



## VSJF Jahrestagung 2024

VSJF Annual Conference 2024

# Programm der Fachgruppen

## VSJF Section Meetings

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### Freitag, 15. November 2024

online only\*

<b>9.00 Uhr bis 12.30 Uhr</b> <i>9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.</i>	<b>Technik (online)*</b> <i>Technology (online)</i>	<b>S. 2-4</b> <i>p. 2-4</i>
<b>10.00 Uhr bis 12.30 Uhr</b> <i>10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.</i>	<b>Bildung und Erziehung (online)*</b> <i>Education (online)</i>	<b>S. 5-9</b> <i>p. 5-9</i>

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### Samstag, 16. November 2024

Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin  
Saargemünder Str. 2  
14195 Berlin

<b>14.30 Uhr bis 16.30 Uhr</b> <i>2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.</i>	<b>Geschichte (hybrid)*</b> <i>History (hybrid)*</i>	<b>S. 10-12</b> <i>p. 10-12</i>
	<b>Politik (hybrid)*</b> <i>Political Sciences (hybrid)*</i>	<b>S. 13-14</b> <i>p. 13-14</i>
	<b>Stadt- und Regionalforschung (hybrid)*</b> <i>Urban and Regional Studies (hybrid)*</i>	<b>S. 15-19</b> <i>p. 15-19</i>
	<b>Kultur, Medien und Kommunikation (hybrid)*</b> <i>Culture, Media and Communication (hybrid)*</i>	<b>S. 20-21</b> <i>p. 20-21</i>
	<b>Soziologie/Sozialanthropologie + Wirtschaft (hybrid)*</b> <i>Sociology/Social Anthropology + Economics (hybrid)*</i>	<b>S. 22-23</b> <i>p. 22-23</i>

\* Die Links zur online-Teilnahme finden Sie bei den einzelnen Fachgruppenprogrammen. / *The links for online participation can be found in the individual section meetings' programs.*



# 15. November 2024

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## Technik / Technology

(Time zone: Berlin / Tokyo)

### PROGRAMME

09:10 Berlin // 17:10 Tokyo

#### **Session A: AI Technology in Teaching and Learning in Japan and Germany**

- ***Potentials and Pitfalls of Generative AI in University Education: A Brief Experience Report from the Japanese-German Joint Degree in Transcultural Studies***

Björn-Ole Kamm, Kyoto University, Japan

Situated between two academic systems and cultures, the international Joint Degree in Transcultural Studies program (JDTS) of the universities Kyoto and Heidelberg exists in a fragile equilibrium of regulations. With the advent of accessible large-language models (LLM), such as ChatGPT, and the discussions about allowing or prohibiting students the use of such tools, the JDTS equilibrium was disturbed: What if the two involved institutions make opposing decisions, one allowing the use, the other prohibiting it? This question led to investigations and experiments with generative AI, including a software development project and attempts with cluster analysis of focus group data. Concentrating on the consequences in the higher-ed classroom, this input talk touches on the various tools available (from ChatGPT to Elicit, ResearchRabbit, or scite\_) and what role they could play in undergraduate and graduate programs in the humanities, such as Transcultural or Japanese Studies. There is potential for misuse, of course, but integrating their use with education about research integrity and ethics can help students make productive and adequate use of such tools.

- ***Developing students' AI skills: The "AI for All" online course***

Elisabeth Scherer, Heinrich-Heine University Düsseldorf, Germany

Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf (HHU) has set itself the task of creating a low-threshold offer for all students to promote the skills of students in the field of artificial intelligence across all faculties. The "AI for All" project is jointly run by the Heine Center for Artificial Intelligence and Data Science (HeiCAD) and the Service Center for Good Teaching and Learning (SeLL). In order to offer all students and all other interested parties at HHU access to an AI training and to enable the systematic acquisition of these skills, a free of charge online course was created. "AI for All" is designed in such a way that it can be integrated directly into degree program curricula if they do not offer their own courses in the field of AI. Alternatively, individual elements from "AI for All" can be adopted and/or freely adapted for discipline-specific, customized courses. The talk introduces the project as an example and impulse for the use of open education resources (OER) in research and teaching.



- Moderator: Susanne Brucksch, Teikyo University, Japan  
*Joint discussion on AI in Teaching and Learning in Japan and Germany*

10:20 Berlin // 18:20 Tokyo      Short Break

10:30 Berlin // 18:30 Tokyo      **Session B: AI and Virtual Technology in Research on Japan and Beyond**

- ***e-VITA: EU-Japan virtual coach for smart ageing, project description and results of the POC study***  
Eva Jahn and Rainer Wieching, Siegen University, Germany

The e-VITA project represents a significant collaborative effort between Europe and Japan, aimed at leveraging advanced digital solutions to support Active and Healthy Ageing (AHA). As both regions grapple with the challenges posed by an increasingly aging population, such as healthcare sustainability, social integration, and economic pressures, e-VITA addresses these issues through the development of an innovative virtual coaching system tailored to the diverse needs of older adults. The project's primary objectives include enhancing the quality of life for older adults through personalized health management, empowering them with user-friendly and culturally sensitive technologies, and promoting sustainable and scalable AHA solutions through robust stakeholder engagement. 22 interdisciplinary participants, 12 from Europe and 10 from Japan, have worked together between 2021-2024 and used different devices in a total of six test centers in Germany, France, Italy and Japan.

- ***AI and the Language Bias: A Comment on Digital Monolingualism and its Impact on Knowledge Infrastructures for Japanese Studies Research***  
Cosima Wagner, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

Although research and teaching in Japanese Studies is depending on the access to and the use of sources and scholarly exchange in Japanese language and script, the institutional infrastructures of universities in Europe are often unable to accommodate the necessary linguistic and geo-cultural diversity of not only area studies scholarship in the digitally transformed age. In the literature on digital scholarship and knowledge infrastructures this is described as a "ressourcedness gap", which leads to the continuation of colonial power structures with regard to the availability of data in non-Latin scripts, the definition of standards, the access to global scientific knowledge and the categorisation and findability of knowledge in the digital world in general. As AI "ground truth" models are trained on what is available in the predominantly Anglophone digital space there is a growing movement of scholars demanding for "disrupting digital monolingualism". The talk will give an introduction to the relevance of the discussion for Japanese Studies research and teaching from a research librarian's point of view. Using examples from the field of multilingual digital scholarship and a look behind the scenes of scientific infrastructures such as university libraries the talk aims at initiating a discussion on how advocacy for multilingualism and multilingual data literacy have to be considered more strongly as part of Japanese Studies scholarly needs, especially in the light of the "AI hype".



