

QuaMaFA and Free University of Berlin Workshop

13th- 17th December 2024

This workshop is a part of the BMBF-Funded project [Qualification and Skill in the Migration Process of Foreign Workers in Asia](#) organized and supported by the Institute of East Asian Studies, Japanese Studies, Free University of Berlin, ICC - Sophia University Tokyo and Goethe University Frankfurt

Date	Event Details
<p style="text-align: center;">13th December 2024 (Friday)</p> <p>Venue1: Hittorfstr. 18, Altbau (Berlin) Lecture hall (Hörsaal) 010/011</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12:00 – 14:30 (CET)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Discussion: “The Role of Visual Representations in Research and Learning: A Shift for Traditional Methods?”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Megha Wadhwa</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speakers:</p> <p>Andy Lawrence (Senior Lecturer, University of Manchester & Founder of Filmmaking for Fieldwork)</p> <p>Hansjörg Dilger (Professor of Social & Cultural Anthropology, Free University of Berlin)</p> <p>Kristina Mashimi (Post-Doctoral Fellow, Socio and Cultural Anthropologist, Free University Berlin),</p> <p>Cornelia Reiher (Professor of Japanese Studies, Free University Berlin)</p> <p>Ruth Achenbach (Post-Doctoral Fellow, Japanese and Migration Studies Scholar, Goethe University Frankfurt)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speakers & Discussants:</p> <p>David H. Slater (Professor of Cultural Anthropology, Sophia University Tokyo)</p> <p>Megha Wadhwa (Post-Doctoral Fellow, Anthropologist, Filmmaker, Free University Berlin)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">16th December 2024 (Monday)</p> <p>Venue1: Hittorfstr. 18, Altbau (Berlin) Lecture hall (Hörsaal) 010/011</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11:00 – 13:00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Welcome remarks & Film Screening</p> <p>Verena Blechinger-Talcott (Professor of Japanese Politics and Political Economy, Free University Berlin)</p> <p>Megha Wadhwa (Post-Doctoral Fellow, Free University Berlin)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Film Screening: “Home in the Making” – QuaMaFA Films</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Discussants: David H. Slater (Sophia University Tokyo) Andy Lawrence (University of Manchester)</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break</p> <p style="text-align: center;">14:00 – 15:30</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lecture: “The Evolution of Immigration Policies and Practices in Contemporary Japan” Gracia-Liu-Farrer (Professor of Sociology, Waseda University Japan)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Discussant: Cornelia Reiher (Professor of Japanese Studies, Free University Berlin)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15:30 – 15:45 coffee break</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15:45 – 17:15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Japan Transnational Education and Career Panel Study (JTEPS) – International Student Mobility and its Consequences</p> <p style="text-align: center;">David Chiavacci (Professor in Social Science of Japan, University of Zurich)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Steve R. Entrich (Post-Doctoral Fellow in comparative (quantitative) sociology, University of Duisburg-Essen)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Discussant: Gabriele Vogt (Chair of Japanese Studies & Director to Department of Asian Studies, Ludwig Maximilians University Munich)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">17:15 – 17:30 Final Discussion & Wrap up</p> <p style="text-align: center;">17:30 – Coffee and then move to different venue for Book Talk by David H. Slater</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">16th December 2024</p> <p>Venue2: Fabeckstr.23/25, 2. 2058 Seminarraum</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18.00-20:00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Book Talk: “Alternative (to) Politics: Identifying New Forms of Political Engagement in Contemporary Japan” by David H.Slater (Professor of Cultural Anthropology, Sophia University Tokyo)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Discussant: Verena Blechinger-Talcott (Professor of Japanese Politics and Political Economy, Free University Berlin)</p>

<p>17th December 2024 (Tuesday) Venue1: Hittorfstr. 18, Altbau (Berlin) Lecture hall (Hörsaal) 010/011</p>	<p>9:00-17:00 Doctoral Workshop on research on Japanese Politics (To be updated: This is not a public event)</p>
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Please check the links for directions to Venue 1 and Venue 2

Venue1 : Hittorfstr. 18, Altbau (Berlin), Lecture Hall (Hörsaal) 010/011

<https://www.geas.fu-berlin.de/contact/index.html>

Venue 2: Fabeckstr.23/25, 2. 2058 Seminarraum (Level 2)

<https://www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/service/verwaltung/2023-Flyer-Holzlaube.pdf>

Access

By Subway U3 to Freie Universität (Thielplatz)

By Bus M11 to Hittorfstraße
110 to Thielplatz

By S-Bahn S1 to Lichterfelde-West

[Scroll Down to Explore Detailed Abstracts and Speaker Bios](#)

The Role of Visual Representations in Research and Learning – A Shift in Traditional Methods?

13 December 2024

12:00 to 14:30 (CET)

Hittorfstr. 18, Altbau (Berlin)

Lecture hall (Hörsaal) 010/011

In recent years, visual methods have gained popularity in research and education and are often used to complement traditional methods. Incorporating interactive visual techniques, digital storytelling, and ethnographic films is leading to significant transformation in research methodologies and ethical challenges. This shift prompts us to consider the implications of traditional methods and what this change means for traditional methods. Does it indicate a natural evolution of scholarly processes, or does it necessitate reevaluating and enhancing the roles played by surveys, field notes, and text-based analysis?

