

Pension Reform in Japan – an Examination of the Long-term Impact

by Harald Conrad

Japanese society is greying. Of all the industrialized countries, Japan has the largest and most quickly growing concentration of people aged 65 and older. With this rapidly ageing population, the Japanese system of social security has come under considerable adjustment pressure. This applies particularly to the public pension system, which, as in many other countries, is primarily financed on a pay-as-you-go basis. In future, a declining number of contributors must finance an increasing number of pensioners. For 2050, a 2:1 ratio of contributors and pensioners is forecast. In light of unfavourable macroeconomic conditions, such as an unusually high public debt, economic stagnation and growing unemployment, simply expanding the social budget in reaction to this problem is obviously not a viable strategy.

How has Japan's pension policy reacted to these challenges? How effective are the reform measures already implemented? What can be learned from the experience of other countries? These and other questions are dealt with in a comprehensive evaluation of the Japanese pension system which the DIJ has published this summer as Miscellanea No. 16.

As in Germany, the Japanese pension system is multi-tiered and includes a number of public, occupational and personal pension schemes, which to some extent are institutionally interconnected. The main public scheme consists of two tiers. The first tier is the National Pension or Basic Pension Insurance, which covers the entire population between 20 and 59 years of age. Of the ca. 70 million members of this institution, which pays basic pension provisions, nearly 40 million are also members in the second tier Employees Pension Insurance or in one of four vocational mutual aid associations that provide earnings-related benefits.

The two most important occupational pension systems in Japan are defined benefit plans, i.e. pension benefits depend largely on how long an employee has worked for the company and not on the returns on investment. Defined contribution systems, in which pension benefits are solely dependent on returns on investment, have played only a marginal role thus far.

In comparison to the public and occupational pension systems with a total capitalisation of ca. DM 4,535bn, the market for personal pension products, such as life insurances, at DM 684.5bn is relatively small.

Up to the late 1970s, the Japanese government pursued a policy of generous increases in benefits. Then, however, model-based calculations showed that the rapid ageing of the population would no longer allow payment of benefits in the amounts promised. Beginning with the 1985 pension reform, therefore, public pension benefits have been continuously cut back. The last pension reform, which took effect in April 2000, was another step in this direction. With a number of measures consisting of the raising of the entitlement age to 65, the abolition of indexation of pension benefits to rising wages and direct cuts in benefits, public pensions will be reduced by another 20% by 2025. To compensate for these benefit cuts, the government plans to encourage the expansion of occupational pensions. In June of this year, a law was passed that regulates the introduction of a company-based savings scheme patterned after the American 401(k) plan.

How should these measures be evaluated from a social policy perspective? To answer this question comprehensively, the following points must be examined: 1) the long-term effect on the sustainability of pension finances, 2) the distributive effects, 3) the effectiveness and efficiency of the minimal

income assurance, and 4) the political risks of the public pension system. Since occupational pension schemes are to play a greater role in the future, according to government plans, their present diffusion as well as (planned) reforms in this area need to be investigated.

The results of the analysis show that the long-term financial sustainability of the public pension system has been assured by the recent reforms. This applies for the Employees Pension Insurance and with some reservations also for the National Pension Insurance. However, even though the reforms have been successful in this respect, they have also exacerbated the problem of intergenerational redistribution. The reform measures place a heavier burden on the younger population cohorts than on older cohorts. In terms of intragenerational distributive effects, considerable regressive redistribution within the group of current pensioners in the Employees Pension Insurance draws attention to the problem of fairness. In addition to the intergenerational distributive effects, which

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have been further exacerbated by the recent reforms, the problem of an appropriate minimal income assurance has been worsened even further. After the abolition of indexation of pension payments to net wage increases, it must be anticipated that the benefits of the basic pension benefit will fall below the poverty line in the long term. Even today, the level of benefits is below that of social welfare payments. In addition, the Basic Pension Insurance generates other complicated distributive effects that do not really benefit the truly needy but rather those insured by mutual aid associations who as a rule enjoy generally higher earnings-related benefits than all other pensioners. Also with regard to the political risks, the appraisal of the recent reforms is rather negative. One political risk is the insufficient provision of data and calculations that would allow an assessment of the quality of the reforms. The restrained information policy might be due to a lack of a viable conception about which direction Japanese pension policy should take in the future. Another political risk is the problem of administering the public pension reserves. Following the relatively poor returns that pension reserves received in the shadow budget – the Fiscal Investment and Loan Program – the Social Ministry has been gradually taking over the administration itself since April of this year. It remains to be seen whether the investment decisions in future are indeed free of political motives, as is intended, and only with a view of receiving the highest returns.

Considerable doubts must be raised regarding the “strategy” of the government to cushion cuts in public pensions with a further extension of occupational pension schemes. The coverage of occupational pension plans to date, their different objectives in comparison to the public pension system and especially the lack of active government assistance tend to support the supposition that pension income distribution will grow more unequal in future. Whereas the core employees of large corporations will probably continue to receive promises of defined benefits, employees of medium and small-sized firms can at best hope for the new Japanese-style 401(k) plans. However, the success of these new schemes in Japan depends on many factors. These include problems in transferring claims from defined benefit systems to defined contribution systems, questions of investment, taxing and control, questions of the rights and duties of employees, employers and investment managers as well as questions of the development of new finan-

cial market products for retirement insurance.

Some lessons for the long-term effects of Japanese pension policy can be learned from a comparison of the recent Japanese pension reform with those of the United Kingdom in the 1980s. The British government pursued a policy of contracting out the performance-related public benefits to occupational and/or private pension schemes. The insured were given tax and other incentives to encourage them to change to the non-public systems. In subsequent years this led to a general rise in pensioners’ income, while the (pension) income distribution showed increasing disparities. The latter can also be anticipated in Japan, as we have pointed out. However, since Japanese pension policy still only permits a partial replacement of public benefits, this might even result in a general decline in pensioners’ income. While the British privatisation strategy might be seen as a model, its experience with the elimination of indexing pensions in line with wage increases should be taken as a warning for Japan. In the U.K. the basic pension completely lost its function as a guarantor of a minimum standard of living in the 1990s.

Decisive for the long-term success of Japanese pension policy will be the extent to which the unavoidable cuts in public benefits will be cushioned by an active promotion of occupational and personal pension plans in the form of tax incentives and/or subsidies.

