

GERMAN ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH ON JAPAN [VSJF]
FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN [FU]
JAPANESE-GERMAN CENTER BERLIN [JDZB]

Fachgruppe
BILDUNG UND ERZIEHUNG

VSJF Annual Conference 2018
on
Social Science Research and Society in Japan and Germany:
Impact, Institutions and Perspectives

Saturday, November 24, 2018

16.15 to 17.30

16.15

Begrüßung

Karsten HELMHOLZ (Universität Hamburg)

Stephanie OSAWA (Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf)

16.15 – 16.45

Non-Profit-Education: NPO-lead Career Guidance at Senior High Schools

Vincent Benvoglio LESCH (Universität Hamburg)

This ongoing PhD project re-evaluates the role of senior high school career guidance in the transition process into the labor market against the background of deteriorating job prospects. It explores the micro level praxis of schooling and career guidance at 17 municipal senior high schools in the Tokyo metropolitan area by means of participant observation of NPO-lead career guidance events and expert interviews with headmasters, teachers and NPO coordinators. By examining differences in measures to promote skills relevant for the job market and in career guidance services, the project seeks to illuminate how different actors at senior high schools currently shape graduates' career trajectories and how the educational system tries to adapt to challenges brought forth by a deregulated labor market.

16.45 – 17.15

Active Ageing: Mitigating Japan's demographic crisis?

Anna-Lea SCHRÖDER (Universität Hamburg)

The demographic crisis is one of the major international challenges of the current century. As Japan's hyperaged society is the oldest society worldwide with elderly people making up more than 26% of the population, Japanese active ageing policy reforms with regard to care prevention through lifelong learning might provide best practice examples to the international community. In order to tackle the demographic challenge, Japan is taking a dual approach toward mitigating the demographic crisis: On the one hand, Japan is taking a universalist approach (Esping-Andersen) through universal elderly care by introducing the Long-Term Care Insurance in 2000. On the other hand, the Japanese state is also taking a shift toward an activating welfare state with neo-liberal tendencies, especially through policies of lifelong learning, in order to increase the financial sustainability of the welfare state.

In my dissertation, I would like to challenge the view that the activating welfare state, or as Ogawa calls it, the "New Public Commons" (*atarashii kōkyō*), can be regarded as a purely top-down, neo-liberal approach to prolong the "third age" – the time between retirement and losing independence and autonomy through age related illnesses – in order to increase the financial sustainability social welfare programs such as the LTCI. Instead, I would like to argue that individual, intrinsic motivation for staying independent, healthy and active in later life actually create a demand for activating policies at the local level. This demand in turn is merging with top-down policy formulation at the national level, creating a dialogue between the different actors involved. I would also like to analyze how state actors and civil society are trying to include high-risk groups such as single, elderly men living alone into active ageing measures.

17.15 – 17.30 **Abschlussdiskussion**

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GESCHICHTE

VSJF Annual Conference 2018

on

**Social Science Research and Society in Japan and Germany:
Impact, Institutions and Perspectives**

Saturday, November 24, 2018

14.30 to 17.30

- 14.30 – 15.15 **Rethinking Postwar Japan's History Problem at the Crossroads of International History and International Relations Theory**
Hitomi KOYAMA (Leiden University)

How might we understand the persistence of Japan's 'history problem' without reducing the matter into cultural essentialism, or what Seraphim calls the "new form of Orientalism" that once again sets the German model as the model par excellence and Japan as the irrational Other (2008), or the cliché argument that victor writes the history? In this paper I argue that to understand the persistence we must account for the palimpsest state of history in postwar Japan (Koyama 2018). The 'history problem' persists because the question over how to become a subject that could be held accountable is pulled towards two divergent directions: amidst the global movement to decolonize history-writing on the one hand, and the liberal view of state that re-centers the state as an agent-actor in history, on the other. I argue this by placing Japanese literary critic Norihiro Kato's work, *After Defeat* (1995) into conversation with John Hobson's work on the place of state in International Relations theory.

- 15.15 – 16.00 **Unclaimed Prize: Japanese Oil Explorations in Manchuria before the Pacific War**
Daqing YANG (George Washington University & Max Planck Institute for the History of Science)

Partly thanks to Daniel Yergin's award-winning book *The Prize*, it is now widely recognized that the U.S. oil embargo against to Japan was a major factor behind Tokyo's decision to start the Pacific War in December 1941. What remains relatively unknown, at least outside East Asia, is Japan's decade-long search for oil in Manchuria, a vast region of China rich in natural resources and a key part of Japan's wartime empire after 1931. *Unclaimed Prize* refers to the large oil deposits in Manchuria that Japan failed to locate prior to its fateful decision to advance southward to occupy the oil-rich Dutch East Indies. My presentation shall examine the Japanese oil explorations as well as their significance in the production of geological knowledge.

