



International Conference

Deciphering the social DNA of happiness: Life course perspectives from Japan



24 – 26 April 2014

Location: University of Vienna

Department of East Asian Studies / Japanese Studies

Spitalgasse 2, Hof 2; Entrance 2.4; seminar room JAPANOLOGIE 1 (ground floor)

Thursday, April 24, 2014

18:00-20:00 **WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND KEYNOTE SPEECHES**

Makoto TAKETOSHI, Japanese Ambassador to Austria

Matthias MEYER, Dean of Faculty, Vienna University

Barbara HOLTHUS and Wolfram MANZENREITER (University of Vienna, Austria)

DIJ research focus on happiness and unhappiness in Japan

Florian COULMAS (German Institute for Japanese Studies Tokyo, Japan)

What is a good society? A perspective from happiness research

Shigehiro OISHI (University of Virginia, USA)

20:00-22:00 Welcome reception

Friday, April 25, 2014

9:30-10:00 ***Agenda setting***

Barbara HOLTHUS and Wolfram MANZENREITER (University of Vienna, Austria)

10:00-12:00 **SECTION 1: CHILDHOOD / ADOLESCENCE**

Happiness in a Japanese day nursery?

Eyal BEN-ARI (Kinneret College on the Sea of Galilee, Israel)

“It’s good to go to school”: First graders’ views about schooling and learning in Japan

Yoko YAMAMOTO (Brown University, USA)

Socio-physical space and well-being: The case of burakumin youth in contemporary Japan

Christopher BONDY (International Christian University, Japan)

12:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-16:00 **SECTION 2: ADULTHOOD: MARRIAGE AND FAMILY, PART 1**

Specialization and happiness in marriage: A U.S.-Japan comparison

Hiroshi ONO (Texas A&M University, USA)

“Being happy as a woman”: The meaning and implications of being happy among Japanese housewives in post-bubble Japan

Ofra GOLDSTEIN-GIDONI (Tel Aviv University, Israel)

Single motherhood, living arrangements, and well-being in Japan

James RAYMO (University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA)

16:00-16:30 Coffee break

16:30-18:30 **SECTION 3: ADULTHOOD: MARRIAGE AND FAMILY, PART 2**

Whose responsibility? Whose well-being? On pregnancy and prenatal care in Japan

Tsipy Ivry (University of Haifa, Israel)

Happiness in “endurance”: Impacts of internalized parenting norms

Yoshie MORIKI (International Christian University, Japan)

Happiness in balance: Married working women and household gender roles in Japan

Mary BRINTON (Harvard University, USA)

Saturday, April 26, 2013

9:00-10:20 **SECTION 4: ADULTHOOD: MEN AT WORK – AND AT HOME**

Happy and unhappy professors in contemporary Japan

Roger GOODMAN (University of Oxford, UK)

How happy are salarymen: Continuity and change in the meaning of well-being for Japanese middle-class men

Futoshi TAGA (Kansai University, Japan)

10:20-10:40 Coffee break

10:40-12:00 **SECTION 5: ADULTHOOD: COMMUNITY BUILDING, PART 1**

No man is an island: Social well-being as a prerequisite for subjective well-being in Japan?

Carola HOMMERICH (German Institute for Japanese Studies Tokyo, Japan)

Political participation: Entering a new world or plunging into disappointment? A case study of “Greens Japan” activists

Phoebe HOLDGRÜN (German Institute for Japanese Studies Tokyo, Japan)

12:00-13:30 Lunch

13:30-14:50 SECTION 6: ADULTHOOD: COMMUNITY BUILDING, PART 2

Experiences, narratives and transformations of disaster volunteers in Tohoku: Purpose in life, self-complacency, insecurity

Susanne KLIEN (Hokkaido University, Japan)

Japanese religions and human happiness: Exploring an ambivalent relationship

Mark MULLINS (University of Auckland, New Zealand)

14:50-15:15 Coffee break

15:15-17:15 SECTION 7: OLD AGE / END OF LIFE

Embracing decline: Understanding the impacts of ageing and depopulation on well-being in rural Japan

Peter MATANLE (Sheffield University, UK)

Loneliness among older people in Japan: A perspective from happiness economics

Tim TIEFENBACH (German Institute for Japanese Studies Tokyo, Japan)

Conceptions of a meaningful life and “good” death in end of life decision-making

Celia SPODEN (Heinrich-Heine University Duesseldorf, Germany)

17:15-17:30 Coffee break

17:30-18:30 CONCLUSION

Concluding discussion

Gordon MATHEWS (The Chinese University of Hong Kong, China)

Discussion on book project and closing remarks

Barbara HOLTHUS and Wolfram MANZENREITER (University of Vienna, Austria)