CURRENT RESEARCH

Technology and Management in Japan

The Early Days of Japanese Automation Technology

The “triumphal progress” of the profitability and production technology in the Japanese industry after the Second World War was not least due to the successful transfer and development of advanced automation technologies from the US and Western Europe. The process of developing and establishing automation technology was crucial for the rapid rise of Japanese industry in the first decades after 1945. By increasing productivity and flexibility and by improving the quality of production facilities, automation technology formed the basis and engine for the

economic miracle after the devastating destruction of the war years.

In addition to his studies within the DIJ research focus “Japan in Asia,” René Haak works on the development of Japanese management and technology in the Japanese industry, especially in the field of advanced automation technologies. The interaction between human resource management, production technology and work organisation form the central topic of this research project. First results of his research were published in the journals *Japan Analysen und Prognosen* (01/2001), *Zeitschrift für Wirtschaftlichen Fabrikbetrieb ZWF* (05/2001) and *Japanmarkt* (03/2001 and 10/2001). A detailed analysis of the development of advanced automation technologies, especially in the field of numerical control and machine tool industry, will appear as a *DIJ Working Paper*. He also plans to give lectures on the topic at the Technical University of Brandenburg, Cottbus, and at the Institute for Machine Tools and Factory of the Technical University Berlin.

Politics and the Internet in Japan

How does the Internet affect policy making and the communication of politics in Japan? Does the Internet open new avenues of communication between citizens and political actors, adding to the existing formal and informal channels of influence in Japanese politics? Do state and non-state actors change their communication strategies in reaction to the World Wide Web? Does digital communication change the way politics and policies are made in Japan? Is there a difference between the political use of the net in Japan and other Western democracies?

These are some of the questions that stimulated the Social Science Section of the DIJ when it chose “Politics and the Internet in Japan” as its new research focus. After gaining a first broad understanding of general Internet use in Japan, the three researchers in the DIJ’s Social Science Section conduct case studies to determine how state and non-state actors in Japan make use of the Internet.

Verena Blechinger analyses the role of the Internet in the House of Councilors election campaign in 2001. She examines the online strategies of Japanese politicians and parties and investigates the extent to which the Internet is changing the dialogue between voters and politicians in Japan.



Harald Conrad focuses in his study on the way the Internet influences the development of and information about social policy measures. Looking at the case of pensions, he explores how the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare uses the Internet to communicate information about new regulations. He is interested in whether new information technologies provide citizens with new means of participation in policy formulation.

Isa Ducke's study examines the communication of foreign policy issues. Taking the current dispute between Japan and South Korea about school history textbooks as a case, she looks into how the various parties in this dispute make use of the Internet to present their positions or to influence policies. Her project will address differences in the online representation of policy positions between Japan and South Korea, and also between state and non-state actors.

Work on this research topic is scheduled to continue for one year. Initial findings will be published in the *DIJ Working Paper* series at the end of this year.

DIJ EVENTS

DIJ Social Science Workshop

Foreign Residents in Japan: Immigration, Integration, and Social Change

(Tōkyō, 29 June 2001)

This workshop on immigration and integration of foreigners in Japan was stimulated by the current debate about an end to the Japanese government's non-immigration policy due to the influence of globalisation and demographic change. Organised by Verena Blechinger (DIJ) and chaired by John Campbell (University of Michigan), the workshop was intended to provide a forum for Japanese and foreign researchers in Tōkyō who are interested in immigration and migration studies, and in issues of social exclusion and integration.

To initiate discussion, two speakers with research in progress made brief presentations. Terry MacDougall (Stanford Japan Center, Kyōto) provided an analysis of ongoing discourses on immigration and integration of foreigners in Japan. He not only provided

the audience with an overview of the main positions held by Japanese politicians, bureaucrats, academics, and journalists, but also pointed out parallels and differences to similar discourses in Germany, France, the US, and elsewhere. The presentation by Deborah Milly (Virginia Tech) focused on the impact of activism by the courts, non-governmental organisations, and local governments in spurring policy change. She pointed out trends and developments that might bring about change in the overall direction of Japan's immigration and integration policy system.

Yamawaki Keizō (Meiji University) discussed both presentations. Based on his profound knowledge of past and present aspects of Japanese immigration policy, his comments provided the audience with valuable insights into the issues and problems at stake. By sharing his research findings on the situation of the *zainichi* Korean minority in Japan, he also broadened the scope of analysis of the workshop.

The presentations were followed by a lively discussion among the panelists and the 35 participants. Numerous questions and comments from the audience illustrated the importance of the workshop topic. Main themes of the discussion period were domestic and international implications of Japanese immigration policy, legal aspects and practical problems of the current Japanese government policy line, and the history of immigration in Japan. On a more theoretical level, it was debated how one can measure policy change and the role of certain political actors in bringing about such change.

ICAS Panel

Discourses on Cultural Uniqueness in Japan, China and Korea

(Berlin, 10 August 2001)

Discourses on cultural uniqueness in East Asia is the topic of a series of workshops and conferences which was launched in 2000, starting with a seminar at the DIJ (see the report in Newsletter 12). The project conducts comparative research on what has often been identified as a confrontation between "Asian" and "Western" values, to name only one of the central themes observed in the discussions over the past two decades. As the working language of the first and the second conference, to be held in Seoul in November 2001, was and will be German, this year's ICAS conference provided us with an opportunity to present the

project which is part of the DIJ's focus on "Japan in Asia" to a larger English speaking and multi-disciplinary audience, to discuss theoretical as well as practical aspects and to sound out possibilities of extending the framework of our project.

The panel began with a brief report on the Tōkyō conference as well as some general observations on questions of methodology by Irmela Hijiya-Kirschner (DIJ, Tōkyō), followed by statements made by the panelists: co-organizer Mishima Ken'ichi (Osaka University), Iwo Amelung (University Erlangen-Nuremberg), Kevin Doak (University of Illinois), Joachim Kurtz (University Erlangen-Nuremberg), Sven Saaler (DIJ, Tōkyō), Wolfgang Seifert (University of Heidelberg), and Klaus Vollmer (Munich University). In spite of the regional misbalance – Japan was over-represented and Korea missing – the panel met with a lively interest by an audience of approximately 40 participants, who joined the panelists in discussing questions of methodology as well as suggesting alternative paths of inquiry.

Among the topics discussed were terminological ones such as the pros and cons of the German term *Selbstbehauptungsdiskurs* (discourse of self-assertion). Its ambiguity as well as its philosophical and psychological underpinnings were assessed positively in respect to the term's capacity as an analytic tool. Nationalism versus theories of uniqueness, self-orientalization, boundary and historicist discourses, primordialism as a pattern in cultural nationalism, intellectual maps of "East" and "West" and the role of intellectuals, in particular the relationship between Marxists and ultranationalists in East Asian societies were other points of the discussion. The panel clearly profited from the audience's enthusiastic response and their intellectual input. All participants seemed to agree on the importance of a comparative as well as a historical approach to this topic.

