have drawn more global media attention to Japanese family law and custody rules, prompting diplomatic and political calls for change. In this presentation, I examine the questions and debates surrounding child custody within Japan and as a global topic, including violence within families, fathers' rights, and parental alienation.

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MAR 7

Toyofuku, Miki | Ochanomizu University

Japan's Economic Gender Gap and Political Parties

The tax and pension systems that favor households in which the wife is a homemaker or part-time worker, known as the annual income barrier, are seen as contributing to the persistence of traditional gender roles and the economic gender gap in Japan. Why have such "familialistic" policies been adopted and maintained? Focusing on the attitudes of political parties, this presentation reexamines the view that emphasizes the conservative party's preference for gender roles and discusses that the preference for supporting low-income families, held by both conservative and centrist/leftist parties, was a factor leading to the adoption and maintenance of such policies. Drawing on the welfare state literature, it also suggests possible directions for Japan to reduce the economic gender gap in the future.

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## EARLY-CAREER SCHOLAR FORUM

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APR 28

Uchikura, Yu | The University of Tokyo  
Design the Science – Science the Design

Over the past six years, DLX Design Lab at the University of Tokyo's Institute of Industrial Science has conducted more than 30 design projects in collaboration with research labs in various fields. In addition to the design projects, DLX Design Lab is also working on systematising the methodology – "Treasure Hunting" to enable designers and scientists, who work in different languages and with different methods, to work more tightly together.

In this talk, I would like to introduce a couple of the latest projects together with our design approach and discuss what kind of values the collaboration between science and design can bring and will achieve in the future.

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MAY 26

Guangfeng, Ou | The University of Tokyo  
Low-carbon and crack-resistant concrete: towards a sustainable and durable building structures

It includes an introduction to the topic and its importance, followed by sections on the need for low-carbon concrete, strategies for crack prevention and control, and innovative technologies and materials for low-carbon and crack-resistant concrete. The outline also features case studies and examples of sustainable and resilient concrete structures, as well as a conclusion that emphasizes the need for continued research and development. Finally, there is a Q&A session for the audience to ask questions and share their thoughts.

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JUN 2

Mori, Izumi | Sophia University  
The Effect of Private Junior High School Enrollment on Students' Academic and Social Outcomes: A Case in Japan

Private junior high schools are often viewed positively in the media as providing a superior educational environment, which can lead to better academic and personal development. However, previous research has not fully elucidated the actual consequences of attending private schools. Using the Japanese Longitudinal Study of Children and Parents, this study examines the effects of private junior high schools on students' academic and social outcomes. The findings indicate that students in private schools experience a more academically challenging environment and improved satisfaction with lessons and schools in the initial year after enrollment. However, there were no notable differences in social interaction with friends, self-esteem, and non-cognitive skills compared to public schools. These results suggest that although socioeconomic differences may exist in access to private schools, there may not be significant differences in student outcomes during the junior high school years.

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JUL 7

Asano, Takaaki | Kansai University  
Assassination and Public Opinion Dynamics: Evidence from Japan

Among acts of political violence, the assassination of a political leader is considered to have a particularly significant impact on people's attitudes or psychology. We analyze public opinion in Japan before and after the assassination of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe with survey data from voting advice applications (VAA). Our results reveal three findings. First, public opinion shifted to the right or conservative after the assassination. Support for the Liberal Democratic Party, the victim's party, increased slightly, while support for the left-opposition parties decreased. There was also an increase in support for strengthening Japan's defense forces and for restricting personal or privacy rights in order to keep order. Second, our results suggest that the rightward shift influenced by the assassination of Abe occurred independent of pre-event partisanship or policy positions. Third, women were more affected by the assassination than men.

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JUL 14

Stortini, Paride | The University of Tokyo  
Japan and "Buddhist Heritage": Constructing Transnational Communities of Memory?