- 16.00 – 16.15 *Coffee break*

16.15 – 17.00 **The Theoretical Scope of Fujita Shōzō's Concept of Contemporary Totalitarianism**

Takamichi SAKURAI (University of Heidelberg/Keiō University)

My presentation aims to describe the Japanese intellectual historian Fujita Shōzō's later concept of 'contemporary totalitarianism' (gendai zentaishugi) and its theoretical scope within the discipline of intellectual history by focusing on his two socio-political notions of 'totalitarianism towards unruffled ease' (anraku e no zentaishugi) and 'totalitarianism as market economy' (shijō keizai zentaishugi). Fujita's later scholarly activities are characterised particularly by referring to the political concept of totalitarianism, the idea of which is derived from Fascist Italy. It should be noted, however, that his usage of the concept is quite specific in the sense of its semantic scope, distinct from that of general one which simply signifies dictatorial, violent politics controlling a society with the effective use of ideology and terror, such as Nazism, Stalinism and communism in the Cold War context, that stresses totalitarian aspects of a contemporary way of life and market mechanism despite the inclusion of that general signification. On this view, essentially Fujita's conception of totalitarianism divides its semantic meaning into three levels: 'totalitarianism in war' (sensō no zentaishugi), 'political totalitarianism' (seijiteki zentaishugi) and 'contemporary totalitarianism'. Furthermore, the last one is divided into 'totalitarianism towards unruffled ease' and 'totalitarianism market economy' as noted above. As expected by the names of these concepts, they focus on adverse aspects of contemporary society based on the principles of free market economy. From this perspective, Fujita tried to link contemporary market society to totalitarianism through seeking totalitarian orientations in seemingly peaceful, everyday life and democratic practice, thereby diagnosing and criticising the core disease of its spiritual structure.

Finally, I argue that Fujita's concept of contemporary totalitarianism reveals totalitarian orientations in a contemporary way of life under the dialectical social conditions between the rationalised system of market economy causing alienation and the strong narcissistic impulse to satisfy unruffled ease, and that it leads us to critically understand contemporary social and political phenomena, thereby bringing us self-criticism and self-reflection.

17.00 – 17.30 **Discussion**

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POLITIK

VSJF Annual Conference 2018

on

**Social Science Research and Society in Japan and Germany:
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Saturday, November 24, 2018

14.30 to 17.30

14.30 – 14.45 **Begrüßung**

14.45 – 15.10 **Understanding the Constitutional Democratic Party: Its Characteristics, Ideology and Social Structure**

Felix SPREMBERG (University of Tübingen)

There is very little research on the biggest opposition party of Japan – the Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP). However, understanding the CDP is important, since it currently seems to be the only political force which could act as an ideological and programmatic alternative to the LDP, which returned to its dominant position thereby reviving Japan's "uncommon democracy" (Pempel) of the Shōwa-period. This presentation will shed light on the characteristics, ideology and social structure of the CDP and assess its outlook by a comparison with its unsuccessful predecessor, the DPJ.

Firstly, I will analyse the genesis of the CDP in October 2017 as a splinter of the DPJ and will discuss the role and characteristics of the new party from a historical perspective. I will argue that the CDP has much more promising general features including leadership, coherence, attitude towards power and attractiveness.

By analysing the party's ideology, I will show that the CDP presents itself as a relatively coherent left alternative to the LDP by emphasizing equality, diversity, ecological policies, minority and gender rights, as well as a firm anti-nuclear standpoint. It also carries on the pacifist tradition of the Japanese left, which allows the party to cooperate with the more ideologically rigid Social Democrats and Communists. Interestingly it has almost completely dropped the concept of "kaikaku" (reform). This is a clear departure from the 'reform party' DPJ as well as the general trend of 'reform as a substitute for ideology' (Klein) in Japan.

We can understand this ideological change by a look at the party structure, which is very different from the DPJ. The CDP does neither include the conservative factions of the former DPJ nor the Minshatō, which represents big business, including nuclear energy interests, and therefore obstructed an anti-nuclear and ecological strategy. However, the CDP has not overcome factionalism since the party consists of two factions, of which one is closely allied with public labour unions.

15.10 – 15.35 **Deliberative Innovations - Curing the Malaise of Japanese Representative Democracy?**
Momoyo HÜSTEBECK (University of Duisburg-Essen, IN-EAST School of Advanced Studies)

Like other established democracies, Japan has faced challenges to democracy which threaten fundamental ideals, such as liberal rights, equality or legitimacy. To counteract this (partial) "crisis" of representative democracy, the last two decades in Japan have seen the governmental implementation of a striking number of democratic innovations in participatory policy-making processes. Against this empirical backdrop, I ask based on concepts of democratic quality and evaluations of democratic innovations whether participatory democracy can improve the quality of Japanese representative democracy. Choosing from a vast number of democratic innovations, this study focuses specifically on new forms of deliberations in Japan. I provide the samples of two deliberative methods: local planning cells (*keikaku saibō* or *shimin tōgikai*) and the first national Deliberative Poll (*tōgigata yoron chōsa*) in 2012. Citizens discussed in the latter case the shut-off of Japanese nuclear power-plants by 2030. The paper highlights the merits and challenges of strengthening deliberative democracy by carefully evaluating these two empirical cases.