- Moderator: Naonori Kodate, University College Dublin, Ireland  
Q&A

11:30 Berlin // 19:30 Tokyo

**Session C: Open Exchange and Discussion**

- Further announcements on ongoing research projects, etc.
- Moderator: Cosima Wagner, Freie Universität Berlin

12:00 Berlin // 20:00 Tokyo

**End of Section Meeting**

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**Organisers:** Assoc. Prof. Susanne Brucksch  
Teikyo University, Japan

Dr. Cosima Wagner  
Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

**Supporter:** Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate  
University College Dublin, Ireland

**Date:** November 15, 2024 (Fri)  
9:00 – 12:30 Berlin / 17:00 – 20:30 Tokyo

**Venue:** Online Meeting (VSJF Annual conference, JDZB Berlin)  
Participation via login data will be provided after prior registration  
via email: [technology\[at\]vsjf.net](mailto:technology[at]vsjf.net) (until Nov 14, 2024).

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**This section meeting is kindly supported by:**

UCD Centre for Japanese Studies  
University College Dublin (UCD)  
Ireland





## Bildung und Erziehung / Education

10:00-12:30 (CET), 18:00-20:30 (JST)

The section meeting «Education» at the annual conference of the German Association for Social Science Research on Japan (VSJF) is a network for (young) researchers and students interested in education in Japan, but also for people outside the academic context. Our aim is to provide an opportunity to engage with the topic of education and its political and social implications in the Japanese context and to promote exchange between people from different backgrounds. We see ourselves as a forum for young scholars and students to present their research (from finished papers to work-in-progress) and benefit from feedback from senior scholars and the interested public.

For further information please refer to <https://vsjf.net/die-vsjf/fachgruppen/fachgruppe-bildung-und-erziehung/> or contact me at [vincent.lesch@zo.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:vincent.lesch@zo.uni-heidelberg.de) / [education@vsjf.net](mailto:education@vsjf.net)

### Zoom Meeting-Link:

<https://eu02web.zoom-x.de/j/62595946362?pwd=AowQEZVAj1GeNqHaY8CfiU9yuzasO7.1>

Meeting-ID: 625 9594 6362

Password: 320448

Zoom Etiquette: Participants can enter and leave the meeting by themselves. Permission from the host is not necessary. Please turn off your microphone when you are not speaking to avoid noise interference etc.

### Opening remarks

Vincent B. LESCH (Heidelberg University)

### Characteristics of Catholic High Schools in Contemporary Japan

Shinichi AIZAWA (Sophia University)

This study examines the characteristics of Catholic high schools in contemporary Japan through a quantitative analysis of a 2024 survey conducted among private high school principals. The research builds on the work of Kagawa, Kodama, and Aizawa (2014), which highlighted the historical significance of private high schools in Japan's educational landscape. Previous research has shown that Christian schools played a significant role in the development of private education in Japan, often producing students perceived as "well-bred" (Sato 2006, Inoue et al. 2018). While Catholic schools have been identified as effective educational institutions, they face challenges related to their relatively low resilience, particularly when compared to family-run or business-run schools (Cummings 1997; Breaden & Goodman 2020).

This study analyzes data collected from 417 private high schools across Japan, with a 41% response rate (171 schools), of which 40 were Catholic. Using regression analysis, we found that schools located in urban areas and those offering diversified courses had larger student



populations, while Catholic high schools generally had smaller enrollments. Despite their smaller size, Catholic high schools demonstrated stronger community cohesion, with positive results in terms of shared school mottos and physical symbols, which contributed to a sense of belongingness across generations. However, Catholic schools did not show a significant impact on fostering student relationships compared to non-religious schools.

The findings suggest that while Catholic schools maintain a strong communal identity, they face challenges in adapting to modern educational demands, particularly in maintaining student numbers.

### **Early 20th Century Female Physical Education Teachers and School Dance: An appearance of *shutai* as a projection**

Yuka HASEGAWA (National Institution for Youth Education, Japan)

This paper examines a number of female Physical Education scholar-teachers active during the pre- and post-war periods of 1930s to 1950s Japan. I use Roy Bhaskar's philosophy Dialectical Critical Realism (DCR) to describe and explain the dialectic between their agency and the *shutai-sei* debate (*shutai-sei ronsō*) held among male intellectuals between 1946-1949. DCR expands Bhaskar's earlier and more widely known Critical Realism (CR) by affirming the ontology of negativity. In doing so, DCR identifies four steps in the causal chain of agency, understood as absencing an absence, and structural transformation that the absencing brings about.

My presentation will focus on the first two steps to explain how *shutai* has gained its ground for causal power and efficacy as a hegemonic discourse. Specifically, it studies how the *shutai* concept as understood as an alterity by the Kyoto School scholar Nishitani Keiji at the 1942 Overcoming Modernity symposium becomes associated with an absence, or a lacuna in Marxism by philosopher Umemoto Katsumi in the postwar *shutai-sei* debate held between 1946-1949, where I translate the term *shutai* as autonomous action and *shutai-sei* as the competencies needed to engage in autonomous action.

Bhaskar explains that alterity, which signifies non-identity in being, is the critical realist ground and the primal moment (1M) when reality is stratified and differentiated. The primal moment transitions to second edge (2E) where absence is revealed and ushers in a dialectic of absencing an absence. Bhaskar explains that his dialectic is not a teleological sublation of the Hegelian kind, but a diffracting dialectic where changes to the meaning of concepts – in this case *shutai* – is embedded in a constellational sea of practice. DCR thus allows us to study the emergence of *shutai* as an outcome of human agency which also traces the shifting contours of cultural hegemony.