Japan has a leading role in the funding of UNESCO and of projects for the preservation of cultural heritage. While recent scholarship in cultural heritage studies has focused on state action and seen the process of "heritagization" as an example of secularization, this presentation will use case studies from Japan to show the agency of Buddhist institutions that have appropriated and used discourses and practices of cultural heritage to build religious communities of lay supporters and transnational collaborations. The main case study will be the Silk Road imagery and Sino-Japanese relations developed at Yakushiji, Nara, which will be

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compared to Indo-Japanese international aid activities at Tsubosaka-dera, Nara prefecture, and Naritasan Kurume, Fukuoka prefecture. While cultural heritage has been often criticized for its connection with nationalist projects, this presentation will question whether the use of “Buddhist heritage” at this religious sites can foster transnational communities of memory.

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**JUL 21**

**Momose, Yurie | The University of Tokyo**

**Social exclusion and health inequalities: a gender comparison**

In recent years, there has been a growing interest among researchers in clarifying the relationship between social exclusion and health inequalities. This is because most early quantitative studies took in the aspect of health as one of the indicators of social exclusion along with other aspects such as economic status, unemployment, lack of political involvement, and social isolation, and so on. A growing number of studies are concerned with social exclusion and health inequalities; however, it has rarely been discussed whether there are gender differences or gender gaps in the relationship between the two, social exclusion and health inequalities. For this analysis, we will use the nationally representative panel data from the Japanese Life Course Panel Survey 2007-2021 (waves 1-15). The analysis showed that the situation of social exclusion affecting health inequalities (subjective health, mental health, and health problems limiting work and home activities) was different for genders. Furthermore, when analyzed separately for men and women, the items of social and economic aspects that affect health inequalities were different for men and women.

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**SEP 8**

**Banjo, Kenji | The University of Tokyo**

**Japan's Foreign Policy and International Organizations in the Interwar Period: Attitudes toward International Adjudication, Treatment of Foreigners, and International Humanitarian Law**

This presentation explains the changing of Japan's foreign policy towards the activities of League of Nations and other related international organizations in the Interwar Period, which aimed for the establishment of peace and humanitarianism. To investigate this, this presentation focuses on three fields of activity of international organizations: establishment of compulsory jurisdiction at the Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ) and making of bilateral arbitration treaties, discussion concerning immigration and treatment of foreigners at the League of Nations, and the making of the Geneva Convention on Prisoner of War in 1929. In addition, this presentation focuses on bureaucratic process of the making of Japan's foreign policy towards international organizations in this period, especially the making of divisions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan which deals with international organizations.

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**DEC 8**

**Matsumoto, Tomoko | Tokyo University of Science**

**The Marriage of Politics and Economy: Elite Fusion in the Age of Modernization**

What impact did modernization have on elite society? Previous research indicates that many feudal elites from pre-modern societies managed to maintain their status within elite circles even amidst the process of modernization. However, the mechanisms through which these feudal elites sustained their position in elite society, as well as the integration of newly emerged business elites into this framework, has not been fully explored. This study aims to address these inquiries by examining the network structures established by elites through kinship and marriage. By constructing new data on the kinship and marriage relationships among feudal political elites and new business elites in early 20th century Japan, a pivotal period for its modernization, this study seeks to shed light on the origins and transformations of the ties between feudal elites and business elites throughout the modernization process.

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**JAN 12**

**Matano, Misaki | The University of Tokyo**

**Accumulation of Inequality across Multi-Generations in Japan: Focusing on Intergenerational Support**

The life stage of old age among Japanese people has been extended with the increase in longevity. The period that people interact with their grandparents, as well as parents, in their life course is longer due to the increase in longevity. As multi-generational involvement increases, children are influenced directly or indirectly not only by their parents but also by their grandparents. Previous studies of social stratification have focused on only two generations, parents and children. However, it is necessary to examine how inequality is transmitted across multiple generations, including grandparents. Previous research has shown that intergenerational support is one of the pathways through which social inequality is reproduced from the parental generation to the child generation. In this study, I empirically examine how inequality is reproduced through intergenerational support, including the grandparents' generation, using Japanese panel data.