This discussion invites scholars, educators, and practitioners from various fields to collaboratively explore the evolving role of visual representations in research and learning. Instead of presentations, the format encourages active participation, critical questioning, and experience-sharing on topics like the integration of visual methods with traditional research, the unique insights visuals offer beyond text-based approaches, their role in enhancing emotional engagement for broader audiences, and the ethical considerations in working with sensitive subjects or marginalized communities.

Participants

Andy Lawrence, Senior Lecturer at the Granada Centre for Visual Anthropology, University of Manchester and founding director at Filmmaking for Fieldwork-F4F™
(Speaker)

Hansjörg Dilger, Professor of Social & Cultural Anthropology, Free University of Berlin
(Speaker)

Kristina Mashimi, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Socio and Cultural Anthropologist, Free University of Berlin
(Speaker)

Cornelia Reiher, Professor for Japanese Studies at Free University of Berlin
(Speaker)

Ruth Achenbach, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Japanese and Migration Studies Scholar, Goethe University Frankfurt
(Speaker)

David H. Slater, Professor of Cultural Anthropology, Sophia University Japan
(Discussant & Speaker)

Megha Wadhwa, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Anthropologist, Filmmaker at Free University Berlin
(Chair, Discussant & Speaker)



HOME in the MAKING

A film by Megha Wadhwa based on a research project led by five women exploring skilled migration in Asia

A collaboration between five female migration studies scholars and seven Asian migrants in South Korea, Singapore, and Japan. The film examines migrants' personal and professional journeys, their aspirations for staying or leaving their host country and the challenges they face. Through their quest for a place to call 'home', the documentary offers a perspective on belonging, identity, and resilience.

Director: Megha Wadhwa
Research and Camera: Megha Wadhwa
Ruth Achenbach
Joohyun Justine Park
Helena Hof
Aimi Muranaka
Editor: Megha Wadhwa
Co-Editor: Nour Yazbeck
Sound Design: Francois Yazbeck
Project Support: Filmmaking for Fieldwork

Duration: 45mins
Language and Subtitles: English

Date: 16th December 2024
Time: 11:00 to 13:00
Venue: Hittorfstr.
18, Altbau (Berlin)
Lecture hall (Hörsaal)
010/011

Supported by Free University Berlin, Goethe University Frankfurt (ICC) Sophia University Tokyo

The evolution of immigration policies and practices in contemporary Japan

Gracia-Liu Farrer, Waseda University

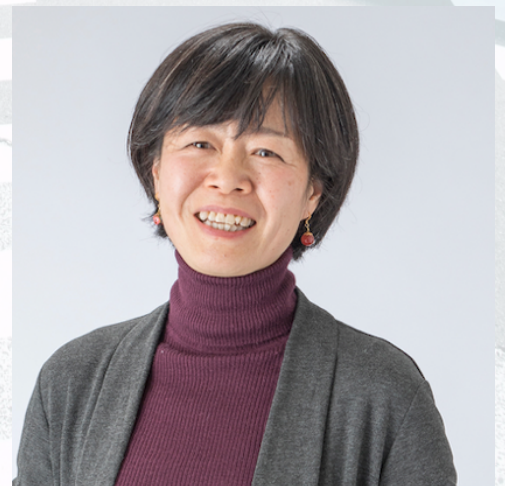
16 December 2024

14:00 – 15:30

Hittorfstr. 18, Altbau (Berlin)

Post-war Japan has come a long way to become a de facto immigrant country. With the demographic crisis, it has no choice but to open its door wider to immigration. This presentation discusses the major transformations in Japan's migration policy and practices during the post-war period, and with such policy changes, the changing demographic, social, and cultural landscape. Nonetheless, it points out that the ethnonationalism ideology strengthened in the post-war era still has a strong grip on Japan's migration policy making, particularly manifested in its visa regime governing manual and service workers. Japanese government is also playing the definition game and reluctant to call itself an immigration country on the grounds that it does not have a policy allowing foreigners to enter Japan as permanent residents. This has made Japan less prepared institutionally and culturally to accept increased numbers of immigrants. Moreover, this ideology has fostered a Japanese-foreigner identity binary, forcing immigrants and their children to struggle with their belonging and identity. At this crucial moment of demographic and social turning point, an immigrant Japan needs to accept its immigration reality and rethink what Japan is made of and what Japanese-ness means in this transformation.

Gracia Liu-Farrer is Professor of Sociology at the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, and Director of Institute of Asian Migration at Waseda University, Japan. Her research examines immigrants' economic, social and political practices in Japan, and the global mobility of students and professional migrants. Her most recent books are *Handbook of Asian Migrations* (with Brenda Yeoh, Routledge, 2018), *Immigrant Japan: Mobility and Belonging in an Ethno-nationalist Society* (Cornell University Press, 2020), and *Tangled Mobilities: Places, Affects, and Personhood across Social Spheres in Asian Migration* (with Asuncion Fresnoza-Flot, Berghahn Books, 2022).



