

Program for Joint Workshop among Freie Universität Berlin, Beijing Foreign Studies University, and the University of Tokyo 2022



Date 20th of May, 2022

9:00-12:00 (CET)

15:00-18:00 (CST)

16:00-19:00 (JST)

Registration: <https://forms.gle/nsuMBxoZQkXj5V6M7>

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

Session 1 Cultural Activities and War in Modern Japan

9:00-10:00 (CET) / 15:00-16:00 (CST) / 16:00-17:00 (JST)

- (1) HUANG Jiebai (D1, UTokyo) “The Lens of Empire: *Fuchikami Hakuyō* and the Manchuria Photography Culture in the 1930s”
- (2) SONG Xiangyu (D2, BFSU) “Behind the Text of *Japan Sinks*: Connections between Disaster and War”

Discussant: HUANG Suomi (D2, BFSU)

Session 2 Theoretical Exploration of Political Transformation in Contemporary Japan

10:00-11:00 (CET) / 16:00-17:00 (CST) / 17:00-18:00 (JST)

- (3) TANAKA Shoko (D2, FUB) “Japanese Young Voters and Their Issue Orientations”
- (4) LEI Jialu (D2, BFSU) “The Change of Second Modern Japanese Politics: Based on Case Studies of New Politics”

Discussant: HUANG Suomi (D2, BFSU)

Session 3 Questioning Japanese Nationalism and Populism

11:00-12:00 (CET) / 17:00-18:00 (CST) / 18:00-19:00 (JST)

- (5) George Z. GONZALEZ (D3, UTOKYO) “Beyond Nationalism: Toward a More Concrete Conception of Contemporary Events in Japan and the World”
- (6) Andreas EDER-RAMSAUER (D1, FUB) “Looking West: Japanese Political Parties and Europe's 'Populist Moment'”

Discussant: HUANG Suomi (D2, BFSU)

(1) The Lens of Empire: *Fuchikami Hakuyō* and the Manchuria Photography Culture in the 1930s

HUANG Jiebai (D1, UTokyo)

Abstract

In the late 1910s, as the emerging Japanese empire penetrated its political and economic influence into major cities of Manchuria such as Dairen, a number of Japanese in these urban centers picked up their camera as an essential leisure activity and an amateur photography culture began to emerge in major cities of Manchuria. In the coming decades, attracted by the exotic fantasy and the utopia imaginary of Manchuria, tremendous Japanese photography artists from the mainland visited or settled in Manchuria, and built a career that was closely related to the imperialist regime. They produced a unique photography culture that complicated the field of Japanese photography art in the mainland and creatively constructed a culture of empire.

Through examining the development of photography culture in Manchuria, especially centered on the leading artist Fuchikami Hakuyō, this presentation discusses an important facet of the cultural history of Japanese imperialist formation. Through analyzing a series of encounters – between photography as a new artistic medium and the imperialist ideology, between Japanese settlers and the “virgin land” of Manchuria, as well as between individual and the empire - it seeks to examine how amateur photographers in Manchuria actively appropriated photography as an essential medium to make sense of the exotic yet crucial space of Manchuria. Additionally, it argues that these photographer’s artistic ambition created tension with the imperialist ideology and they actively engaged and reconciled with the state ideology in complex ways.

(2) Behind the Text of *Japan Sinks*: Connections between Disaster and War

SONG Xiangyu (D2, BFSU)

Abstract

Sakyo Komatsu (January 28, 1931-July 26, 2011) is a Japanese Science-fiction novelist, and was a science fiction writer representing the Japanese postwar science fiction world.

This paper explores the internal connection between the “disaster” inside the text of Sakyo Komatsu's novel *Japan Sinks* and the Japan history of World War II, which the author himself had experienced personally. Combining historical backgrounds, I analyze the author's creative SF methods and intentions, and reveals the memories of the war hidden behind the text of the disaster of *Japan Sinks*.

In *Japan Sinks*, Sakyo Komatsu made detailed disaster interweave with scientific geological theory to create a near-future disaster that parallels with Japanese society in 1973. As a metaphor of disaster, the text has become a long-standing cultural topic to Japanese society due to its strong sense of reality and civilized imagination, and has been widely read by readers of all households. But the author's thoughts about the war which is hidden behind the “disaster text” can be ignored or even forgotten for many years.