# 2023-24 SEMINARS

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MAR 15

Woźny, Anna | The University of Tokyo, Tokyo Collage (TBC)

Marriage-hunting and gendered governance in contemporary Japan

Commercial dating services known as marriage-hunting (konkatsu) constitute a multi-billion-yen industry and are an increasingly popular means of finding a romantic partner in Japan. In this talk I explore how the marriage-hunting market attracts clients by promising self-betterment, self-actualization, and partnership at a time when marriage has ostensibly become optional. Drawing on my ethnographic study of marriage-hunting services and nearly 130 interviews with market professionals and clients, I demonstrate that these discourses target primarily young women, a population increasingly likely to eschew marriage and childbearing. By linking these commercial discourses to various projects of social management through family and gender relations by the Japanese state, I argue that marriage-hunting represents a new mode of gendered governance in which marketized intimacy becomes one of the many hands of the state.

# 2023-24 SEMINARS

## GRADUATE STUDENT FORUM

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JUN 6

Beppu, Takayoshi | The University of Tokyo

Practice and dilemma in the support for “back to school” –Ethnography of a public educational facility for children of futôkô –

Long-term absence is a high concern among the OECD countries because the phenomenon tends to lead to social exclusion later in life. Also in Japan, long-term absence, which usually means futôkô (that can be translated into school non-attendance) is the main category used in Japan to register children in the long-term absence and has been a high concern. However, the relationship between futôkô and social exclusion stays unclear there. It is partly because the research regarding futôkô has been inclined to the children who use private institutions placed outside of their schools such as “free schools” or “alternative schools” and there has been less focus on the children who do not use those institutions and are interpreted to have much more needs of support. In my presentation, the reality of futôkô such children's experiences will be discussed through the ethnography of a public educational facility for children of futôkô.

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JUN 13

Gagnon, Etienne | The University of Tokyo

Electoral Cooperation in Japanese Elections: The Role of Individual Legislator's Policy Preferences

How do Individual Candidate Policy Preferences affect the formation of electoral alliances? While it is well known that parties who share similar ideologies are more likely to form electoral coalitions, we know little about how individual policy maker's policy preferences can affect electoral cooperation. I analyze an electoral alliance formed during the 2021 Japanese lower house election. Using an elite survey of Japanese election candidates, I find that political parties prefer to support other party's candidates that are proximate to them ideologically. I then use a survey experiment to see how voters react to a “compromise candidate”, a candidate of a party close to their alliance partner, compared to a more cynical counterfactual where parties support candidates they disagree with to maximize their seat count. I find that parties consider candidates' policy preferences when choosing whether to support them or not as part of an alliance. However, voters do not exhibit a marked preference for compromise candidates. The implication is important. While political parties care about candidate ideology when supporting other parties' candidates, it is unlikely to be motivated by electoral considerations but rather by the potential to obtain more influence over the post-election policy agenda.

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JUL 4

Ciavarella, Charlotte | Harvard University

Making the Coast Capitalist: Seaweed and sea labor in the development of Japanese capitalism

Despite its absence from historical accounts of Japanese industrialization, one of Japan's earliest and most important export items were the chemical byproducts of the seaweeds that grow abundantly on its coasts. The centrality of these items to both global scientific research and daily life encouraged overseas companies to attempt to break Japan's almost total monopoly on these products by mechanizing and rationalizing their production. In spite of this outside pressure Japan was able to hold onto their dominance in the trade of these goods, not by modernizing their production but by appropriating the traditional labor and community structures of formerly nomadic fishers in Japan and Jeju island in Korea. By examining the connection between these laborers and the trade in seaweed-based chemicals, this talk examines the ways in which diverse ecosystem cultures are integrated into global systems of exploitation in the process of capitalist development. Challenging the idea that technological advancement and modernization necessarily accompany industrial capitalist development, this talk argues that capitalist transformations rely on hybrid modes of production and exploitation as well as the appropriation of social structures that exist outside of the logic of capitalist production.