Traditionally, women's Physical Education was marked by an absence of *shutai* where most of the first female P.E. teachers in Japan became one contrary to their wishes. However, some of them developed highly successful dance programs, one of which became known as the School Dance (*gakkō dansu*). Although the Physical Education scholar-teachers at the time did not talk about *shutai*, their careers and lives illustrate their agency in absencing an absent academic field of women's Physical Education, an absent subject of dance, absent scientific theories and methods, and an absent role model to only mention a few.

By studying the pioneering work of female P.E. scholar-teachers, I locate their dance pedagogies and practices spanning the pre- and post-war periods of 1930s to 1950s as the material-practical diffraction of an emerging *shutai-sei* discourse that problematized a lacuna in Marxism. In doing so, my goal is to demonstrate how the activities of these two groups – female P.E. scholar-teachers and male Marxist scholars – constitute a phenomenal field in which the following can be observed: First, there is an ontogeny of *shutai*-like behavior with physical activities like dance engage learners in a dialectical objectification and subjectification



of one's own body. Second, shutai-sei takes on an epistemic tone with Umemoto's question concerning how or why people convert the contradictions in capitalism into a politically engaged social action. Third, by reversing 'the natural relationship in which the body stands to its environment' with the first two activities, a 'projection' appears, which according to Merleau-Ponty is 'an area of free space in which what does not naturally exist may take on a semblance of existence' as 'a system of meanings outwardly expressive of the subject's internal activity' (2007[1958], 128-9).

### **From Vocational Schools to Higher Education: Opportunities and Challenges for International Students in Japan**

Anh Phuong LE (Waseda University)

With the decreasing number of domestic students, many vocational schools in Japan are becoming more oriented towards international students. Once enrolled in these schools, students are expected to follow a predetermined trajectory: language school-vocational school-low-wage labor market, a pathway reinforced through institutional practices (Le, 2022). However, vocational education and training (VET) students, with their agency, make attempts to break out of this designated pathway. How are they able to advance to higher education in a foreign country, despite coming from a less disadvantaged background with low cultural capital? Using qualitative in-depth interview data with VET international students in Japan, this presentation will explore the roles of vocational schools in preparing their international students into the Japanese marketplace, as well as how these schools are (not) helping students advance to higher education. The project will also investigate the opportunities for higher education of international students in Japan, the obstacles they face and their strategies to counter these obstacles. With the majority of international students from vocational schools in Japan coming from less developed countries are occupying many vocational schools in Japan, this presentation will shed light into the connection between post-secondary education and immigration policies of Japan, contributing to the literature on Japanese international student mobility in general and VET international students in Japan in particular.

**\*\*\*SHORT BREAK\*\*\***

### **The Role of Shadow Education for Educational Success: Effects on Tracking Allocation in Germany and Japan**

Steve R. ENTRICH (University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany)

Hiroki NAKANISHI (St. Andrews University, Japan)

Although much is known about inequality in shadow education (henceforth SE) in many countries, less do we know about the actual effects of these investments. It remains especially unclear why outcomes to SE seem significant in some countries but not in others. Taking a comparative perspective, in the present article we focus on SE at school, i.e. privately organized lessons in academically oriented subjects outside regular school hours, "designed to improve a student's chances of successfully moving through the allocation process" (Stevenson and Baker, 1992) in Germany ("*Nachhilfe*") and Japan ("*Gakkôgaikyôiku*").

The following questions guide our empirical endeavors: (1) Is SE more likely to be used by families with a high socioeconomic status (SES) in both countries, net of other factors? (2) Who reaps the benefits of SE (if any) for school allocation in both countries and can this be traced back to class-specific differences in the motives to pursue SE? To explain differences in SE use and its outcomes for school allocation, we rely on rational choice and effectively





maintained inequality theory. Using data of two national Education Longitudinal Studies from Germany (NEPS) and Japan (JELS), structural equation models show the following main findings: (1) In Germany, SE is used largely independent of SES, but leads to no significant improvement in academic achievement or better chances of allocation to upper secondary schools. (2) In contrast, SE provides students in Japan with significant advantages for educational progress at the cost of high social selectivity in its use. The results are discussed regarding the potential contribution of SE to educational success and social inequality within given country-specific constraints. Specifically, our findings allow to draw implications for practice (e.g., washback on mainstream education) and policies (e.g., support measures to tackle education inequality).

### **Complementary learning and education support in the context of compulsory education: Focusing on institutions supporting long-term absent children in Japan and Sweden**

Takayoshi BEPPU (Tokyo University, Japan)

Susanne KREITZ-SANDBERG (Stockholm University, Sweden)

There is increasing interest in each country regarding the prevention and intervention of long-term school absence due to its potential risk for social exclusion, associated with lower educational attainment and subsequent unstable employment. However, research comparing and examining the practices of supporting children who experience long-term absence between countries is limited. Therefore, this study focuses on Japan and Sweden to investigate the similarities and differences in the support provided for long-term absent students in the context of compulsory education. The aim is to shed light on the perspectives of the support providers and understand what kind of support they recognize as necessary for children experiencing long-term absence.

The authors conducted fieldwork at institutions supporting long-term absent children in Japan and Sweden. The institution in Japan is referred to as "Classroom J," while the one in Sweden is "Classroom S." Participant observation and interviews were conducted at Classroom J from April 2021 to September 2024. A visit was made to Classroom S in 2024 and the interviews with the staff were conducted. Both classrooms are public facilities that accept children in the compulsory education stage, aiming to support their learning and partially striving to assist in their return to school, making them somewhat comparable subjects for each other. The data from both countries were analyzed with a grounded approach to generate data-driven findings. As a result, similar narratives regarding supportive practices were heard from staff members in both Japan and Sweden. Staff members in both countries were highly sensitive to the children's anxieties and recognized the importance of fostering a sense of accomplishment while addressing these anxieties. More specifically, they both implemented the series of supports through flexible curriculum, individualized learning, and building deep relationships with the children and their parents. Additionally, both countries faced similar challenges regarding the difficulty of reintegrating students into school and providing continuous support beyond the compulsory education stage.

In the discussion, it can be noted that there is a similar framework of support in both Japan and Sweden, despite their differing education systems, aiming to mitigate children's anxieties while fostering a sense of accomplishment. It can be pointed out that both countries establish "flexible" settings rather than "ordinary" schools, where multiple-track pathways for recovery are provided. It is crucial to further explore the relationship between these supportive frameworks and the education systems in both countries. This would help us to understand





what kind of place for complementary learning and education support fits in the education system in each country.