The text of “Sinking of Japan” connotes wartime memories, which was clearly alluded by the consistency between the locations of natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanic tsunamis, and the occupied territories in the US operations plan for Japan. Furthermore, I believe that in the text, the details of earthquake disaster are highly similar to the Tokyo air raid, which means the text of war was consciously “hidden” behind the text of disaster.

(3) Japanese Young Voters and Their Issue Orientations

TANAKA Shoko (D2, FUB)

Abstract

Social cleavage theory and ideological orientations have long been dominant in explaining voting behavior in postwar Japan. However, gradual social, political, and economic development, including sectoral shifts, political decentralization, and added diversity in society and economy, have made these two theories less relevant to date. Instead, growing interest in new policy agendas and widely acknowledged independent partisanship among young people seem to enable the issue voting model to better depict the voting behavior of young Japanese voters. That comes in the time of aging population and the lowering of voting age from 18 to 20, underlining the need for investigation into alternative models of voting behavior other than the traditional two theories. Granted, my PhD research project aims to describe and explain the voting behavior of Japanese young people through the issue voting model. I combine both quantitative and qualitative data to gain insights into young Japanese voters' voting behavior and illustrate ways of political socialization among them. By doing so, I hope to contribute to not only election studies and the study of political institutions in Japan, but also to youth studies and citizenship studies.

**(4) The Change of Second Modern Japanese Politics:
Based on Case Studies of New Politics**

LEI Jialu (D2, BFSU)

Abstract

Based on A. Giddens' model of "Utopian realism", this study constructs the second modern political change measurement index and attempts to apply it through the empirical research on the development of new politics in Japan since the 1990s.

Indeed, enormous political changes happened in Japan. But there is still nothing prominent beyond democracy established after first modern. so faced with Fukuyama's question of "the end of history", it is a significant for us to consider above-mentioned topic.

Based on the theory of "compressed modernization" and relevant empirical research, this study takes the 1990s as the starting of Japan's second modern. In addition, I set up three indicators of political change in the second modern era based on A. Giddens: 1. Politics of separation 2. Politics of equality 3. Politics of the individual. According to the new politics—the main changes of the second modern politics in western countries, I further analyzed the new social movement, one of the main subjects of the new politics in Japan after the 1990s and found the following changes through case studies: 1. The independence of the new social movement in local decision-making and the assurance of political diversity in the new social movement 2. The establishment of political issues related to the welfare of marginalized groups, 3. The development of ecology politics and gender politics confirm the universality and reference of this measurement model.

(5) Beyond Nationalism: Toward a More Concrete Conception of Contemporary Events in Japan and the World

George Z. GONZALEZ (D3, UTokyo)

Abstract

As scholars continue to grapple with the current socio-political situation in Japan (and the world at large), two patterns of approach seem apparent. One is to remark on the “rise of nationalism,” describing, for example, the ascent to power of a right-wing administration and so-called “inward” turn of the populace. A second is to express hope that people will change this situation by embracing a liberal, open, and internationally minded way of thinking and government. While the former seems to bring up changes in government and popular thought as descriptors of a diagnosis already assumed to be appropriate and accurate, the latter appears to recognize the dangers of nationalism only when it takes an explicitly right-wing or conservative form.

By analyzing the organizational identity and marketing techniques of an internationally active Japanese NGO, I aim to push beyond both a framework of rising nationalism and hopeful reliance on liberalism as a solution.

(6) Looking West: Japanese Political Parties and Europe's "Populist Moment"

Andreas EDER-RAMSAUER (D1, FUB)

Abstract

While post-2008 recession Europe, and "the West" more general, has been diagnosed as living through a "populist moment," understood as the dominance of a specific form of anti-politics originating in a crisis of representative democracy, Japan has largely been identified as "populism-resistant." While this has largely been explained by the absence of contentious political issues, e.g. migration, or a relatively stable economy, trust-levels in democratic institutions and participation levels fare no better than in European countries afflicted by "populist turmoil." Furthermore, the collapse of the Democratic Party of Japan-led government in 2012 has resulted in a continuous and at times tumultuous reshaping of the political party landscape. Interestingly, novel competitors have continuously discussed party politics in Europe when describing their novelty in approaching political representation and organizing.

This paper addresses Japan's positionality vis-à-vis the "populist moment" by analyzing how these political parties and actors have absorbed and re-interpreted the European "populist moment." Based on a discourse-theoretical grounding, we will analyze how these interventions have reshaped or reproduced hegemonic understandings of political representation and democratic practice in Japan. The study contributes to an understanding of transnational links and the spread of ideas on political organizing and democratic representation.