The event is part of the BMBF-Funded project *Qualification and Skill in the Migration Process of Foreign Workers in Asia* organized by the *Institute of East Asian Studies, Japanese Studies, Free University of Berlin* and supported by *Goethe University Frankfurt*

The Japan Transnational Education and Career Panel Study (JTEPS) – International Student Mobility and its Consequences

David Chiavacci & Steve R. Entrich

16 December 2024

15:45 – 17:15

Hittorfstr. 18, Altbau (Berlin)

将来、留学に必要な力を育みます

海外大学・大学院への留学がしやすくなるよう
支援を充実させます

留学後の就職の心配がなくなるよう取組を進めます



The Japan Transnational Education and Career Panel Study (JTEPS) is a research initiative to examine the impact of international student mobility (ISM) on Japan's evolving education and labor landscapes. With ISM at the forefront of Japan's education policy, this mixed-method panel study seeks to advance our understanding of study abroad dynamics, focusing on socio-economic status (SES), gender, and their intersections. Spanning three years (2025–2027), JTEPS collects quantitative and qualitative data from young residents in Japan with diverse educational backgrounds. Through surveys and interviews, it explores key questions:

What drives male and female adolescents to study abroad? How does it shape their early careers? What are the broader implications for social and gender inequalities? JTEPS uniquely bridges data on education, transition, and employment with retrospective insights into life histories, uncovering the nuanced role of transnational capital in Japan's labor market. By examining individual aspirations alongside state policies and institutional frameworks, it reveals the personal and societal impact of studying abroad. The project not only contributes to Japanese studies but also informs global debates on inequality, mobility, and internationalization. With its innovative approach to linking personal trajectories to larger social and institutional dynamics, JTEPS offers vital policy-relevant insights into education, labor, and the transformative potential of global resources in Japan.

David CHIAVACCI is Professor in Social Science of Japan at the University of Zurich, Switzerland. His research covers political and economic sociology of contemporary Japan in a comparative perspective. His focus is on social movements, social inequality as well as on Japan's new immigration and immigration policy. His recent publications include "Productivity and Stress in Japanese New Teleworkers: Mandatory versus Voluntary Introduction" (with Georg D. Blind, Stefania Lottanti von Mandach and Masahiro Kotosaka, 2024), in: *Social Science Journal Japan*; "Japan's Technical Intern Training Programme as Transnational Total Institution: Between Exploitation and Functionality" (2024), in: *Immigration and Quality of Life in Ageing Societies How Attractive for Migrants are Japan and Germany?*



Steve R. ENTRICH holds a PhD in educational sociology and currently works in comparative (quantitative) sociology at the University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany. Major research interests lie in comparative educational sociology, focusing on social inequalities in educational attainment, educational decision-making, returns to education, life course research, and implications of transnational, supplementary, and inclusive education in Germany, Japan, the United States, and in cross-national comparison. Recent publications include "The role of institutional contexts for inequalities in study abroad intent and participation" (with Nicolai Netz and Ryoji Matsuoka, 2024), in: *Higher Education*, 88; "Youth in Times of Crisis: Societal and Individual Challenges in Becoming an Adult Today" (edited with Gabriele Gniewosz and Alfred Berger, 2024, Springer).

Alternative (to) Politics

Identifying New Forms of Political Engagement in Contemporary Japan

David H. Slater, Sophia University

16 December 2024

18:00 to 19:30

Free University Berlin,
Fabeckstr.23/25, 2. 2058 Seminarraum

It has often been difficult to be politically engaged in post-war Japan, with each new generation addressing this challenge in different ways. On the one hand, the ghosts of AMPO's dark and anti-social past still loom, recycled by both media and activists themselves. On the other hand, party politics is seen as corrupt as it is irrelevant. And yet, the desire to become politically engaged can be found across society from Fukushima "mama no kai" seeking safe food for their children to urban college students who look like they have just stepped out of an Uniqlo commercial. The talk will sketch some of the ways that activists struggle to address and narrate the political possibilities as they seek alternative to these two poles, and the formal and cultural properties that have emerged in these efforts across a range of ethnographic sites. I'll address the difficulty of mounting political protest when the movement history is not a viable source on which to draw. I argue activists are seeking less-radical alternatives, and we as scholars need to also find alternatives to our propensity to focus on a politics of the extreme if we are to capture contemporary political engagement and possibility.



David H. Slater is Professor of Cultural Anthropology and Japanese Studies at Sophia University. The material for this talk will draw upon his latest book, *Alternative Politics in Contemporary Japan: New Directions in Social Movements* (Hawaii 2024), edited by David H. Slater and Patricia G. Steinhoff. Besides social movements, he has worked on social class and youth labor, disaster and recovery, and migration and refugee studies. He is the director of *Refugee Voices Japan*, the largest bilingual oral narrative archive on the topic in Japan. He is also a consultant to *United States Japan Foundation's* efforts to fund non-profit organization in the civil society sector Japan.

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