

***Program for Joint Workshop among Freie Universität Berlin (FUB),
Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU), and the University of Tokyo
(UTokyo), 2023***



Date 22th of March, 2023

8:00-11:00 (CET)

15:00-18:00 (CST)

16:00-19:00 (JST)

Register to Zoom link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeFbrGe5UGvijPUjy_m9pXFv0IFGJz4JbLNuq9HUisIZGc0ww/viewform

Chaired by Profs. Verena Blechinger-Talcott (FUB)
and Shigeto Sonoda (UTokyo and BFSU)

Session 1 Japan Facing Insecurities: Analyses of Her Reactions in Different Settings

8:00-9:30 (CET)/ 15:00-16:30 (CST)/ 16:00-17:30 (JST)

(1) “Seeing” Distant Disasters: An Analysis of Asahi, Yomiuri, and Nikkei Coverage of the Turkey-Syria Earthquake

WU Zihan (D3, UTokyo)

(2) The Representation of China in the Magazine *Tairiku* (1938-1941)

WANG Shuai (D2, BFSU)

(3) The Concept of “Proactive Peace” Revisited: A Comparative Analysis of Changes in Practices and Discourses since the Legislation for Peace and Security of Japan

Nakako HATTORI-Ishimaru (Ph.D. Candidate, FUB)

Discussant: LI Xinran (M2, BFSU)

Session 2 Interpreting Changing Discourse and Culture in Contemporary Japan

9:30-11:00 (CET)/ 16:30-18:00 (CST)/ 17:30-19:00 (JST)

(4) Flat vs. Fluctuating Sexual Abstinence Discourse in Contemporary World: Comparing r/NoFap with Ona-kin in 2ch(5ch)

FUJIMOTO, Atsujiro (D1, UTokyo)

(5) A Research on Social Ethos in Popular Music of Postwar Japan (1950-2000)

ZHENG Wei (D2, BFSU)

(6) Tokyo’s Shared House Economy – A New Way out of Housing Insecurity?

Lenard GOEROEGH (Ph.D. Candidate, FUB)

Discussant: PAN Fengfan (M1, BFSU)

**“Seeing” Distant Disasters:
An Analysis of Asahi, Yomiuri, and Nikkei Coverage of the Turkey-Syria
Earthquake**

WU Zihan (D3, UTokyo)

Abstract

On February 6, 2023, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake hit Southern Turkey and Northern Syria. Another magnitude 7.5 earthquake followed on the same day. These earthquakes were the deadliest ones in Turkey since 1900. The suffering of people who are struggling in the Earthquake has been very visible. However, I ask: what aspects of the suffering are shown to the audience? This research is one preliminary study for my doctoral thesis focusing on a series of major earthquakes outside Japan. It aims to answer three research questions. First, how do Japanese news media report the Turkey-Syria Earthquake? Second, who are the main actors in news stories? Third, is there any difference in reporting patterns among various newspapers? If so, how?

In terms of methodology, this research conducts a content analysis of news stories on the Turkey-Syria Earthquake from three leading Japanese newspapers, namely the Asahi, Yomiuri, and Nikkei Newspapers. I chose these three newspapers for two reasons. On the one hand, all these three newspapers have large circulations in Japan. On the other hand, these three newspapers are located in different positions on the political spectrum. Asahi has a more liberal and left-leaning audience while Yomiuri has a more conservative and right-leaning audience. Nikkei is slightly right-leaning and economy-specialized. The time span of this research is limited to four weeks (Feb 7, 2023, to Mar 6, 2023) after the occurrence of the earthquake.

Preliminary analysis has shown that: (1) Japanese newspapers paid great attention to the Turkey-Syria Earthquake in the first two weeks and then gradually decreased their news coverage; (2) news stories sometimes utilized previous domestic earthquake suffering to explain the impact of the Turkey-Syria Earthquake or justify the reason to help; (3) all three newspapers more or less relied on overseas news agencies such as the Associated Press (AP, the United States), Reuters (the United Kingdom), Agence France-Presse (AFP, France), and Anadolu Agency (Turkey); and (4) although Asahi, Nikkei, and Yomiuri’s news topics were quite similar to each other, their information sources and focuses were slightly different.

The Representation of China in the Magazine *Tairiku* (1938-1941)

WANG Shuai (D2, BFSU)

Abstract

During the Sino-Japanese War, Japan published a number of newspapers and magazines related to China and the Sino-Japanese War both domestically and in China. At present, in the study of China-related newspapers and periodicals issued by Japan during this period, the academic circles pay more attention to the magazines founded in China, while the research on the magazines published in Japan is still very few.

Tairiku is a monthly magazine issued by Kaizōsha in Japan from 1938 to 1941. Many of the articles published in *Tairiku* were related to the situation of the Sino-Japanese War, Japan's China policy, China's politics, economy and culture. Furthermore, most of novels published in this magazine are set in China. Therefore, the Magazine *Tairiku* is the first-hand material for studying China-related discourse in Japanese media during the Sino-Japanese War. It is also an important historical material to explore Japanese scholars' views on the Sino-Japanese relations.