In the presentation, we would like to contextualize our data in relation to the education systems and discussions about long-term absence in the countries. Due to the limitations in the differences in data collection between the two countries, the focus will be on Japan, with the data from Sweden serving as a comparable case. The authors will present the results along with detailed data, highlighting the differences and similarities between Japan and Sweden in terms of support for long-term absence.

### **Final discussion and closing remarks**



## 16. November 2024

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### **Geschichte / History**

14.30 Uhr bis 16.30 Uhr / 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. (CET)

#### **Organisator:innen:**

Dr. Anke Scherer, Ruhr-Universität Bochum  
Dr. Torsten Weber, Deutsches Institut für Japanstudien, Tokyo

#### **Zoomlink zur Teilnahme:**

<https://ruhr-uni-bochum.zoom-join/j/68711456275?pwd=NIv52J3XUkDUGSYybMVqGbxDEIFmhW.1>

Meeting-ID: 687 1145 6275

Passwort: Rekishi

#### **Sprecher\*innen:**

Morgaine Setzer-Mori (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)

#### **Historiographische Elemente in Takai Ranzan's *yomihon*: Frühneuzeitliche Unterhaltungsliteratur als populäre Geschichtsschreibung?**

Wodurch wurde das Geschichtsbild breiter Bevölkerungskreise Anfang bis Mitte des 19. Jahrhunderts geprägt? Japan blickte zu dieser Zeit bereits auf eine lange Tradition von Historiographien im Regierungsauftrag und historischen Erzählungen zurück. Es kann allerdings davon ausgegangen werden, dass diese jeweils in ihrer originalen Form im gemeinen Volk wenig – wenn überhaupt – rezipiert wurden. Historische Inhalte wurden, unter anderem, über die zeitgenössische populäre Kultur vermittelt, beispielsweise durch das literarische Genre sogenannter *yomihon* (dt.: „Lesebücher“), mit denen sich dieser Vortrag beschäftigt. Anhand einer Auswahl von Werken des bisher wenig erforschten Schriftstellers Takai Ranzan (1762–1839) werden historiographische Elemente in den Texten vorgestellt. Dazu gehören intertextuelle Bezüge zu Werken der zeitgenössischen Geschichtsschreibung ebenso wie die Verwendung historischer Quellen und Verweise auf Ortschaften oder Artefakte. Darüber hinaus thematisiert der Vortrag verschiedene Strategien, wie Autor und Verleger dem Lesepublikum historische Stoffe möglichst einfach verständlich machten, z. B. durch Anmerkungsapparate, Illustrationen und erläuternde Kommentare im Text. In Anlehnung an eine kürzlich abgeschlossene Dissertation zum Thema wird die These aufgestellt, dass diese *yomihon* als populäre Geschichtsschreibung verstanden werden können und als solche der



Leserschaft moralische Wertvorstellungen vermittelte, ihr politisches Bewusstsein schärfte und Orientierung für ein friedliches soziales Miteinander bot.

Patrick Müller (Universität Erfurt)

### **Bruno Hassensteins Japan: Eine Wissensgeschichte zwischen Kartographie und Japanforschung (1879–1887)**

Getrieben von beruflichem und privatem Interesse an Japan widmete sich der Gothaer Kartograph Bruno Hassenstein (1839–1902) zwischen 1879 und 1887 intensiv der Kartierung des Landes. Sein Werk umfasst sowohl einzelne Kartenblätter, die die heutige Region Tōkyō und den Berg Fuji abbilden, als auch einen topographischen Atlas von Japan (1885/1887), für den er ein eigenes Umschriftsystem entwickelte. Diese Arbeiten entstanden im Rahmen seiner Anstellung bei einem der führenden europäischen Kartenverlage, Justus Perthes Gotha, sowie in seiner Funktion als Kartenredakteur der vom Verlag herausgegebenen Fachzeitschrift „Dr. A. Petermann’s Mittheilungen aus Justus Perthes’ Geographischer Anstalt“.

Doch wie fertigte Bruno Hassenstein, der weder Japanisch sprach noch das Land selbst bereiste, seinen Atlas von Japan an? Zur Erstellung des Atlas stützte sich der Gothaer Kartograph auf aktuelle geographische Informationen über Japan, die er aus einem weitreichenden Netzwerk bezog. Dieses Netzwerk setzte sich aus europäischen Japanforschern, Geographen, Kontraktausländern sowie japanischen Austauschstudierenden und Gesandten zusammen. Es stellte ihm sowohl japanische als auch europäische topographische Karten zur Verfügung und unterstützte ihn bei der Übersetzung der japanischen Karten, um sie an sein Umschriftsystem anzupassen – eine notwendige Hilfe angesichts seiner fehlenden Sprachkenntnisse.

Wie hat Bruno Hassensteins Atlas von Japan die Japanforschung der zweiten Hälfte des 19. Jahrhunderts beeinflusst, und warum wird er in der Forschung weitgehend vernachlässigt? Wenn sich die Forschung mit Akteuren der Japanforschung des 19. Jahrhunderts befasst, liegt der Fokus meist auf bekannten Persönlichkeiten wie Philipp Franz von Siebold, dem Arzt und Naturforscher in holländischen Diensten, oder dem späteren Bonner Geographieprofessor Johannes Justus Rein. Diese Figuren nehmen in der Genealogie der Japanforschung des 19. Jahrhunderts weiterhin eine prominente Stellung ein, ohne dass ihre politischen und – insbesondere im Fall von Rein – kolonialen Sichtweisen kritisch hinterfragt werden.

Gegenstand des Vortrags ist Bruno Hassensteins Atlas von Japan und dessen Entstehungsgeschichte. Dabei wird aufgezeigt, wie Hassenstein – trotz fehlender Sprachkenntnisse und ohne das Land je bereist zu haben – durch die Unterstützung eines weitreichenden Netzwerks einen Atlas von Japan erstellte, der weitgehend in Vergessenheit geraten ist. Im Mittelpunkt stehen die kartographischen Praktiken, die seine Arbeit am Atlas prägten. Zudem wird die politische Dimension beleuchtet, in die Hassensteins Atlas eingebunden war. Der Vortrag schließt mit einer Überlegung, inwieweit Hassensteins Atlas in zeitgenössische Debatten über europäische imperiale Bestrebungen gegenüber dem Meiji-Japan eingebunden war.