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JUL 11

Hummer, Holly | Harvard University

Childlessness in the U.S. and Japan

In this presentation, I will provide early findings from a comparative, interview-based study with childless women in the U.S. and Japan. The presentation will focus on how the lived experience of being childless is shaped by unique cultural and structural factors that differ in the U.S. and Japan.

# 2023-24 SEMINARS

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SEP 12

Cherry, Peyton | University of Oxford/Waseda University

Under Pressure & Voicing Up: Japanese Youth Tackling Gender Issues

The category 'gender issues' (or gendaaa mondai) encompasses many conversations Japanese youth are having now, particularly regarding changing gender roles and expectations in home, work, and school spaces. This presentation will examine youth community building around gender identity, sexuality, and relationships. In addition to my ongoing fieldwork, I will engage with existing literature on labour immobility (Allison 2013), precarity, intimate disconnections (Alexy 2020), and queer narratives in Japan. I will use these sources in combination with the personal experiences of my interlocutors to unpack how youth 'voice up' and become involved in groups focused on preventing sexual violence against women, LGBTQ+ awareness, and anti-discrimination. I suggest that 'voicing up' in Japan is defined not so much by 'loud and proud' or "post-closet discourses" (Ueno 2022, Seidman 2002), but by the creation of intimate community spaces. This project looks at how smaller-scale community involvement is both a byproduct and response to the "embodied meaning-making" of individuals (Wetherell 2012).

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SEP 26

Linkous, Joshua | Harvard University

The contradictions of Japan's pre-war economy and the problem of peasant reproduction

The enactment of the Meiji land and tax reforms, with its intent to push Japan's peasants into capitalist commodity production, marked a historic watershed by which the sphere of peasant reproduction was substantially limited and forcefully reorganized. Though the reforms were nominally national, implementation was highly uneven, and as a consequence so too were the impacts. This talk tracks the long term effects of the reforms on the Northern Tohoku region, arguing that the deepening inequality both in the region and between regions was the product of the contradiction between the government policy of forced marketization and the slow development of widespread commodity production in agriculture. Recognizing this problem, government organizations tried to stimulate the region's economy through various measures such as the promotion of by-employments. However, this only tended to exacerbate the problem. Change in the region's economic structure had to wait until the post-war, when it was suddenly transformed into Japan's center of migrant labor. I suggest that the "why" of pre-war failure, especially when contrasted with post-war developments, is useful for illustrating the limits of Japan's pre-war economy as conditioned by its highly unevenly developed industrial structure.

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NOV 7

Yamada, Anju | The University of Tokyo

Qualitative Analysis of Circumstances Affecting Decisions to Use or Not to Use Childcare: The Role of Cultural Factors and Policy Recommendations

This study aims to qualitatively identify the circumstances that influence parents' decision to use or not use childcare for under 3 and provide policy recommendations. Previous research from Western countries showed that parents of higher education and income are more likely to use formal childcare. In Japan, however, among the cities where the waiting list problem is observed, the opposite trend is observed; except in central Tokyo, the childcare use is lower in urban. To complement current understanding of taking up ECEC policy, this study argues the influence of cultural factor. The study interviewed 7 childcare users and 10 kindergarten users in Kanagawa prefecture to explore the factors influencing their childcare choices. Furthermore, the study will compare 7 childcare users in central 6 wards in Tokyo, 8 users in two marginal wards in Tokyo, and 7 users in two cities in Kanagawa prefecture to determine the factors behind regional differences in childcare use.



# MEETING with SUPPORTERS

We had a meeting to invite those who supported the TCJS and it was very encouraging and helpful in thinking what we can do after completing the TCJS in 2024. Professor Okazaki gave a talk about the future of Historical Economics and Professor McElwain did about how to globalize Japanese studies. Both were very informative and there were active discussions.