Through analyzing the changes in the column setting and the contents of the magazine, my study aims to clarify what kind of magazine is *Tairiku*? And to explore the concerns and expressions of the Magazine *Tairiku* on China and the Sino-Japanese War. In addition, by comparing *Tairiku* with other magazines of the same type issued in Japan and abroad in the same period, it tries to look into the nature of China-related discourse in Japanese media before the outbreak of the Pacific War.

The Concept of “Proactive Peace” Revisited: A Comparative Analysis of Changes in Practices and Discourses since the Legislation for Peace and Security of Japan

Nakako HATTORI-Ishimaru (Ph.D. Candidate, FUB)

Abstract

In the mid-2010s, Prime Minister (PM) Shinzo Abe undertook a series of security sector reforms that introduced the term “proactive (contribution to) peace“(*sekkyokuteki heiwa*). The concept signified the “normalization” of Japan’s security and foreign policy. The Legislation for Peace and Security proceedings in 2015 caught fierce debate nationwide. It consists of the International Peace Support Act and the Peace and Security Legislation Improvement Act, which amends ten existing laws on the roles and responsibilities of ministries and local bodies in case of contingency. Despite the public outcry, risks to international reputation, and potential unconstitutionality, his government tactically mobilized political capital for the passage. Researchers observe the power centralization in the hands of the PM and his office as a significant trend in the security field. Unlike the legislative process that drew attention from observers, its implementation phase is less studied. The question is: what changes have occurred in practices and discourse at the lower hierarchy of the government and other branches of power?

The project comparatively investigates open-source materials, supplemented with practitioner interviews, at three levels: ministries, municipalities, and courts. Challenging the state-centric views dominant in the security literature, I target sub-state entities that include: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan International Cooperation Agency, and the Ministry of Defense; Okinawa and Tokyo as the US base host municipalities; and the courts responsible for ruling on constitutionality challenged by civil society. The analysis would shed more light on the process of peace reconceptualization in Japan and its potential contradictions.

**Flat vs. Fluctuating Sexual Abstinence Discourse in Contemporary World:
Comparing r/NoFap with Ona-kin in 2ch(5ch)**

FUJIMOTO Atsujiro (D1, UTokyo)

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to compare the characteristics of the discourse of sexual abstinence that is prevalent in the contemporary online space in the Western world and Japan, taking into account the time series using natural language processing. Previous studies that have analyzed cases (NoFap) in the Western world have tended to describe this practice based on the dichotomous perspective of "treatment or masculinity". In addition, they lack qualitative and historical approaches. Therefore, I extracted salient terms in each year from a large text data set compiled through web scraping and API service, and compared them with Japanese ones (Ona-kin). The results showed that in the NoFap discourse, "pornography = harmful" and "sexual abstinence = useful" schema appeared consistently and the proportion of salient terms was flat, whereas in the Ona-kin discourse, some terms that initially had multiple nuances came to be negatively connoted and the proportion significantly fluctuated. These differences allow us to propose the hypothesis that the difference in available knowledge behind the spread of sexual abstinence —— real life problems or virtual events like parodies to existing online self-help activities.

A Research on Social Ethos in Popular Music of Postwar Japan (1950-2000)

ZHENG Wei (D2, BFSU)

Abstract

When we think about observing social ethos, one of the agreeable ways is popular music. On the one hand, There's an ancient proverb that (almost from lyric) songs can reflect the social conditions, on the other hand from the development of popular music industry and the acceptance of western popular music we can still interpret this relation.

While using popular music to analyze Japanese social ethos, 1950-2000 can be the best period. After WWII, Japanese popular music industry has been great developed not only by the economic development but also by the influence of the communication to the western world. And the emerge of many new gerne in these 50 years, such as Enka, New Music and J-POP reflects the increasing audience's diverse request, which can connect to their life situation and the change of Japanese international status.

In order to discuss the relation between popular music and social ethos, this paper will utilize some contradictory relations, such as Japan and western world, economy prosperity and slowing, male and female, urbanization and ruralization as clues, to draw out the inside story of changes in postwar Japanese society.

(As for Preliminary conclusions) In fact, the social ethos in Japanese popular music was great influenced by the identity. Besides the identity when facing the western world, the identity in the process when Japanese modern society shift into post-modern could also be of vital importance.

Tokyo's Shared House Economy – A New Way out of Housing Insecurity?

Lenard GOEROEGH (Ph.D. Candidate, FUB)

Abstract

Following the burst of the bubble economy in the early 1990s, Tokyo has witnessed its most severe housing and homeless crisis since the end of World War II. But despite the expansion of low-wage unstable labor as well as emerging evidence for gentrification, somehow one of the world's biggest metropolitan areas has managed to reduce the number of homeless people in a time where other metropolises struggle with increasing cases. In this contribution, it shall be evaluated in how far the newly emerged market for shared accommodation has played a role in the lasting reduction of rough sleepers. Most recent research engaging with the booming sector in Tokyo's rental housing market argues that sharing an accommodation has become a new lifestyle product, made popular through media and marketing. By contrast, a new revision of the market segment's history, an analysis of its clientele, and the diverse strategies of entrepreneurs in the field show that this hides its function in the material reproduction of a flexible workforce. Rather, the commodification of privacy and recreation open new avenues to balance the turbulences in an increasingly unpredictable economy.