DIJ Humanities & History Workshop

Making History – The Quest for National Identity through History Education

(Tōkyō, 21 September 2001)

On Friday, 21 September, the DIJ held a workshop on the "textbook controversy" – a topical issue, which flared up when the Japanese Ministry of Edu-



cation approved of a revisionist history textbook (*Atarashii rekishi kyōkasho* – The New History Schoolbook) earlier this year. The workshop, organised by Nicola Liscutin and Sven Saaler, aimed to illuminate the context of the controversy and to discuss questions concerning the connections between history writing, education and the construction of a national identity.

In his introduction “Background and Results of the Textbook Selection Process”, Sven Saaler (DIJ) provided important information on both the mechanisms of and the social actors involved in the selection process. Nakamura Masanori (Kanagawa University) focused in his presentation “History Textbooks and Nationalism” on an ideological critique of the Monbushō examination system as such, and on particular features of the textbook’s first version as it was presented to the ministry. He demonstrated how a specific view of history as “narrative” or even “fiction” is employed by the editors of the *Atarashii rekishi kyōkasho o tsukuru-kai* (*Tsukuru-kai*) to allow for the distortions and omissions within the textbook. Iwasaki Minoru (Tōkyō University of Foreign Languages), in his stimulating paper “Beyond National History,” added to the ideological criticism an analysis of the revisionist use of language in the writings of the *Tsukuru-kai*. He highlighted the contradictions that derive from their use of various concepts of postmodern theory and their simultaneous insistence on a “grand narrative” of history. In her thoughtful comment, Steffi Richter (University of Leipzig) emphasized that new and self-reflexive ways of criticism must be found, in order to deal adequately with historical revisionism. She suggested that greater attention be paid to the generational dimensions of historical consciousness and, moreover, to the role or usage of the media in facilitating and spreading such revisionism.

Kang Sangjung (Tōkyō University) discussed “Issues Raised by the ‘New History Textbook’” and argued convincingly that what we are dealing with is a “popular movement” reminiscent of nationalistic movements of the 1930s. He analysed the tensions between “memory” and the version of “public history” in the *Tsukuru-kai*’s textbook using the representations of East Asia and the USA as an example. Similar to Iwasaki, Kang urged that only an Asian historical dialogue transcending national boundaries can provide a solution to the present problems. This also led to a discussion of the possibility creating a “polyphonic” history textbook. The Ambassador of

the Federal Republic of Germany in Japan, Uwe Kaestner, offered his insights on such a historical dialogue speaking about the “The German-Polish Experience.”

Isa Dücke (DIJ) looked in her paper “Textbooks – a ‘Domestic Issue’ for Japan, an ‘International Affair’ for Korea” at the ways in which the issue has been addressed in and utilized by the ROK. Fujiwara Kiichi (Tōkyō University) stimulated a lively discussion by addressing the relationship of pacifism with the present apparent “amnesia” when it comes to history and memory. In terms of the international dimension of the textbook controversy, he questioned the emphasis on the differences of memories about past wars instead of on a consideration of the threat of future wars.

The final discussion then focused on both pragmatic and theoretical ideas to counter the revisionist and nationalistic view of history. The workshop attracted more than 50 participants, including academics, journalists, members of NGOs and diplomats from various countries.

DIJ PUBLICATIONS

Irmela Hijiya-Kirschnerreit (ed.): Eine gewisse Farbe der Fremdheit: Aspekte des Übersetzens Japanisch-Deutsch-Japanisch. [A Certain Shade of Otherness: Aspects of Japanese-German-Japanese Translation] (DIJ Monograph Series, Volume 28). Munich: Iudicium 2001, 316 pp. (ISBN 3-89129-509-X)



Any contact or exchange among cultures and societies is based on translation. This very fact, however, is of such

fundamental nature that we are hardly aware of how deeply our perception of the world is formed by translations. This volume is the first to address these basic facts in Japanese-German exchanges systematically, and it does so over a broad range of issues.

Economic and institutional conditions are investigated in contributions dealing with the market from the perspectives of the editing department, the publisher, and the newspaper feuilleton. The social and historical dimensions of translation are highlighted in articles dealing with translations from German into Japanese, including image and marketing problems, and the role of translation for German Studies in Japan which traditionally have been identified to a large degree with translation. A quantitative comparison of book licensing and sales as well as translations in both directions makes possible for the first time a well-grounded analysis of the intellectual presence of translations in the each country. Other contributions deal with the translation of lyrics and machine translation. Also, a Japanese and a German writer address the relationship between translation and creative writing. The manuscript was edited by Ines Günther.

CONTENTS: I. Hijiya-Kirschnerreit: Einführung [Introduction] – I. Hijiya-Kirschnerreit: “Stille Post”: Ein Rundgang [A Tour of Myths and Truisms] • M. Koch: Zur translatorischen Bilateralasymmetrie zwischen Deutschland und Japan, oder: Wer übersetzt mehr? [The Bilateral Imbalance in Translation between Germany and Japan or: Who Translates More?] • A. Brockmann: Die Buchbranche im Wandel – Überlegungen zum Stellenwert japanischer Literatur auf dem deutschen Buchmarkt [Changes in the Book Trade: Reflections on the Importance of Japanese Literature in the German Book Market] • H. Spiegel: Japanische Literatur im deutschen Feuilleton [Japanese Literature in the German Feuilleton] • R. Weiss: Der Buchmarkt in Japan aus der Sicht deutscher Verleger [Japan’s Book Market – from the Perspective of German Publishers] • Hosaka K.: Vermarktungsprobleme japanischer Übersetzungen deutscher Gegenwartsliteratur [Marketing Problems of German Contemporary Literature in Japanese Translation] • Mishima K.: Deutsche Literatur in Japan [German Literature in Japan] • Ueda K.: Die Bedeutung des Übersetzens in der japanischen Germanistik [The Meaning of Translation in the Context of German Studies in Japan] • Aizawa K.: Neue Anforderungen nach dem Zeitalter der



Literaturübersetzungen [New Demands after the Age of Literature Translations] • J. Macheiner: Der linguistische Kern des Problems [The Linguistic Core of the Matter] • R.F. Wittkamp: Überlegungen zu formalen Aspekten bei der Haiku-Übersetzung [Considerations of Formal Aspects in Haiku Translations] • N. Liscutin: Erotische Zwiegespräche – Feministische Ansätze in der Übersetzung japanischer Literatur [Erotic Dialogues – Feminist Approaches in the Translation of Japanese Literature] • B. Manthey: Maschinelle Übersetzungen aus dem Japanischen – Lexikalische, syntaktische und semantische Ambiguitäten [Machine Translation from the Japanese: Lexical, Syntactic and Semantic Ambiguities] • Furui Y.: Übersetzen und Übersetztwerden [Translating and Being Translated] • U. Krechel: Übersetzen und übersetzt werden [Translating and Being Translated] • Auswahlbibliographie deutscher, englischer und französischer Publikationen zum Thema Übersetzen Japanisch-Deutsch/Englisch/Französisch-Japanisch [Selective Bibliography of Publications in German, English and French on Japanese-German/English/French-Japanese Translations] compiled by R. Bollinger.