Dorothea Mladenova (Universität Leipzig)

### **Denkmäler und Denkmalprojekte für die Militär-„Trostrfrauen“ in Japan**

Um die Memorialisierung der Geschichte der Militär-„Trostrfrauen“ werden mitunter erbitterte Kämpfe geführt, die sich sowohl um die Form als auch um die Inhalte, aber auch um die Standorte drehen. Wenig bekannt ist, dass auch in Japan Denkmäler für die „Trostrfrauen“ existieren. Wo stehen sie? Wer hat sie errichtet und wie wird mit ihnen gearbeitet? Welche „Geschichte(n)“ erzählen sie? Wie kann mit ihnen interagiert oder nicht interagiert werden? Welche Bedeutungen transportieren sie auf Grund der o.g. Faktoren? Diese Fragen sollen basierend auf Feldforschung anhand der wenigen bekannten konkreten Beispiele diskutiert werden. Damit soll eine Grundlage für die Diskussion geschaffen werden, welche Funktion Denkmäler erfüllen, sowie für eine Kontrastierung mit anderen Denkmälern außerhalb Japans.



## Politik / Political Science

14.30 Uhr bis 16.30 Uhr / 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. (CET)

### Organizers:

Steffen Heinrich (FU Berlin)  
Momoyo Hüstebeck (Uni Duisburg-Essen)

### To participate online:

<https://fu-berlin.webex.com/fu-berlin/en/j.php?MTID=me2589e949829956e9fa3eadba7233730>

Andreas Eder-Ramsauer, Univ. Wien

### **Japanese migrants' transnational political engagement: the case of Reiwa Shinsengumi's overseas supporters**

Although the literature on Japanese migrants has expanded considerably over the past few decades, there has been limited research examining the engagement of Japanese nationals abroad in homeland politics. This paper examines the phenomenon of long-distance political participation, with a particular focus on the case of supporters of Reiwa Shinsengumi. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with Reiwa Shinsengumi supporters residing overseas and organized in the "Reiwa kaigai katte-ren". Based on interview data, we illustrate diasporic subjects' political participation with reference to the use of digital technologies and social media and highlight how this challenges conventional understanding of migrants' transnational political participation. Furthermore, we shed light on the connections between their migration trajectory and their endorsement of Reiwa Shinsegumi. It suggests that the advocacy of Reiwa Shinsengumi provides them with an emotional fulfilment—a sense of belonging that they longed for.

Momoyo Hüstebeck, Univ. Duisburg-Essen

### **A local turn in Japanese immigration policy?**

"Local turn" is a term used by researchers who analyse transnational migration to Europe, especially in 2015-16, when a record number of refugees arrived. Migrant studies focused on Europe's local level because municipalities had to deal with the wave of refugees on-site. The so-called "refugee crisis" boosted the autonomous activities of municipalities in developing their integration policies. The "local turn" is a conceptual term for the increased political autonomy granted to local governments in migration/integration policy. The national government is no longer the sole authority in migration policymaking. And local governments no longer consider their role as merely reacting to ordinances from above.

Referring to the European state of the art, I would like to ask in my presentation whether we can also observe a local turn of migrant strategies in Japan against the backdrop of increasing migration and the comprehensive reform of the Immigration Law in 2018.

With a few exceptions, no migration literature on Japan compares the integration policies of Japanese municipalities in an analytically structured way. More recent case studies on municipal integration policies are written by local stakeholders, e. g. administration or NGO



staff. Therefore, in order to answer the research question, I will refer to the independent variables of European structured analysis on local migrant policymaking to hypothesize whether or not there is a local turn in Japan as well.

Antonia Vesting, LMU München

### **Participatory city planning in times of demographic change: Creating sustainable cities from the bottom up**

In the wake of a rapidly ageing and shrinking society and the increasing effects of climate change among others, Japan is facing multiple challenges. Not only Japan's rural regions, but also larger cities, such as Kyoto, are directly experiencing the effects of demographic change. Although a city with many universities and students, there is an outflow of young working force. Also, many families can no longer afford city life and are thus moving to the surrounding areas, which leads to a dwindling tax-paying population. Added to this is the imbalance in public finances, over tourism and increasing extreme heat in summer.

The question arises as to how these complex and diverse problems can be overcome in an ageing society and how social resilience and sustainability in this process can be strengthened. To this end, it is essential to include the voice of citizens from all walks of life in the urban planning process. Drawing on the concepts of civil society and grassroots movements, social innovation and the theory of participatory planning, I intend to find answers to that question.

A particular focus lies on projects that deal with intergenerational *machizukuri* (micro town planning with bottom-up character), urban and social sustainability and resilience. Also, the activities of young people, especially students, will be analyzed in more detail. In doing so, I draw on initial results from field research in Kyoto from April to September 2024.

Tjorven Lippmann, HHU Düsseldorf

### **From focusing event to policy change: An examination of the Fukushima nuclear accident and its impacts on Japan's nuclear politics**

My work focuses on the reconstruction and explanation of the crisis-driven policy process in Japan's nuclear politics in response to the Fukushima nuclear accident March 11th, 2011. Using two political theories - the multiple streams framework by John Kingdon (1984) and the focusing events theory by Thomas Birkland (1997) – this paper examines whether the Fukushima nuclear accident can be identified as a so-called focusing event and thus as a trigger for policy change in Japan. The examination shows that Fukushima fulfills important characteristics of a focusing event and was of central importance in initiating changes for Japan's nuclear policy domain. Based on the multiple streams framework, the study further exhibits that Fukushima cannot be seen as sole trigger for policy change in Japan's nuclear politics, but activated other factors within the policy making process, which together brought about policy changes. In the aftermath of Fukushima, I observe that growing national anti-nuclear sentiment influenced the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) government's interests and beliefs to reconsider the status quo in nuclear politics. This ultimately led to the shutdown of all nuclear reactors and the creation of the Nuclear Regulatory Agency ensuring nuclear safety. However, the dominance of a strong pro-nuclear coalition between the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the industry and administration as well as turnover of government to the LDP in 2012 restricted more ambitious policy changes in Japan's nuclear politics.