15.35 – 16.00 **The Other Labour Movement: Community Unions' Role in Japanese Labour Revitalisation**
Jan NIGGEMEIER (Freie Universität Berlin, Graduate School of East Asian Studies)

Organised labour in Japan is characterised by a dominance of corporatist enterprise unions. Despite a growing casualisation and precariousness of work as well as signs of a legitimacy crisis due to a decreasing unionisation rate and a deteriorating access to policy-making on labour issues, the mainstream of Japanese trade unions remains hesitant to expand their scope of representation beyond their core constituency of regularly-employed workers. In contrast, locally-based or social group-constituted so-called community unions strategically target this niche in focusing on the organisation of the growing group of irregularly-employed, as the most vulnerable members of the workforce. Often inspired by examples from abroad and with a strong rooting in civil society, these small-scale organisations of labour activism on the grassroots-level develop innovative and much more flexible and inclusive forms of workers' representation. This research project elucidates transformations within the broader Japanese labour movement along examples of diverse forms of community unionism. It aims to find out, how factors of strategic decision-making about organisational structures, approached agendas as well as applied tactics vary among different examples of community unions. The strategic role of community unions as *challengers* vis-à-vis mainstream trade unions as *incumbents* within the organisational field of the Japanese labour movement is analysed through the application of the meso-level theoretical model of *Strategic Action Fields* by Fligstein and McAdam (2012), which intersects between social movement- and organisationtheory. This research argues that Japanese community unions are not a coherent phenomenon but show up variation in their strategic decision-making and field positionality. As field challengers, they succeed in pointing out imitable alternatives of workers' organisation as well as representation vis-à-vis the established corporatist trade union system and thus initiate revitalising field transformation of Japanese labour. The analysis is based on in-field research conducted in Japan, including interviews with organisers and members of trade unions and several different community union organisations as well as participant observation within group activism.

16.00 – 16.15 *Kaffeepause*

16.15 – 16.40 **Regulating for Welfare? The Politics of Private Pension Schemes in Japan**
Steffen HEINRICH (German Institute for Japanese Studies, DIJ Tōkyō)

In the comparative literature on the welfare state, Japan has long been treated as an exceptional case (e.g. Esping-Andersen 1997) that combines low social expenditure with high social equality. In the course of the last 20 years however, this picture has been radically transformed. Public expenditure since the early 1990s has reached a level similar to most Western European countries while social inequality is now widely believed to have grown. However, the recent expansion of social spending is in part a response to retrenchment elsewhere, in particular the corporate sector. Due to growing fiscal

restraints Japanese governments cannot compensate corporate cuts through more fiscal spending. Instead, they need to look for new ways of more cost-efficient ways of regulating for welfare. The introduction of NISA and iDeCo schemes are the most striking examples of this new regulatory approach. Yes, unlike much of the literature on pension reforms has argued, the implications of this strategic change have so far been fairly limited. In fact, the regulatory expansion of private pension schemes has been conspicuously cautious, there has been virtually no change in how workers save for retirement and though participation rates are growing, they remain rather low. To make sense of this unexpected result, the presentation will trace the decision-making process that led to the establishment of NISA and iDeCo and discuss to what extent these schemes can indeed be understood as products of an emerging regulatory welfare state.

16.40 – 17.05 **Understanding Government Statistics on Foreign Workers in Japan**
Matthias HENNINGS (Kwansei Gakuin University)

Data on foreign workers in Japan published annually by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has been commonly treated as official government statistics on the country's foreign workforce by mass media organizations, and, as a result, is widely reported to the public. The ministry, however, makes no claim that this data is official, accurate, or even a database of workers. In fact, the ministry collects reports on foreign workers that are submitted by employers under a special reporting system. As this presentation will show, it is possible for foreign workers to be ignored, unreported, or reported multiple times in the same year due to the rules of this system. Consequently, in addition to being based on reports rather than employees, the ministry's figures are not even reliable indicators of the number of workers. This presentation will demonstrate that this is evident by examining the data since it was first published in 2008 and comparing it with foreign population data. It will conclude that the ministry's data is not a relevant or accurate source of information about the size of Japan's foreign workforce, and therefore suggest a method for estimating the total number of workers that enables more credible and realistic data than the results of the MHLW's annual study.