Sato Naoki, Christoph Geissmar-Brandi and Irmela Hijiya-Kirschner (eds.): Hifu no sōzōryoku/The Faces of Skin. To Iyo: The National Museum of Western Art, Inshōsha 2001, 148 pp. Illustrated. (ISBN 4-906536-19-0 C 3071)



This volume contains papers presented at an international conference, which took place in July 1999 in Tōkyō at the National Museum of Western

Art (NMWA). Organised jointly by the NMWA and the DIJ, its aim was to initiate a dialogue between Japanese and Western art historians and to address differences and commonalities in the meanings accorded to images. Perceptions of skin as culture-specific ways of reading others formed a kind of connecting platform for the intercultural exchange of ideas. In the contributions and discussions, images, skin and surfaces were read and understood as possibilities of assessing the state of society.

CONTENTS: Hajime ni [Editorial] • C. Geissmar-Brandi: The Faces of Skin/Hifu no sōzōryoku. [An Introduction] • Tanigawa A.: Geijutsu no hifuron no chihei [Horizons of a Theory of Skin in Art] • I. Hijiya-Kirschner: Shinpojiumu no kaisai ni yosete [On the Occasion of the Symposium] • C. Benthien: Hyōmen no fukasa – karada no kyōkai no bunkashi [The Depth of the Surface. On the Cultural History of Body Borders] • Fukai A.: Hifu to hifuku: Fasshonka suru hifu [Skin and Dress. On Skin as a Fashion Object] • Ikeda S.: Mizukara to ‘tasha’ to o wakatsu shirushi – Nihon kaiga ni arawasareta hada no hyōgen [Signs of Distinguishing the Self and the Other: Representations of Skin in Japanese Painting] • A. Lehmann: Hifu no iro – hada no kichōshoku (Inkarnat) no kaiga gijutsu oyobi Yōroppa no kindai kaiga ni okeru ikita nikutai no gensō [Skin Colours. On the ‘Incarnadine’ Painting Technique and the Illusion of Living Bodies in Early Modern Painting] • Inaga S.: Bunkatsu sarezaru kojū gensō e no chōsen: Iwaaki Hitoshi ‘Kiseijū’ no hifu kankaku [In the Skin of Another: Iwaaki Hitoshi’s Comic Novel *Parasite Beasts* as a Challenge to the Illusion of the Individuum] • U. Panhans-Bühler: Kara to nugi-sutereareta koromo to no aida no hifu [Skin between Crust and Cast-off Rags] • Yoshida K.: Kamen to iu sōchi – Hito wa naze mō hitotsu no kaimen o tsukuru no ka [The Mask as Device: Why Humans Create a Second Face for Themselves] • C. Kahane: Hanarete miru jūjika – Buryūgeru no jūjika o ninau Kirisuto ni okeru kanjō to fūkei [Distance Trouble: Passion and Scenery in Pieter Bruegel’s *Bearing of the Cross in Vienna*] • Kitazaki C.: Hifu byōhen to seisei hatsugen – Guryūnewaruto no Kasseru no haritsukezu o miru Yui-sumansu [The Sick Skin and the Revelation of the Sacred: Grünwald’s *Kassel Crucifixion* in Huysman’s View] • G. Wolf: Mō hitotsu no hifu – Kindai shoki Yōroppa bunka ni okeru zuzō to media no rekishi jinruigakuteki pāsūpekutivu [The Other Skin. Perspectives

of a Historical Anthropology of Image and Medium in the Early Modern Period of Occidental Culture] • Katō T.: Kaiko to tenbō: Shinpojiumu e no komento [Epilogue and Perspectives: Comments on the Symposium] • L. Ledderose: Shinpojiumu e no komento [Comments on the Symposium] • Satō N.: Nihon bijutsu no hifuron no tame ni – ‘Wabi’ ga arawareru basho [The place of *wabi*: On a Theory of Skin in Japanese Art]

A slightly altered German version will be published under the title *Gesichter der Haut* by Stroemfeld, Frankfurt a.M./Basel, fall 2001. Please refer to Newsletter 13 for more detailed information.

REPORTS ON CONFERENCES

5th Asian Studies Conference Japan (ASCJ)

(Tōkyō, 23–24 June 2001)

This year’s Asian Studies Conference Japan (ASCJ) included for the first time a session on Japanese-German relations entitled “Diplomacy, War and Public Opinion: Japanese-German Relations 1895–1945” organised by Christian W. Spang (International Christian University and University of Freiburg). Sven Saaler represented the DIJ on this panel giving a paper on “The ‘German Peril’: German POWs in Siberia 1917–18.” The other themes were: “Militant Nationalism and Japan-Enthusiasm in Wilhelminian Germany: The Case of the Sino-Japanese War 1894–95” (Rolf-Harald Wippich, Sophia University), “Exoticism in German Literature on Japan” (Gerhard Schepers, International Christian University) and “German Academics as Part-Time Diplomats: Biographical Notes on Dr. Friedrich-Wilhelm Hack, Prof. Dr. Karl Haushofer and Dr. Hermann von Raumer” (Christian W. Spang). The discussant was Tajima Nobuo (Seijō University). There were about 40 participants at the panel reflecting the broad interest in the topic of Japanese-German relations.

The conference organised by the Institute of Asian Cultural Studies of International Christian University (ICU), offered 23 sessions with presentations from the fields of history, foreign policy, religion, society, education, gender studies, and literature within Japanese,



Chinese, Korean, Philippine and Indian Studies. The detailed programme of the conference is still accessible on the ASCJ-homepage <http://www.meiji-gakuin.ac.jp/~kokusai/ascj01.html>.