## Stadt- und Regionalforschung / *Urban and Regional Studies*

14.30 Uhr bis 16.30 Uhr / 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. (CET)

### Organizers:

Florian Purkarthofer (University of Vienna) [florian.purkarthofer@univie.ac.at](mailto:florian.purkarthofer@univie.ac.at)

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Cornelia Reiher (Freie Universität Berlin) [cornelia.reiher@fu-berlin.de](mailto:cornelia.reiher@fu-berlin.de)

### Zoomlink zur Teilnahme:

<https://univienne.zoom.us/j/66503138384?pwd=ITgM8kLqoyv3HgV0EfH3xN6RcuNbkq.1>

Sie können auch über den Zoom-Client teilnehmen, wenn Sie folgende Daten verwenden:

Meeting-ID: 665 0313 8384

Kenncode: 243667

### Programme:

14:30 ~14:45

Carlos J. L. Balsas

**Japanese tradition applied to sustainable urban regeneration**

14:50 ~15:05

Roman Fritz

**Innovation Ecosystems of Science Cities and their Role in Smart Sustainability Transformation: An analysis of the transformative governance of Tsukuba Super Smart City**

15:10 ~ 15:25

Margherita Tess

**Planning sans soleil? Adapting urban spaces against summer increased heat in Fukuoka, an ethnography**

15:30 ~ 15:45

Sakura Yamamura

**Superdiverse Tokyo – A Paradox? Exploring the Dynamics of Socio-Spatial Diversification in Tokyo**

15:50 ~ 16:30

**Discussion**



## Carlos J. L. Balsas

### Affiliation and Contact:

Ulster University, Belfast, UK

<https://cbusa06.wixsite.com/website> & [cbusa06@yahoo.com](mailto:cbusa06@yahoo.com)

### Title:

**Japanese tradition applied to sustainable urban regeneration**

### Abstract:

Contemporary notions of sustainability have come to be portrayed as the symbolic overlap of the economy, environment, and social realms. Sustainability is a constant challenge and not a fait accompli or destination. Cities were created and have grown because the co-presence of multiple people in interaction with the natural and built environments generates surplus. Autopoiesis posits that living systems will seek, and eventually move towards, an equilibrium of forces. However, continuous entries to and exits from the urban system in different magnitudes lead to imbalances and to the need to influence, if not outright, manage urban districts. This paper builds upon earlier work on the sustainable urban regeneration and operational management of the Shibuya district in Tokyo. It exemplifies that the concept of sustainability in commercial district management embodies a Japanese tradition honouring Tōshōgū Shrine's message of "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil." Study visits to Shibuya as well as interactions, participation in meetings, walk-along patrols, and desk research demonstrate that concerned stakeholders in the district are keen to accomplish the "clean, safe, and attractive" goals of successful commercial districts. Those goals are common to emblematic global neighbourhoods such as New York City's Times Square, London's Covent Garden – Piccadilly Circus – Soho, and Hong Kong's Central District, to name a few. Examples of less angelical activities capable of disrupting the vitality and viability of Shibuya district are littering, street hawking, handing out leaflets in public spaces, and absolutely illicit activities. One of the differences between the management practices in Shibuya and those of similar districts elsewhere is the degree of volunteering, stakeholder participation, and sense of collective belonging instead of their outsourcing to third party companies. Within the broad field of *machizukuri* studies, this research sheds light on a Japanese idiosyncrasy applied to city centre commercial district management.

### Biography:

Carlos J. L. Balsas, Ph.D., AICP is a Lecturer in Planning at the Belfast School of Architecture and the Built Environment at Ulster University. Carlos Balsas is an urban and regional planner trained in Europe and the U.S. with graduate degrees (MRP and PhD) in Regional Planning from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a licentiate degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Aveiro, Portugal. Carlos Balsas has worked in multiple professional capacities in urban revitalization and resilience, urban governance, non-motorized transportation planning, mega-event development, city and culture, and international planning in Portugal, Massachusetts, California, Arizona, and New York. He has published books on commercial urbanism, sustainable urbanism, walkability, and city centre revitalization. Prior to his appointment at the University at Albany, SUNY Carlos Balsas was an assistant professor at Arizona State University, Tempe campus.



## Roman Fritz

### Affiliation and Contact:

Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Geographisches Institut - Urban and Metropolitan Studies  
[roman.fritz@rub.de](mailto:roman.fritz@rub.de)

### Title:

**Innovation Ecosystems of Science Cities and their Role in Smart Sustainability Transformation: An analysis of the transformative governance of Tsukuba Super Smart City**

### Abstract:

Tsukuba Science City was granted Super City status in 2022 and, as a National Strategic Special Zone, benefits from regulatory flexibility and additional funding by the Cabinet Office to conduct experiments at the urban scale to produce future-proof technological (and social) innovations.

While smart technologies offer compelling solutions, their effective implementation requires integrated approaches since the wicked nature of challenges at the urban scale, hence, they cannot be approached linearly and require the deliberate involvement and collaboration of multiple actors. Ideally, transformative governance involves public, academic, private, and civil society actors due to their diverse sets of resources. To effectively address the wicked status quo, smart sustainability transformation require so-called open innovation ecosystems where actors can experiment with transformative forms of collaboration. In Tsukuba this role is taken on by a Smart City Consortium consisting of ca. 50 stakeholders from city, academia and the private sector, as well as the National Strategic Zone Promotional Headquarters situated in the administration.

Focusing on the newly emerging modes of governance, my dissertation thesis addresses questions regarding the strategies, place-based structures and institutions that shape actors' transformative capacities, as well as the roles these actors take on in implementing smart sustainability transformation. While the thesis aims to compare Tsukuba Super City and the Smart City governance of Bochum, I am concentrating on Tsukuba and would like to discuss preliminary findings from a recent research stay.