17.05 – 17.30 **Beyond "one size fits all": Kaizen in Japan's Development Cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa**
Ruth ACHENBACH (Goethe University Frankfurt)

In their efforts to learn from the East Asian economic miracle, African political leaders, bureaucrats and company owners look for best-practice management approaches in private-sector development. A case in point is Ethiopia, where late prime minister Meles requested the implementation of Kaizen from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA). From this initially request-based project, Kaizen in 2016 became one of JICA's key policies to be rolled out to all African countries. African agents in Ethiopia and Zambia (two countries that founded national Kaizen institutes) face the challenge of how to adapt the "Japanese" management practices to their respective economic and cultural conditions. For this, they learn from the experiences in Kaizen implementation and collaborate with agents in India and Malaysia.

This presentation explores the evolution of JICA's implementation strategies in sub-Saharan Africa. Drawing upon original qualitative data collected in 2017 in Japan, Ethiopia and Zambia from JICA officials, policy advisors, Kaizen trainers and company owners, this comparative policy analysis examines JICA's learning process, juxtaposing it with Ethiopia's and Zambia's policy learning from South(East) Asian actors. It traces how Kaizen evolved from single-handedly initiated initiatives to JICA's lighthouse strategy in African private-sector development. The study helps answer the question of how Japan contributes to African development by the means of exporting its business "culture" that also aims at democratization of workers, and thereby, arguably, nation-states.

supported by
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation)
Graduate School of East Asian Studies (GEAS)
Taylor & Francis Group

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SOZIOLOGIE UND SOZIALANTHROPOLOGIE

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14.30 – 14.40 **Begrüßung**
Celia SPODEN (Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf)

14.40 – 15.20 **Rural Japan's Appeal to Old and New Residents: A Migration Analysis of two Case Studies in Aso Region (Kumamoto)**
Antonia MISERKA (University of Vienna)

Depopulation and the shrinking of Japans' rural areas are much discussed topics, both in the academic discourse on Japanese society and in popular media. Better job opportunities and a broader range of educational institutions entice many young people to migrate from the countryside to metropolitan areas, leaving behind the elderly to sustain their community. However, a small trend of counter-urbanization—people coming back to their home municipalities or moving to rural areas without having any former connections there—exists within the shadow of larger depopulation patterns.

This study aims to add a new angle to the discourse of rural Japan and its demographic change by taking a closer look at the individual level of life in rural areas and discussing the living conditions of people living in or moving to local communities. To do so, two surveys were conducted in the Aso-Region in Kumamoto prefecture: (1) administering questionnaires in a hamlet located within the area on a meso-level (municipality); (2) interviews with people who (re-) migrated to Aso Region on a micro-level (individual). Thus, it was possible to include opinions of both old and new residents regarding the living conditions in their local communities and identify assertive "push" and "pull" factors for living in or migrating to the area.

By combining quantitative and qualitative approaches and including samples, both in small hamlets and more central parts of the area, it was possible to draw a more inclusive conclusion about life in rural Japan. While insufficient infrastructure and low accessibility complicate life in more remotely located hamlets, the overall satisfaction regarding the living environment seems to be high in all parts of Aso Region.

15.20 – 16.00 **A "Happiness Capital"? The Role of Social Capital in Offsetting the Impact of Structural Decline in a Rural Japanese Community and the Interaction with Personality**
Dionysios ASKITIS (University of Vienna)

According to objective data, rural communities in Japan are faced with accelerating structural and demographic decline in recent decades. While there is mixed evidence regarding the level of happiness of rural residents over those living in urban areas, these structural deficits don't translate into low subjective well-being in rural communities such as the small-town of Aso, Kumamoto.

Meanwhile, the major effects of social resources on well-being and their predominance in these communities has been repeatedly demonstrated. However, few studies have attempted to directly link findings on these associations with the apparent persistence of rural happiness. Happiness research has long relied in part on epidemiological studies without differentiation of small-scale environments, vague rural-urban typologies and universal happiness concepts with little regard for regional and inter-individual variations in the conception, perception and measurement of happiness. One particular factor that has been largely overlooked in social science research is personality, specifically the factor extraversion which regulates much of social behavior and has been shown to predict well-being by itself and by interacting with other predictors.

The aim of this thesis is therefore to investigate the association between social capital and well-being in rural Japan and how this relationship manifests itself when taking into account personality traits such as extraversion. It is hypothesized that social resources have a larger effect on happiness in areas with more rural characteristics and that they more than compensate for structural disadvantages in those areas. Furthermore, it is expected that the personality factor extraversion will moderate this effect by regulating the need for and well-being drawn from social interaction with the community.

As part of the greater interdisciplinary Aso 2.0 project on regional well-being at the university of Vienna, the small-town of Aso in Kumamoto prefecture with its average rural Japanese economic and demographic structure serves as a case example of all the Japanese communities that experience similar challenges associated with their marginal status. By including instruments sensitive to inter-individual and 'Japanese' constructions of happiness and by contrasting proximal town wards of comparatively rural and urban characteristics with a high sample resolution this thesis addresses the measurement issues of traditional instruments and sampling. Thus, it is hoped that this dissertation project will contribute to the understanding of the complex relationship between structural decline, social capital and quality of life in contemporary rural Japan.