Japan Association for Comparative Politics

(Kōbe, 23–24 June 2001)

Founded only in June 1998, the Japan Association for Comparative Politics (Nihon Hikaku Seiji Gakkai, JACP) is quite a success story. Not only did the Association succeed in this rather short time in raising the number of its members to currently 480 Japanese and foreign political scientists. The JACP has also already published three volumes that cover important and topical issues such as administrative reform in international comparison (1999), the politics of globalisation (2000), or ethnic conflict and coexistence (2001).

The Association also held regular annual conventions, the most recent of which took place in Kōbe in June. The program of this convention reflects the research interests of the JACP's members, but also illustrates the main direction of the Japanese discourse in comparative political science. The majority of sessions was devoted to issues of democratisation and political transformation. The second focus of the conference was on theoretical and methodological questions in comparative political science. Other major topics, which were addressed in the eight sessions of this conference were the relationship between politics and religion and the transformation of the welfare state in times of globalisation. The regional focus of the discussions was on South, East, and Southeast Asia. The conference thus provided participants not only with a good overview of current Japanese research in comparative politics, but also underlined the growing importance of Asia as a research focus in Japanese political science.

Discussions at the conference were also influenced by the challenges of the current process of reorganisation within the Japanese university system. Most Japanese political scientists are in faculties of law, many of which are now contemplating restructuring. This process has stimulated a debate within Japanese political science about the positioning of the discipline within Japanese academia and about the future role of political science in Japan. In this debate, the Japan Association for Comparative Politics plays an important role. It is not only providing a forum

for exchange of information and discussion, but is also actively shaping the field of comparative politics and its future direction in Japan. By doing so, it is in a position to significantly influence the discipline of political science and its position within the Japanese academic landscape.

Peaceboat North South Korea Voyage – “Setting sail for a new Asia”

(27 August – 8 September 2001)

In September 1983, Peaceboat set sail for the first time. One immediate cause for the journey then (and now), as well as for the founding of the Japanese NGO Peaceboat itself, was the “history textbook controversy” of 1982. The 1982 controversy was sparked by the news that the Japanese Ministry of Education chose to present Japan’s 15-year war in Asia no longer as an “invasion” (*shinryaku*) in history textbooks and school curricula, but camouflaging Japan’s aggression instead as an “advance” (*shinshutsu*). Similar to the current controversy, this distortion of history drew massive protests from Korea, China, Taiwan, and other Asian nations. Ever since, Peaceboat has organized 33 other cruises with great success, aiming to promote deeper mutual understanding among different cultures through on-site learning and exchange. Focusing particularly on Asia, Peaceboat seeks to create “a new Culture of Peace.”

20 years later, yet another “history textbook controversy” formed the focus of a two-week-long Peaceboat voyage that took 570 participants, mostly Japanese, to both North and South Korea. It took the Peaceboat organizers three years of intense negotiations and efforts to realize this truly historical event, for after the Korean war no Japanese travel group had been allowed to visit both the north and the south of the Korean peninsula with the same ship. Dr. Nicola Liscutin of the DIJ participated as a guest lecturer in the main program “History education and Japan’s responsibility for its wartime past,” which was conducted on board and on shore through lectures, panel discussions, working groups, and press conferences. Alongside this program, three other topics were addressed in lectures and discussions: the movement for the establishment of nuclear-free zones (represented by members of the New Zealand NGO Abolition 2000; Amano Fumiko, a

Hiroshima survivor and long-time peace activist as well as Kawabe Ichirō); the movement against the US military bases in Asia (represented by Maeda Tetsuo, Kim Yong-Han and Lee Jae-Bong) and the “Life Mask Project” by the artist Kim Myong-Hee. 28 scholars, activists, and artists were involved in the lecture and entertaining program. Along with a concert, the singer Sawa Tomoe contributed the theme song for this trip entitled “The Line.”

The tour led first from Kōbe to Nampo, the main western port in North Korea. The four days stay there (30 August – 2 September) were filled with sightseeing tours in Pyongyang and to the demilitarized zone in Panmunjeom, as well as with an exchange session with students of Japanese at Pyongyang University of Foreign Languages, a Korean-Japanese soccer tournament, a home-stay program and a visit to a (model) farm. The evenings were devoted to discussions with the North Korean side on the textbook issue, Japan’s wartime and postwar responsibility, North-Korea – Japan relations, the de-nuclearization of North East Asia as well as a peace festival with performances by Korean and Japanese artists.

The ship, sailing under Ukrainian flag, headed then for the port of Incheon in South Korea, but slowed down at the demarcation line (38° latitude) for a peace ceremony that drew considerable attention for the American and South Korean military. Only two very short and packed days were scheduled for the visit of Seoul and the choice of various tours there. In Seoul too, Dr. Liscutin participated in the program on the textbook issue and Japan’s wartime responsibility, which included a visit to the “House of Sharing” (*Nanumui Jip*), where presently nine former “comfort women” live together, to its history museum and attendance to the weekly Wednesday demonstration of the survivors of Japan’s sexual slavery system in front of the Japanese embassy in Seoul.

In the conversations and discussions on the way back to Tōkyō (5 – 8 September), it became apparent that the events and impressions of this journey had provided all of the participants – who were, for the most part, either in their late teens to their early thirties or over sixty – with much inspiration, food for thought and a thorough rethinking of their views of North and South Korea. The Peaceboat voyage, it can be said, had reached its objective. It was much regretted, however, that no Koreans were allowed to join the cruise – a goal that has therefore been firmly set for the tour in 2002.



BOOK REVIEWS

Aaron Gerow and Abé Mark Nornes (eds.): *In Praise of Film Studies: Essays in Honour of Makino Mamoru*. Eigagaku no susume: Makino Mamoru ni sasageru. Yokohama, Ann Arbor: Kinema Club 2001; (on-demand) Victoria: Trafford, 257 pp. (ISBN 1-55212-640-4).

It is a much deplored fact that only few productions from the early era of Japanese film, especially the silent era, have survived. But the scarcity problem also concerns other written and visual material that form the base of film history study. Only a few institutions have undertaken the task of collecting film histories and journals, encyclopaedias, bibliographies, pamphlets, scenarios, company newsletters, production documents, stills and posters. Libraries possessing significant collections are numbered, and much must ultimately be considered as lost.