DATE : JAN 24

Venue : The University of Tokyo Hongo Campus

Moderator : Shirahase, Sawako (Director of TCJS)

Speakers : Professor Okazaki, Tetsuji (Graduate School of Economics)

Professor McElwain Mori, Kenneth (Institute of Social Science)



Okazaki, Tetsuji



Prof. Okazaki Presentation  
MeetingOkazaki PP.pdf (148KB)



McElwain Mori, Kenneth



Prof. McElwain Presentation  
MeetingMcElwain PP.pdf (1.6MB)



# COMMUNITY NEWS

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**Bamkin, Sam | The University of Tokyo**

Published a book, *Enacting Moral Education in Japan: Between State Policy and School Practice* (Routledge, Dec 2023), which was the subject of a TCJS book talk in discussion with Roger Goodman.

<https://www.routledge.com/9780367646141>.

Published a paper with Matthew Brummer, "The early emergence of ombuds systems in Japanese science universities" in *Science and Public Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/scipol/scad079>.

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**Goodman, Roger | University of Oxford**

Roger Goodman is in Japan from October 2023 to June 2024 undertaking fieldwork for his new research project on the Japanese health system. He is attached to Tokyo College and is based in the Institute of Social Science (Shaken)

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**Momose, Yurie | The University of Tokyo**

Yurie Momose(2024)"Life Course Study on Adult Health and Social Exclusion in Japan "Sociological theory and methods (75)

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**Mori, Izumi | Sophia University(Until March 2024), Chuo University(From April 2024)**

Appeared in a magazine interview titled〈対談〉小学・中学受験のリアル ("The Realities of Entrance Exams for Elementary and Junior High Schools"), 岩波書店『世界』「特集 受験という迷路」(Feature Article: The Labyrinth of Examinations, *Sekai*, Iwanami Shoten) in February 2024.

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**Raymo, Jim | Princeton University**

Published five papers in 2023

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**Shirahase, Sawako | The University of Tokyo**

Sawako Shirahase served as chair of the Gender Equality Advisory Board (GEAC) in 2023 (<https://geac2023.com/>), related to the G7 Presidency in Hiroshima, Japan. The main topic was Gender Mainstreaming for an Inclusive, Peaceful, and Just Society, and this team consisted of 14 experts from the G7 and non-G7 countries. The full report was published in December 2023, and there were four pillars emphasized in it: economic empowerment, education, peacebuilding, and data. I hope many will take a look at [https://geac2023.com/pdf/GEAC\\_2023\\_full-report\\_web.pdf](https://geac2023.com/pdf/GEAC_2023_full-report_web.pdf).

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**Stortini, Paride | Ghent University**

Invited to present at Research Center for Human Cultures at Nagoya City University, Zoom Seminar on Japanese Religions, November 2023.

Published book review of Zen Terror in Prewar Japan: Portrait of an Assassin, by Brian Daizen Victoria. *Journal of Asian Humanities at Kyushu University* 8 (2023): 53–57

Two forthcoming publications accepted:

- "From Religious Civilization to Nonsense: The Kāma Sūtra between Buddhism and Erotic Grotesque in 1920s Japan." 名古屋市立大学人間文化研究所年報 (forthcoming)

- "From Travel Narratives to Television—Modern Buddhism and the Imagination of the Silk Road" (旅行記からテレビまで—近代仏教とシルクロードの想像—), in 読んで観て聴く—近代日本の仏教文化 (forthcoming edited book published with Hōzōkan, Japan, March 2024)

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**Vogel, Steven | University of California, Berkeley**

Published "Market Governance as a Balance of Power," the lead essay in a special issue on Antitrust in the Age of Concentrated Power in Politics and Society (September 2023).

## UTokyo Center for Contemporary Japanese Studies 2023 Annual Report

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English

<https://tcjs.u-tokyo.ac.jp/>

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Japanese

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Giving to TCJS

English

<https://utf.u-tokyo.ac.jp/project/pjt127/English>



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Japanese

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Mogawa, Nori

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International Strategy Group

Togo, Taro

Fegan, James JH

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Design

Primus design