16.00 – 16.15 *Coffee break*

16.15 – 16.55 **(Kein) Raum für uns: Räumliche Perspektiven auf Beziehungswelten lediger Erwachsener in Tokio**

Nora KOTTMANN (German Institute for Japanese Studies, DIJ Tōkyō)

Beziehungswelten lediger Menschen in Japan sind trotz einer enormen Zunahme an Singles – populärwissenschaftliche Studien im japanischen Kontext sprechen von dem Entstehen einer „Hyper-Solo-Gesellschaft“ (Arakawa 2017) – bisher kaum Gegenstand der sozialwissenschaftlichen Forschung geworden. Eine raumtheoretische Perspektive auf die Thematik, die aufgrund einiger Kontextspezifika besonders erkenntnisreich erscheint, fehlt derzeit gänzlich. Vor dem Hintergrund räumlicher Faktoren wie (erwerbsbedingter) Multilokalität, hohen Mobilitätsanforderungen, einer generellen räumlichen Enge, dem Verbleib einer Vielzahl von Erwachsenen im Elternhaus sowie einer Zunahme Alleinlebender stellen sich folgende Fragen: Wo und wie leben ledige Erwachsene unterschiedliche persönliche Beziehungen, welche ‚Räume‘ stehen zur Verfügung, welche werden angeeignet oder ggf. neu geschaffen? Welche Bedeutung kommt Kopräsenz (physisch/virtuell) und Nähe (geographisch/emotional) zu? Auf der Grundlage explorativer Interviews mit jungen Erwachsenen in Tokio im Sommer 2017 fokussiert der vorliegende Beitrag auf den ‚Wohnraum‘ und dessen mögliche Bedeutung für Paarbeziehungen. Es wird aufgezeigt, dass die Befragten diesem eine

zentrale, aber gleichzeitig ambivalente Bedeutung für das *doing relationship* zusprechen. Einerseits beschreiben die Befragten die eigene Wohnung (oder das eigene Zimmer in einem gemeinschaftlich genutzten Haus oder einer gemeinschaftlich genutzten Wohnung) als bedeutenden ‚Beziehungsraum‘ und ein mögliches Fehlen desselben als Mangel. Andererseits wird der (eigene) Wohnraum als ‚privater Raum‘ und als ‚Rückzugsraum‘ definiert, der nur ungern geteilt wird. Neben der Präsentation vorläufiger Ergebnisse werden weiterführende Überlegungen zu Beziehungswelten (‚Intimität‘) und ‚Raum‘ sowie deren Interaktion im Kontext der gegenwärtigen sozio-ökonomischen Umwälzungen in Japan angestellt und Fragen aufgeworfen.

16.55 – 17.30 **MA Project: Unions' Involvement in the Minimum Wage Movement: Can Social Movement Unionism Revitalize the Labor Movement in Japan?**
Stefanie SCHWARTE (Universität Hamburg)

Following the labor market deregulations of the 1990s, irregular employment in Japan has dramatically risen to almost 40 percent of the workforce (MHLW 2018). Low job security and wages, limited access to corporate social welfare as well as exclusion from the career track are some of the main characteristics of irregular employment. Many of the traditional labor unions do not grant membership to irregular employees, and their agenda is focused on protecting the privileges of regular employees rather than on creating decent working conditions for both, regular and irregular employees. A steady decline in labor union membership, however, forced the unions to radically change their positions. Unions have started to accept irregular employees as members and have begun to politically address the disadvantages this group faces in terms of labor protection and wage setting.

Over the years the minimum wage has been discussed and used in the campaigns of the labor movement as well as those of political parties. Japan has a statutory minimum wage, but there are significant differences depending on the region or industry. The average minimum wage is around 848 Yen (Rengo 2018) – far lower than the level which labor unions or groups like Aequitas are demanding. Aequitas is an initiative formed in September 2015 and the group members include university students, labor activists and members of various labor unions – most notably of general or community unions – who engaged in social movement unionism. They organized demonstrations between 2015 and 2017 in which they demanded a national statutory minimum wage of 1500 Yen and opposed inequality and poverty in Japan (Japan Times 2017). In my thesis I examine the Aequitas movement as an example of social movement unionism (SMU) (Fairbrother 2008; Moody 1997, Watanabe 2018) and evaluate the possibilities of SMU for union revitalization. By analyzing publications by unions and Aequitas itself and taking the group's social media output into account, I'll analyze the activists' motivation and hopes for taking part in the movement.