That is – unless it is to be found on the shelves of Makino Mamoru's personal library. Born in 1930, this film researcher has, since the 1950s, built up a collection that covers one hundred years of Japanese film history, characterised by the editors of this Festschrift in their introduction as "as good or better than any of the best libraries." Makino's collection forms a rich base for his own research and numerous publications, compiled into an impressive bibliography of over 20 pages, contributed to this book by Kawamura Ken'ichirō. Besides his countless essays on a wide range of themes, especially noteworthy is Makino's editing and supervising of reprints of rare and endangered early film journals, of year books and the film censorship reports published between 1925–44. Through his efforts as editor and author, and also by making his collection available to many researchers from Japan and abroad, Makino has made an immeasurable contribution to the study of Japanese film, both today and in the future.

In presenting this collection of essays, the editors intend to introduce not only Makino and his work, but also the research that has been made possible through his support and his own ground-breaking research. Three of his essays which are translated into English, are meant to represent Makino's own areas of research: documentary film, early film censorship, and the problematic question of how to bibliographically classify film related materials. A fourth essay, in which he traces the history of the publishing and trans-

lation of Charlie Chaplin's *My Trip abroad* from 1922, demonstrates the meticulous nature of his scientific curiosity. The following ten essays by Japanese, American and German scholars offer a broad view of research on Japanese film history, extending from the Meiji era to 1945. Tajima Ryōichi gives an introduction to an autobiographical sketch by Yokota Einosuke, one of the pioneers of Japanese cinema; Iwamoto Kenji examines movies that were viewed by the Meiji Emperor. Based on a comparison between the original novel and its theatrical and filmic adaptations, Kobayashi Sadahiro uses the example of *Ono ga tsumi* (My Sin; 1917) to question the impact of *shinpa* dramatisations on film. Aaron Gerow asks how film censorship made use of the film narrator, and with Tokugawa Musei Jeffrey A. Dym introduces one of the most important representatives of the *benshi* guild. Mitsuyo Wada-Marciano analyses the ways in which the Shōchiku-Kamata movies of the 1920s and 1930s contributed to the construction and the imagination of space in modern Tōkyō. Murayama Kyōichirō gives an account of the films produced by the Monbushō between 1911 and 1945. The German-Japanese co-production *Atarashiki tsuchi* ('The New Earth', 1936/37) is presented by Janine Hansen, and Peter B. High examines the screenplay for an unrealised war film project of director Ozu Yasujirō. Okumura Masaru analyses the impact of German newsreels on their Japanese counterparts during World War II. The final essay, in which Maureen Donovan introduces the *manga* collection of the Cartoon Research Library of the Ohio State University, leads back to general questions surrounding the collection and preservation of popular culture artefacts.

In two ways, *In Praise of Film Studies* is a rather uncommon publication: first, the book is published on-demand, which means that it can be ordered through internet book stores or the publishing company, who will print new editions according to demand. Ordering through the latter means higher revenues for the editors, who published this book at their own expense. Secondly, and this might be a disincentive to some readers, it is a bilingual publication: While the introduction is given in both English and Japanese, six of the eleven essays (Tajima, Iwamoto, Kobayashi, Gerow, Murayama, Okumura) as well as the bibliography are only in Japanese, the remaining five only in English. Preceding each essay is a short abstract in the other language, introducing the theme. This means that to some a part of the presented materi-

al remains inaccessible. But even for those, the book should still offer more than enough encouragement to further study.

(Reglindis Helmer)

Sakai Naoki and Hanawa Yukiko (eds.): *Traces – A Multilingual Journal of Cultural Theory and Translation. No. 1: Specters of the West and Politics of Translation*. Ithaca, NY: Traces, Inc., 2001, 379 pp. (ISSN 1533-3426)

To review a journal is tricky business and certainly unusual but so, indeed, is *Traces*. We thus decided to grab the opportunity and introduce its inaugural issue. In this day and age where the academic market appears to be (over-) saturated with required readings, it takes a radically different concept and challenging ideas for a new journal to succeed. *Traces – A Multilingual Journal of Cultural Theory and Translation* has exactly these to offer: It is a truly international (or rather: transnational) journal both in terms of its multilingual construction and in its aim to initiate a different circulation of critical thought and intellectual debate. *Traces* appears once every academic year, in English, Japanese, Korean, and Chinese versions – the German version is in planning. The contributors are therefore expected to keep in mind that they are writing for a heterogeneous readership and for consumption through translation, as their articles will be translated into three or more languages (e.g. from Japanese [or French] into Chinese, Korean, English). With its polyphonic and multi-local contributions of critical thought, *Traces* challenges the dominant perception of "theory" as originating exclusively in the Anglo-American or "Western" academe and demonstrates persuasively just how untenable such a perception is. Through and in translation, *Traces* facilitates – following Homi Bhabha's well-known postcolonial concept – a "third space," that is a space opening up in-between and beyond fixed (and commonly hierarchical) subject positions and allowing new forms of communication and encounter. To this end, translation is understood by the editors as a practice that produces "difference out of incommensurability (rather than equivalence out of difference)."

In line with these core ideas, the inaugural volume of *Traces* (spring 2001) edited by Sakai Naoki and Hanawa Yukiko deals with the phenomena (and the phantom) of "the West," "theory," and "translation." Other key terms and issues of postcolonial criticism, which the articles have



as a common concern, are historicism, universality vs. particularity, and modernity, and the question of how to deal with the "traces" left by colonisation. The illustrious group of contributors to this first issue belongs almost entirely to the "editorial collective" or the "advisory collective" of *Traces*. It is likely and desirable, however, that the circle of authors will expand in the volumes to follow.

Volume One of *Traces* is divided into four parts organized around particular topics. Part I "The West and its Vicissitudes" offers an article by Ukai Satoshi on the Japanese reception and re-translation of Ruth Benedict's influential concept of "shame vs. guilt cultures." Pheng Cheah, in a fantastically provocative text, ponders the possibilities of universalising "area studies" while particularising the "disciplines." His article is followed by Sakai Naoki's astute critique of the humanistic underpinnings of defining an "identity" called "the West." Taking moments in Latin America's colonial past as examples, John Kraniakus investigates the "work" of transculturation and translation, and its effects. The first part is complemented with "Interludes" by Jean-Luc Nancy, Morinaka Takaaki, Yu Chi-chung, Brett De Bary, and Che Qianzi.

