

International Conference

Studying Japan:

The impact of transnationalization and technological innovation on methods, fieldwork and research ethics

July 23 and 24, 2019

Freie Universität Berlin
Fabeckstraße 23-25
14195 Berlin

Holzlaube Room 2.2058
and 2.2059

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Graphic design: Andreas Steinbrecher

Conference Program

Tuesday, July 23

14.30 – 15.00 Registration

15.00 – 15.15 Welcome

Nora Kottmann (German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo) and Cornelia Reiher (Freie Universität Berlin)

15.15 – 16.30 Panel I: Methods and fieldwork in the area studies and global flows of knowledge

Chair: Cosima Wagner (Freie Universität Berlin)

- Keeping up with multigenerational research: Methodological lessons from following Soka Gakkai in Japan over two decades
Levi McLaughlin (North Carolina State University)
- Asking without asking... Getting your 'enchanted listener' to talk! Interviewing single women in Japan
Akiko Yoshida (University of Wisconsin-Whitewater)

16.30 – 17.00 Coffee break

17.00 – 18.30 Roundtable 'Methods in Japanese Studies: New trends and challenges'

Chair: Verena Blechinger-Talcott (Freie Universität Berlin)

- Joy Hendry (Oxford Brookes University)
- Chris McMorran (National University of Singapore)
- Karen Shire (University of Duisburg-Essen)
- Celia Spoden (Hannover Medical School)
- Marie Weishaupt (Freie Universität Berlin)

18.30 Dinner

Wednesday, July 24

9.00 – 9.30 Input

Nora Kottmann (German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo) and Cornelia Reiher (Freie Universität Berlin)

9.30 – 11.00 Panel II: Studying Japan. Crossing disciplinary, methodological and territorial boundaries

Chair: Annette Schad-Seifert (Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf)

- The diversity of Japanese Studies
Rodger Goodman (University of Oxford)
- Research designs
Kaori Okano (La Trobe University)(via Skype)
- Reviewing the literature
Urs Matthias Zachmann (Freie Universität Berlin)
- Studying Japan in and out of Japan
Levi McLaughlin (North Carolina State University)

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 – 13.00 Panel III: Collecting data in social science research on Japan

Chair: Kai Schulze (Freie Universität Berlin)

- Qualitative social science methods
Akiko Yoshida (University of Wisconsin-Whitewater)
- Qualitative interviews
Nora Kottmann (German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo) and Cornelia Reiher (Freie Universität Berlin)
- (Participant) observation
Christian Tagsold (Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf) and Katrin Ullmann (University of Applied Sciences Düsseldorf)
- Digital transformations in archives, libraries and databases
Theresia Peucker and Cosima Wagner (Freie Universität Berlin)

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14:00 – 14:30 Student panel: What should a methods handbook look like?

Japanese Studies Students (Freie Universität Berlin)

14.30 – 16.00 Panel IV: Analyzing qualitative data in social science research on Japan

Chair: Hannes Mosler (Freie Universität Berlin)

- Mixed methods designs
Carola Hommerich (Hokkaido University/Sophia University) (via Skype) and Nora Kottmann (German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo)
- Methods of data analysis
David Chiavacci (University of Zürich)
- Qualitative content and frame analysis
Celeste Arrington (George Washington University)
- Qualitative discourse analysis
Cornelia Reiher (Freie Universität Berlin)

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee break

16.30 – 18.00 Panel V: Presenting research on Japan. Writing and publishing on- and offline

Chair: Elisabeth Scherer (Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf)

- Coding and theorizing
Caitlin Meagher (University of Oxford)
- The challenges of writing and putting it all together
Chris McMorran (National University of Singapore)
- Good research practice and ethics
Cornelia Reiher and Cosima Wagner (Freie Universität Berlin)
- Presenting and publishing
James Farrer (Sophia University) and Gracia Liu-Farrer (Waseda University)

18.00 – 18.30 Wrap up

Nora Kottmann (German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo) and Cornelia Reiher (Freie Universität Berlin)