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## Margherita Tess

### Affiliation and Contact:

Humboldt University of Berlin, Department of European Ethnology  
[margherita.tess@hu-berlin.de](mailto:margherita.tess@hu-berlin.de)

### Title:

**Planning *sans soleil*? Adapting urban spaces against summer increased heat in Fukuoka, an ethnography**

### Abstract:

In a wave of interest for heat island countermeasures in the '90s, the city of Fukuoka was one of the cities in Japan that produced several plans to address adaptation to increased heat at the urban planning level. Despite these efforts, the implementation of heat adaptation strategies in the city's urban design did not proceed.

In this talk, I will present the results of my fieldwork in Fukuoka, asking why these plans were not put into practice. Adapting urban spaces to heat lies at the intersection of several disciplinary and design approaches and, at the same time, touches the most intimate sensorial experiences of citizens. Focusing on public urban greenery (how it is planned, maintained and



managed) and its relationship to heat in urban Fukuoka, I bring forward reflections on planning processes, *machizukuri* and landscape architecture.

Drawing on my fieldwork with climatologists, urban planners and activist groups, I show how heat and greenery are not conceptualised and operationalised in the same way among these groups. Furthermore, I focus on urban (street) trees, analysing how they are planned, managed, and experienced, especially in relation to heat, showing how the sought-after climatic function of trees is not a pre-given value.

In conclusion, I interrogate more broadly Japanese cities' urban planning's relationship with summer's heat and sun, asking: Are Japanese cities planned without the sun in mind?

### Biography:

Margherita Tess is a doctoral researcher in urban anthropology at HU-Berlin working on the project Urban Microclimate Planning Regime: The Constitution of Spaces and Infrastructures of Heat. Their PhD investigates how increased heat plays a role in the spatial transformation of urban Japan and how heat-adapted spaces are planned and infrastructured. They conducted ethnographic work in Fukuoka, where they explored both climatological and urban planning understanding of heat and the urban and how textile engineering and biometeorology have been shaping cooling gadgets and fashion to cater to bodily individual thermal adaptation.

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### Sakura Yamamura

#### Affiliation and Contact:

RWTH Aachen University , Geographisches Institut

<https://www.digihum.rwth-aachen.de/cms/digihum/Die-Juniorprofessur/Team/~upwhx/sakura.yamamura@geo.rwth-aachen.de>

#### Title:

**Superdiverse Tokyo – A Paradox? Exploring the Dynamics of Socio-Spatial Diversification in Tokyo**

#### Abstract:

Despite the growing number of foreign residents and the relative diversification of Japan's migrant population, the term "superdiversity" may not immediately seem applicable to a city like Tokyo. The label of a "superdiverse city" is more commonly associated with cities such as New York, London, or Singapore. However, while superdiversity—understood as migration-driven diversity in urban societies—has been widely discussed in migration studies, its spatial manifestations in specific cities remain underexplored. Focusing on the spatial dimensions of this phenomenon can reveal critical dynamics relevant to urban and regional research in superdiverse cities.

Drawing on extensive empirical social-geographical research in Tokyo, this presentation outlines the theoretical relationship between migration-driven diversity and the transformation of urban spaces. It delves into the concept of superdiversity, which captures the complex diversity that emerges from global migration, and analyzes its impact on urban spaces, particularly in the context of transnational migration within central Tokyo and the wider metropolitan region. The discussion examines the dynamics of so-called "Gaijin ghettos" and their 'golden triangles,' as well as Pro-Tokyoite spaces, exploring their roles and embeddedness within the broader migration landscape. This research is supported by rich empirical evidence from human geographical fieldwork.

The presentation draws on findings from the forthcoming monograph "Spatial Diversity in the Global City: Transnational Tokyo" (2024), which is part of the Palgrave Macmillan book series 'Global Diversities'.



### Biography:

Sakura Yamamura is Professor in Human Geography at the RWTH Aachen University. Developing her expertise in urban diversity and migration issues, she brings new perspectives into the human geography of migration and mobility. With a focus on the digitalization of society as a societal context, she looks into the urban transformation and socio-spatial practices of the migration-led diversification of contemporary societies. She engages with novel methodological approaches in capturing such processes by developing and integrating digital methods in human geography. Her broader cultural geographical approach in research encompasses topics of different types and characteristics of transnational migration, their multi-scalar contextual embeddedness and the socio-spatial transformation in such diversification processes.



## Kultur, Medien und Kommunikation / Culture, Media and Communication

14.30 Uhr bis 16.30 Uhr / 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. (CET)

### Organizers:

Dr. Michaela Oberwinkler (Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf)  
Jasmin Rückert (Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf)

### Online participants can log in via Webex:

<https://hhu.webex.com/hhu/j.php?MTID=me8aecbeb50e1ee8195ae605302c09e5e>

Meeting-ID: 2793 669 4369

Meeting password: DkwRKzNX735

### Presentations:

Gregor Wakounig (Universität Wien)

#### **Querfront von ganz links. "Anarchofaschistische" Publikationen in Japan.**

War nach der Dreifachkatastrophe von Fukushima sowohl in den Kommentarspalten sowie auch in Teilen der Forschung von einem Wiederaufleben der japanischen Zivilgesellschaft die Rede, klafft hinsichtlich eines der politisch wahrscheinlich widersprüchlichsten Phänomene der Post-Fukushima-Linken immer noch eine große Forschungslücke. Dabei handelt es sich um (ehemalige) Linke, die sich die ideologische und organisatorische Nähe zum Faschismus und anderen Teilen der extremen Rechten auf die Fahnen geschrieben haben. Selbsternannte "Anarchofaschisten" sind in Japan innerhalb der außerparlamentarischen Linken keine obskure Randgruppe mehr, sondern gewinnen zunehmend an Einfluss.

Basierend auf einer Masterarbeit, deren Forschungsschwerpunkt auf der japanischen radikalen Linken liegt, wird der Vortrag eine Analyse von Zeitschriften präsentieren, in denen Autor\*innen offen für eine Kooperation der radikalen Linken mit Faschist\*innen plädieren. Dabei geht der Vortrag insbesondere der Frage nach, inwiefern eine ideologisch derart widersprüchliche Position in Japan immer mehr Anhänger\*innen gewinnen kann.