To my mind, the agenda of *Traces* is superbly illustrated in the second chapter entitled "Theory and the Politics of Locale." Kang Nae-hui's stimulating article apparently inspired the choice of theme for this inaugural issue as well as the title of the journal. He analyses various Korean discourses on decolonisation, which attempt to lay the ghosts of Korea's colonial experiences. Dipesh Chakrabarty, best known for his inspired study *Provincializing Europe*, approaches a critique of the European concept of historicism from a South Asian perspective and the conjoint question of "political modernity" in non-western societies. He concludes that the task of postcolonial theorising is *not* to ponder how European thought can be employed for a "post-colonial revenge," but to pursue how this body of thought – "which is now everybody's heritage and which affects us all" – can be renewed and reshaped "from and for the margins" (171). Ulrich Johannes Schneider looks at a different aspect of the same problem, namely the ideal and the reality of intellectual communication-via-dialogue. Because "no dialogue can be enacted untouched by politics" (192), he proposes to opt instead for piracy thereby "thinking beyond the intellectually 'mine' and 'thine.'" (194) The range of issues (and ghosts) addressed

in this chapter is broadened by Tani Barlow and her brilliant article on "local" Chinese feminism and its relation to the globalising drive of "Western" feminist criticism. Interludes by Jacques Derrida, Kang Sangjung and Karatani Kōjin round Part II off. Especially noteworthy is the interlude written by Christopher Fynsk. He warns that theoretical terminology as grounds of engagement in *Traces* and its focus on "Theory" may actually hinder (or foreclose) real communication, as "there are no encounters in theory" (232).

Part III is devoted to the topics of "Translation and Modernity." Taking Hong Kong colleges as example, Lau Kin-chi, Hui Po-keung, and Chan Shun-hing examine the practice and functions of translation studies and their political/ideological implications. Wang Xiaoming looks at the boom in translation during the 1980s in China. Kim Soyoung's article deals with the "uncanny" representations of modernity in postcolonial Korean film. In the final article of this part, Peter Osborne rethinks the abstract opposition of "philosophical" and "empirical" concepts and the ensuing relationship of philosophy to cultural theory and reconsiders, because of its paradigmatic status, the logic of the "philosophical" concept of modernism. The third part is concluded by "Interludes" by Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Sakiyama Masaki, Chua Beng Huat, J. Victor Koschmann, and Harry D. Harootunian.

Those who would like an "encore" of these splendid, intellectual fireworks will enjoy the "*zadankai* in Beijing" on the theme of "Internationalism and *Traces*" (Part IV) between Lau Kin-chi, Peter Osborne, Wang Hui, and Sakai Naoki.

Hopefully, German readers won't have to wait much longer for their "own" version of *Traces*, for this new journal will certainly become essential reading for postcolonial, culture, and area studies. It will also be an indispensable device in developing the rather young field of postcolonial studies in Germany. The next issue of *Traces* will appear in September; it is devoted to the subject of "'Race' Panic and the Memory of Migration," edited by Meagan Morris and Brett De Bary.

(Nicola Liscutin)

DIJ Conference

Second DIJ Conference on Discourses of Cultural Uniqueness in Japan, China and Korea

(Seoul, 14–17 November 2001)

Within the DIJ's research on "Japan in Asia", a new project under the title "Discourses of Cultural Uniqueness in Japan, China and Korea" deals with issues of cultural identity, nationalism, and regionalisation. A first conference on this topic took place at the DIJ in November 2000 and the project was also presented in a panel at the 2001 ICAS Congress in Berlin (see the report in this issue). The next international conference will take place in November 2001 in Seoul and will concentrate on issues such as the types of self-assertion in China, Japan and Korea; the politics of everyday discourses; (self-) presentation in history textbooks; and the historiography of science in East Asia. Also, in accordance with the location of the conference, Korea will form a special focus. The symposium is organised in co-operation with the Goethe-Institute in Seoul and the Institute for Comparative Cultural Studies of Ōsaka University. The conference will take place in German with simultaneous translation into Korean. The preliminary program can be found on the DIJ homepage.

Personnel News

Dr. Junko Ando joined the DIJ on 1 May 2001 as a research fellow and assistant to the director. Previously, she was a research associate at the Institute for East Asian Studies of the Heinrich-Heine-University, Düsseldorf. At the DIJ she will work in the field of German-Japanese relations. Her further research interest focuses on problems regarding the reception of western ideas in Japan, and on Japan's identity in the 20th century. Her doctoral thesis, "The Origins of the Meiji Constitution: The Significance of German Constitutionalism for the Modern Japanese State," was published in the DIJ Monograph Series (Volume 27) by Iudicium in September 2000.

Dr. Harald Dolles joined the Economics Section of the DIJ in August 2001.



He studied business administration at the University of Applied Sciences, Nuremberg, and the Friedrich-Alexander University, Erlangen-Nuremberg (FAU). As part of his curriculum, he went to Japan and China for language studies. Upon receiving his diploma, he worked as a lecturer at the Institute for Management and at the Institute for International Management of the FAU. He spent 1991/92 as a research fellow at Hitotsubashi University in Tōkyō. In 1996, Dr. Dolles received his doctoral degree from the FAU with a thesis on "Keiretsu: Formation, Organisational Structure, Competitive Advantage, and Dynamic Movement of Corporate Groupings in Japan." Soon after, he joined the Institute for Human Resource Management at Bayreuth University as Assistant Professor, teaching students in the Economics of Sports and doing research on entrepreneurship. In continuation of his empirical research on private entrepreneurship in China, Dr. Dolles will carry out comparative field research on entrepreneurship in Japan and Germany while at the DIJ. He is also involved in a research project on international management of small and medium-sized enterprises, focussing on the issue of "trust" in intercultural co-operative ventures by comparing Japan, Mexico and Germany. At the DIJ he will also continue his studies of professional sports management.

Dr. Isa Dücke joined the DIJ Social Science Section as a research fellow in June 2001. She received her Ph.D. with a thesis on "Status as a Factor in Japanese Foreign Policy Making toward Korea" from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. She has taught Japanese Politics at King Alfred's College, Winchester, and worked for a financial news agency in Switzerland. At the DIJ she will continue her research on Japanese foreign policy and contribute to the institute's present research project "Japan in Asia." One of her key interests will continue to be Japan's contemporary Korea policy.

Dr. Andrea Germer joined the Humanities Section of the DIJ in September 2001. She received her doctorate from the Ruhr-University Bochum in June 2001 with a thesis on "Women's History in Japan. The Reconstruction of the Past in Takamura Itsue's *Josei no rekishi* ['The History of Woman'], 1954–58." Before coming to Tōkyō, she worked for the Women's Studies Network of North-Rhine-Westphalia and taught German as a Foreign Language to Chinese students for a year. Her re-

search in International as well as Japanese Women's and Gender Studies at the DIJ will focus on the analysis of discursive cultural and gendered self-constitutions within feminist historical writings in Japan.