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14.30 – 14.40 **Begrüßung**

14.40 – 15.20 **The Ambiguity of Kizuna: The Dynamics of Social Ties and the Role of Local Culture for Community Building in post-3.11 Japan**

Julia GERSTER (Freie Universität Berlin)

At the 11th of March 2011, the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami destroyed the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant and washed away whole cities in northeastern Japan. Thousands of the former residents had to be evacuated due to the nuclear contamination and the loss of their former homes. Nevertheless, in the immediate aftermath of the catastrophe, the survivors performed local traditions, festivals, and emphasized the symbolic meaning of local cuisine.

Drawing on Giddens' theory of structuration and the concept of translocality, this dissertation investigates the role of local culture for community building in a domestic setting of forced migration. The following are the research questions which underpin this thesis: Why do disaster survivors turn to culture after such devastating events? How do they employ local cultural patterns for community-building and how do the different aspects of the 3.11 disasters, namely the consequences of the tsunami and the consequences of the nuclear disaster, influence the effects of local culture for community building?

To understand the different impacts caused by the nuclear disaster and the earthquake and tsunami on the social dynamics within the affected communities, the responses of evacuees from Natori City in Miyagi Prefecture are compared to those of evacuees from Namie Town in Fukushima Prefecture, located only four kilometers away from the damaged nuclear power plant. Data from a year of ethnographic field research in the disaster-stricken regions as well as 175 semi-structured interviews have been analyzed with a focus on the influence of cultural concepts such as *kizuna* (human bonds) and *furusato* (home), local festivals and events, and local food culture on the dynamics of social ties within the affected communities.

It has been found that the way local cultural aspects are used for community building among domestically displaced people strongly resembles strategies of transnational

migrants for structuring their everyday lives and their communities. Due to the experience of the disaster, however, additional categories significant for the creation of a collective identity of the evacuees from Natori and Namie have to be considered. The most important are variations in the experience of loss and perceptions of risk and affectedness. Furthermore, it became evident that aspects of local culture and sociality are promoted as unique to the places affected by disaster as a means for regional revitalization. As such these strategies remind of revitalization measures which have been employed for decades. Whereas the employment and marketization of local culture seem to work for the case of Natori which has been mainly affected by the tsunami, communities like Namie in Fukushima Prefecture face additional challenges. The ambiguities connected to the hazards of radiation and the stigmatization that goes along with it lead to ongoing debates on recovery and a division of the concerned communities because they affect the core aspects significant for community building. With the analysis mentioned above, this dissertation aims to contribute to a better understanding of the role of culture for post-disaster recovery as well as community building within domestic displacement; and the different impacts of nuclear and natural hazards.

15.20 – 16.00 **The Reconstruction of Dejima – Perspectives for the City of Nagasaki**

Thomas STÄRZ (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)

Dejima war eine 1636 fertiggestellte fächerförmige, künstliche Insel im Hafen von Nagasaki. Von 1641 bis 1859 befand sich dort eine niederländische Faktorei, die zugleich der einzige westliche Handelsposten in Japan während der Zeit der Landesabschließung und ein Ort des kulturellen und wissenschaftlichen Austausches war. Nach der Auflösung des Handelspostens ging Dejima in der ausländischen Niederlassung auf und wurde schließlich von der in das Hafenbecken hineinwachsenden Stadt geschluckt.

1922 wurde die historische Stätte der ehemaligen niederländischen Faktorei (*Dejima Oranda Shōkan ato* 出島和蘭商館跡) als staatlich designierte historische Stätte (*kunishitei shiseki* 国指定史跡) bestimmt. Seit 1951 wird die Stätte rekonstruiert. Die Anstrengungen, Dejima vollständig so zu rekonstruieren, wie es im frühen 19. Jahrhundert war, dauern an.

Das Ziel des Promotionsprojekts ist es, die Implikationen und Bedeutungen, die dieses Schutz- und Rekonstruktionsprojekt für die Beteiligten und Betroffenen, sowie für die Stadt als Ganzes hat, zu ergründen. Als Forschungsmethoden werden die Analyse von schriftlichen Dokumenten, sowie die Analyse von qualitativen Interviews und Beobachtungsdaten, die während zweier Feldforschungsaufenthalte in Nagasaki (10.2013 und 04.2016 – 03.2018) erhoben wurden, angewendet.

Durch das Ergründen dessen, wie die Rekonstruktion einer solch symbolisch aufgeladenen historischen Stätte, wie Dejima es ist, eine historisch so vielschichtige Stadt, wie Nagasaki, prägt, wird der Versuch unternommen aufzuzeigen, welche Chancen und Implikationen der Schutz, sowie die Rekonstruktion von historischen Stätten im urbanen Raum im Allgemeinen und für mit demographischen und wirtschaftlichen Herausforderungen konfrontierten Städte wie Nagasaki im Speziellen birgt.