Nicolas Stassar (Freie Universität Berlin)

#### **POWs, Punishment, and Memory - Narratives of Unfair Punishment at the Hand of the Japanese Army during the Pacific War 1941-1945**

Stories of POWs have long been a staple of retellings of the global wars of the early 20th century. These retellings cover a wide arrange of experiences, discussing matters of lacking nutrition, seemingly willful medical neglect, or poor planning of accommodations. Punishment, often overlooked as a significant factor in detainment both by scholars and practitioners, is typically presented as an intentional act of abuse. The former aspects can often be directly linked to logistical failures. However, punishment, must be understood as distinct from logistical





problems - at least in theory. Rules for punishment, both disciplinary and judicial are established well in advance, and subversion of official protocol was often frowned upon (though ineffectively admonished).

Nevertheless, punishment of POWs within Japanese captivity was often accompanied with excesses, supposedly unfair procedures, and death. Consequently, some of these episodes of miscarriages of justice have found their way in national narratives of the war, displaying an enemy which was at its core brutal in its conduct. In the case of Japan, it was often accused of only having a “veneer of civilization”. This presentation will briefly outline the Japanese military legal system and its application to POWs, and illustrate perceived and concrete excesses in penal procedures based on two distinct cases. The first is the so-called Anker Case, an escape attempt that happened near the construction site of the Thai-Burma Railway in 1943. It has meticulously been recorded in James Bradley's memoir *Towards the setting sun: An escape from the Thailand-Burma railway, 1943*. The second is the Australian War Crime Trial vis-a-vis Lieutenant General Yamawaki Masataka, who near the end of the conflict was deemed responsible for the sentencing of three Australian soldiers to death under the suspicion of espionage. The trial proved its importance in Australian memory of the war as a when becoming the subject matter of an episode of the documentary series *In Their Footsteps*.

Emily Cole (Boston College) - online

### **“The Subjective Reality of Nagano Shigeichi’s *Dream Age*”**

In 1954, famed photojournalist Domon Ken declared an end to the realist movement in Japanese photography. Over the course of the next decade, Japanese street photographers began to infuse their photographs with a more subjective point of view. Many scholars of postwar Japanese photography link this shift to the 1960 Anpo protests against the renewal of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty. While this was certainly an important moment, it was not the sole impetus for the shift from objectivity to subjectivity. My paper offers a close reading of Nagano Shigeichi's photobook *Dream Age* to provide insight into the socio-political developments that led postwar photographers to abandon objectivity and enter an era of subjective photography, including the return of Japanese sovereignty after the Allied Occupation, Prime Minister Hayato's "Income Doubling Plan," the centering of society around the ideals of the salaryman and the housewife, and the rise of American-style consumerism in an age of increasing material wealth. Nagano has received minimal attention in the history of postwar Japanese photography, but his photographic work provides a crucial link between the objectivity that prevailed in the early 1950s and the subjectivity that took root in the late 1950s. An analysis of his photobook can provide greater insight into the move toward subjective photography, as well as some of the anxieties of the “dream age” of the Era of High-Speed Growth that pervaded society.



## **Soziologie/Sozialanthropologie und Wirtschaft / *Sociology/Social Anthropology and Economics***

14.30 Uhr bis 16.30 Uhr / 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. (CET)

*This section meeting is held in hybrid form. Presentations and discussion will be in English.*

### **Organizers:**

Carola Hommerich, Sophia University, Tokyo  
Harald Conrad, Heinrich-Heine-Universität, Düsseldorf

### **Online participants can log in via Zoom:**

<https://sophia-ac-jp.zoom.us/j/91293398656>

Meeting ID: 912 9339 8656

Passcode: welcome

### **Presentations:**

#### **Contesting the traditional Japanese path to happiness? International student mobility and its gendered impact on labor market returns and life satisfaction. Findings from the SSJDA Panel Survey 2021-23**

Steve R. Entrich (University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany)  
Sho Fujihara (The University of Tokyo, Japan)

Until the early 1990s, Japan was praised and emulated internationally as a role model for economic development and social justice. The country's enormous economic success and the associated high level of prosperity was attributed in particular to the highly efficient model of labor division, the so-called male breadwinner-professional housewife model. Accepting one's social role as either *sararīman* (men) or wife/mother (women) was deemed the ultimate path towards happiness in the Japanese society. However, with the burst of the bubble economy in the early 1990s, the Japanese economic miracle came to an abrupt end also calling into question the traditional path towards happiness: No longer did the arduous path to one of the high ranked universities guarantee men well-paid, secure jobs in major companies, thus questioning their ability to become the sole breadwinner of a family. Instead, policy measures were initiated to encourage more women to join the workforce while at the same time significant labor market barriers and family responsibilities remain restricting their opportunities to pursue men-equivalent careers. Whether and under which conditions men and women achieve a similar level of happiness when not following traditional career paths is not clear.

Focusing on young adults with study abroad experience, we examine the role of international mobility for labor market success and life satisfaction in contemporary Japan paying special emphasis to gender. Using data from the SSJDA Panel (2021-23) for 1,500 young adults (aged 21 to 42), results show that men are more likely to be satisfied with their life when they follow



the traditional Japanese life course (high education level→major company/high income→high life satisfaction). Women on the same track may achieve high income and status, but are less likely to report being satisfied. Men which studied abroad during university are more likely to report higher income and life satisfaction. Women may increase their likelihood to enter big corporations, but do not become more likely to earn higher income or become more satisfied with their life. With higher age, women become even less satisfied with their lives.

### **Changing recruitment strategies of Japanese companies in the context of the demographic development?**

Matthias Pilz (University of Cologne, Germany)

Due to the shrinking number of university graduates, companies in industrialised countries are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit qualified young people. This situation is particularly pronounced in Japan, where companies have to compete intensively for the best talent. Based on a multi-stakeholder perspective, this study examines the changes in the Japanese recruitment system from the perspective of companies (n=4), university career centres (n=4) and external organisations (n=2) involved in recruitment. Based on expert interviews with these stakeholders, the study examines how recruitment practices in Japan have changed, what general guidelines for recruitment are currently followed by companies and to what extent traditional recruitment practices still prevail. As the results show, recruitment activities in Japan have accelerated in recent years, with companies seeking to recruit university students early in their studies in order to secure qualified talent as early as possible. The presentation will also discuss the implications of these findings for Japan and other industrialised countries with similar demographic issues.