In October 2001, Dr. Matthias Koch became a research fellow of the DIJ. Previously, he worked as head librarian of the DIJ Library (1998–2001). He was a research fellow at the University of Tōkyō (1991–1993) and at the Center for Japanese Studies of Philipps University in Marburg (1993–1997). During the winter semester 1999/2000, he replaced Prof. Dr. em. Klaus Müller (social, economic, science and technology history of Japan) teaching at the Institute for East Asian Studies of the Heinrich Heine University in Düsseldorf. His master thesis "The History of Japanese Nuclear Energy Policy" was published in 1992 (Marburger Japan-Reihe); his doctoral thesis "Conversion from Military to Civil Production in Japan after World War II" appeared in the DIJ Monograph Series (Volume 23) by Iudicium in 1998. In continuation of his studies he will focus on the history of modern economic, business, science and technology. Moreover, he is planning to launch a new, multidisciplinary DIJ series on Japanese–German relations and comparative studies.

After three years as a research fellow and head of the Humanities Section (since October 1999), Dr. Nicola Liscutin left the DIJ at the end of September 2001. Participating in the DIJ research "Japan in Asia," she worked on feminist historiography and *Vergangenheitsbewältigung* (working through the past) during the 1990s. More specifically, she investigated Japanese discourses on the "military comfort women" issue, both within the intellectual context of post-colonial and feminist critiques and as a major concern of Japanese feminist activism. The support of feminist activists and academics further enabled her to gain insight into the transnational co-operation of Asian women groups on opening up new roads towards reconciliation.

In April 2000, she organised an international DIJ conference that drew much attention, on the topic of "Contested Historiography – Feminist Perspectives on World War II." The revised and extended volume of articles on the subject is in preparation and scheduled for publication in 2002.

Beside co-organising and participating in various conferences and workshops on gender issues and historiography, Dr. Liscutin also initiated and conducted the DIJ Humanities

Study Group (since January 2001 transformed into the DIJ Humanities & History Study Group).

From January 2002, Dr. Liscutin will be a Fellow of the East Asian Institute at the University of Cambridge.

Dr. Andreas Moerke joined the Economics Section of the DIJ in September 2001. Previously, he worked as a research fellow in the "Market Processes and Corporate Development" section of the Science Centre Berlin (WZB) and as a consultant for German and Japanese firms.

In April 2000, he received his doctorate with a thesis analysing the impact of personal networks on processes of organisational learning for the top management of Japanese firms. At the DIJ he will continue his research on the change of organisational structures in Japanese corporations, focussing on telecommunication and IT industries as well as the automotive industry.

Dissertation Fellows

Atussa Sarvestani, Political Science, Sociology, Sinology, Ph.D. candidate at Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster: "Participation of German Companies in MITI Research Cooperation Projects – Normative Entry Conditions and Informal Scope for Maneuver" (October 2001 – November 2001).

Christian Schröppel, Sociology, Ph.D. candidate at Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University, Frankfurt am Main: "Japanese Development Assistance and the Reaction of Japanese Production Networks to the Asian Crisis" (July 2001 – November 2001).

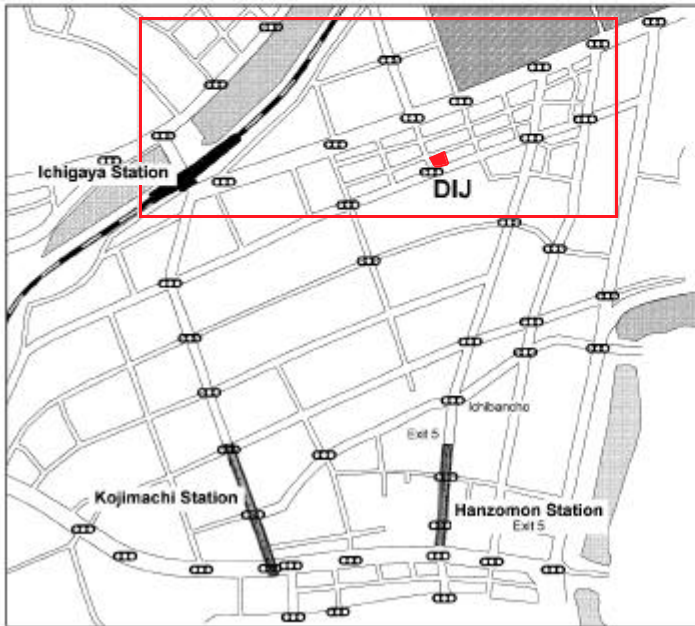
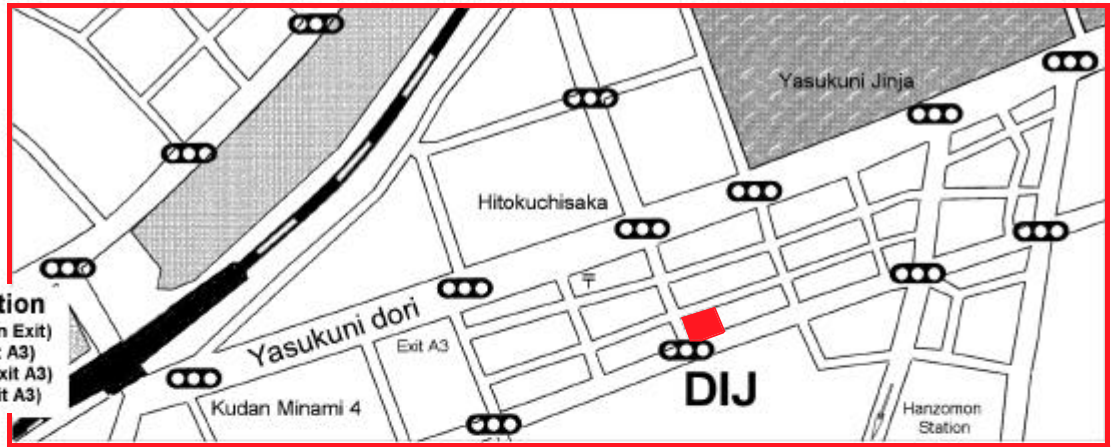
DIJ Forum

Ehud Harari, Associate Professor of Political Science & East Asian Studies, University of Tōkyō; Associate Professor Hebrew University of Jerusalem: Labour Relations in the Japanese Civil Service (4 October 2001).

Richard A. Werner, Assistant Professor, Sophia University and Managing Director and Chief Economist of Profit Research Center Ltd.: Monetary Policy and the Transformation of Japan's Economic Structure (8 November 2001).



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