16.00 – 16.15 *Kaffeepause*

16.15 – 16.55 **Governing the "Man-Made Disaster" – Town-Building and Local Self-Governance in the Peripheries of Amalgamated Municipalities in Japan**

Hanno JENTZSCH (German Institute for Japanese Studies, DIJ Tōkyō)

This paper draws on participatory observation and interviews in the former village of Minami-Shinano (now Iida City, Nagano Prefecture) to analyze change and continuity of local self-governance institutions in rural and peri-urban Japan. The Heisei wave of municipal mergers (2002-2006) has pushed many former towns and villages to the peripheries of larger municipalities. These peripheries often face exceptionally high aging rates and a lack of work opportunities, schools, or welfare services. Against this background, the government pushes for the creation of so called "regional self-management organizations" (*chiiki unei soshiki*, 地域運営組織). Iida City has served as a

model case for this development, with a longstanding system of civic self-governance and "town-making" (machizukuri, 街づくり) on the level of its 20 districts.

Minami-Shinano has become one of these districts in 2005. Since the merger, aging and depopulation in the village accelerated, not least because the former village government was a major local employer. The self-governing institutions imported from Iida City are struggling with the task of "revitalizing" the shrinking village, with limited funding and a lack of political clout within the larger municipality. Field research has shown that these institutions crucially rely on the integration of preexisting local social structures (e.g. hamlets, neighborhood associations). On the one hand, this supports local embedding and legitimacy of the new form of self-governance. On the other hand, it reinforces the preexisting local social structure, including problems like the aging of local stakeholders and limited participation of younger residents and women. More generally, the case enhances the theoretical understanding of the role of "traditional" institutions in the ongoing process of building and renegotiating local governance in Japan's peripheries.

16.55 – 17.30 **Communicating Risk to the Fish Market at the Center of the World**
Anne-Sophie KÖNIG (Universität Hamburg)

The topic of my research project is risk communication. Specifically, I look at the relocation of the Tsukiji Wholesale Market (from here on: Tsukiji) in Tōkyō to the district Toyosu. In 2016 Governor Koike Yuriko (2016 – present) put a highly contested stop to the almost finished relocation procedures because of lacking safety measurements against the ground pollution of the new site. This stop added to the discontent of the workers employed at the market of whom a majority were opposed to the project since the beginning. After a new assessment and additional safety measurements the Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG) finally relocated the market in October 2018. The central question of my thesis is: Why has the relocation of Tsukiji been so divisive?

I argue that the poor risk communication of the TMG led to diverging opinions concerning the relocation. To analyze risk communication by a state actor I borrow from Chen's model of evaluating risk communication (ibid. 2008). In this model effective risk communication is interlinked with generating trust. The empirical data I base my analysis on are an open interview questionnaire with intermediate wholesalers of marine and agricultural products in Tsukiji and semi-structured interviews with experts I conducted in winter 2017/2018. I am currently doing a qualitative content analysis of newspapers, newsletters, websites, activists' blogs, pamphlets and exhibition materials. Further I will analyze my field notes and pictures from participant observation at guided tours of the market facilities in Tsukiji and Toyosu.

Based on academic literature and newspaper analysis I developed the following hypothesis I would like to discuss at the *Fachgruppe*. Tsukiji has a strong symbolic value and relocation is rejected by opposing stakeholders for emotional rather than rational reasons. Preliminary findings show a gap between the results of the analysis of the quantitative and qualitative data. For example, newspaper articles emphasize the emotional attachment of the workers on the market to Tsukiji as a place. On the other hand, in the questionnaire mainly rational reasons like financial burdens were mentioned.

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VSJF Annual Conference 2018

on

Social Science Research and Society in Japan and Germany:
Impact, Institutions and Perspectives

Saturday, November 24, 2018

14.30 to 16.00

14.30 – 14.35 **Begrüßung**
Susanne BRUCKSCH (Deutsches Institut für Japanstudien, DIJ Tōkyō)
Cosima WAGNER (Freie Universität Berlin)

14.35 – 15.05 **Autonomie-Sicherheits-Paradox der Servicerobotik in Japan**
Hironori MATSUZAKI (Universität Oldenburg)

Service- und Pflegeroboter befinden sich an der Schwelle zur Wildnis des Alltags, wo sie mit unerfahrenen Laien in einer sich verändernden Umgebung interagieren sollen. Um wie vorgesehen funktionieren zu können, müssen Roboter eigenständige Entitäten werden, die sich selbst überwachen und auf Basis von Lernergebnissen in der Praxis ihr eigenes Verhalten optimieren. Daraus ergibt sich eine große Herausforderung an die Robotik, die als das „Autonomie-Sicherheits-Paradox“ (ASP) bezeichnet werden kann. Die Integration von lernfähigen autonomen Robotern in die Gesellschaft erfordert einen Abgleich zwischen zwei widersprüchlichen Aspekten: Erhöhung der Maschinenautonomie und Gewährleistung der Sicherheit in der Nutzung. Wenn dem Roboter bei der Aufgabenausführung ein großer operativer Freiraum eingeräumt wird, d.h. sein Verhalten durch lernende Algorithmen gesteuert wird, wird es schwer bzw. unmöglich, bei Schäden, die er anrichtet, einen Pfad der Verantwortungszurechnung zu finden. Dieses Problem lässt sich nur umgehen, wenn das autonome Funktionieren des Roboters beschränkt wird. Für die Anwendungsfelder der neueren Robotik stellt die Bewältigung des ASP eine grundlegende Herausforderung dar, für die jeweils eine praktische Lösung gefunden werden muss. Der Roboter ist ein Artefakt, dessen Nutzung sowohl durch rechtliche Anforderungen als auch durch technische Entwicklungsperspektive bestimmt sein muss. Meine Studie zeigt, dass in Japan die institutionelle Umrahmung des ASP sowie die konkreten Lösungen für dieses Problem durch zwei Aspekte gekennzeichnet ist: (1) die Bagatellisierung von Maschinenautonomie und (2) das Konzept der sicheren kontrollierbaren Mensch-Roboter-Interaktion.

15.05 – 15.35 **Der dominante Safety Focus: Patientennutzen, medizinisches Risiko und öffentliche Erwartungshaltung bei der Zulassung von Medizintechnologie in Japan**
Susanne BRUCKSCH (Deutsches Institut für Japanstudien, DIJ Tōkyō)

Die japanische Regierung listet Medizintechnik als einen Schwerpunkt, um das Ziel einer "healthy and active ageing society as a top-runner in the world" zu erreichen. Medizinische Geräte können menschliche Körper manipulieren mit Instrumenten mit sehr geringem Risiko bis hin zu solchen, die hochgradig invasiver Natur sind. Dies führt zu der Frage, wie „Sicherheit“ im Kontext von medizintechnischen Anwendungen in Japan verstanden wird und wie sich dies auf die Zulassungspraxis auswirkt. Laut Ulrich Beck (2006), handelt es sich bei den Kategorien „Sicherheit“ und „Risiko“ um sozio-kulturelle Konstrukte, die je nach Kontext unterschiedlichen Ausformulierungen unterliegen. Die Forschungsliteratur beispielsweise weist an verschiedenen Stellen auf einen „Device Lag“ in Japan hin. Dieser ist augenscheinlich durch einen dominanten Safety Focus verursacht, der zu Lasten jener Patienten geht, die dringend auf neuartige Behandlungsmethoden angewiesen wären. Verschiedene Quellen kritisieren den Umstand, dass dies nicht nur Innovationen behindert, sondern auch den Zugang zu neuen Technologien als einem wichtigen Patientenrecht unterbindet. 2014 gab es zwar eine Gesetzesreform in Japan, die die Zulassungsverfahren in der Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Agency (PMDA) neu organisierte. Ungeachtet dessen bleiben Stimmen hörbar, dass die PMDA weiterhin einem hohen öffentlichen Erwartungsdruck ausgesetzt ist. Diese Erwartungshaltung beinhaltet "the absent of any risk", während in der EU und den US medizintechnische Sicherheit als "avoidance of not acceptable risks" verstanden wird. Aufgrund der politischen Natur der Thematik in Japan, scheinen die MitarbeiterInnen der PMDA Schwierigkeiten zu haben, wie sie die hohen Sicherheitserwartungen mit dem geeigneteren Ansatz der „bearable risks“ in Einklang bringen können. Der Vortrag stützt sich auf vorläufige Ergebnisse einer Interviewstudie von 2016, um das widersprüchliche Sicherheitskonzept in diesem Bereich zu veranschaulichen.

15.35 – 16.00 **Offenes Forum: Forschungsberichte und Diskussion**

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14.30 -

Begrüßung

Secular Trends in the Japanese Labor Market

Stefania LOTTANTI VON MANDACH (University of Zurich)

Georg BLIND (University of Zurich)

In Blind and Lottanti von Mandach (2015) we present evidence that wage gaps between men and women, as well as between regular non-regular employees have seen an evolution toward more equity between 1988 and 2010. A recent article, "New and Enduring Dual Structures of Employment in Japan: The Rise of Non-Regular Labor, 1980s–2010s" (Gordon 2017), attempts to replicate our earlier analysis, but reaches strongly diverging conclusions.

We demonstrate that the evidence in Gordon's (2017) does not challenge our earlier findings and provide explanation for the diverging results. As we show, the results of his replication attempt only apply to the fraction of non-regular employees working fulltime, while our analysis applies to the large majority of part-time employees. We add five years of data and show that the trends identified have persisted.

16.00 – 16.15 *Kaffeepause*

Microeconomic Drivers of Japanese Competitiveness

Horst MELCHER (Ludwig-Maximilian-Universität München)

- 17.30

Allgemeine Diskussion: Aktuelle Fragen der japanischen Wirtschaft

supported by
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation)
Graduate School of East Asian Studies (GEAS)
Taylor & Francis Group