

## Short CV

Susanne Brucksch is principal researcher at the *German Institute for Japanese Studies* (DIJ). Before, she was senior research fellow at Freie Universität Berlin, and visiting scholar at Waseda University in 2016, and at the Max Planck Institute (MPI) for Innovation and Competition in Munich in Nov 2019. At present, her research focusses on «*Technical Innovation and Research Collaboration in Japan: The Field of Biomedical Engineering*» and «*Humans and Machines in Medical Context: Case Studies from Japan*». Besides, she has been holding post as chair of the advisory board of DWIH Tokyo (German Centre for Science and Innovation, since 2019) Tokyo and as member of the board of VSJF e.V. (German Association for Social Science Research on Japan, since 2016). There, she also serves as co-organizer of the STS-Technology-Section.

**Please find a detailed list of publications here:**

<https://dijtokyo.academia.edu/SusanneBrucksch>

## Research Interest

- Innovation Studies (esp. the Field of Biomedical Engineering / Medical Technologies)
- Science & Technology Studies (STS)
- STI (Science, Technology & Innovation) Governance
- Inter-organisational Collaboration
- Institutional Design, Change and Boundaries
- Technology, Energy and Environmental Policy

## ***Technikstudien: Research Initiative Regarding Intersections between Technology and Society in Japan***

(with Dr. Cosima Wagner)

Japan is often referred to as a high-tech country and large parts of Japanese society are attributed with an allegedly high affinity to (new) technologies. Moreover, the Japanese government cultivates a technology-friendly image and emphasises technology-driven responses to urgent societal issues like environmental protection, energy security or demographic change. Surprisingly, research on technical artefacts and technology did not become established as a full-fledged sub-discipline of Japanese Studies like sociology, political science or history, particularly in the German-speaking academic community. While in the past, various research projects have drawn attention to individual aspects of the history, economy or philosophy of technology as well as environmental science on Japan, technical artefacts were seldom examined as the main object of study. Surprisingly, this does not recently converge into a coherent research field addressing technology issues as such. Therefore, we argue that the shaping of knowledge, actions, thoughts, cultures and norms is not sufficiently analysed yet, and propose to conceive social scientific and cultural perspectives on technology as a full-fledged field of Japanese Studies. Basically, we ask in which way technical devices shape everyday life in a modern society like Japan, and how, conversely, the social and cultural context influences technological development. More precisely, technology development is viewed not as a “rational” process and artefact not as “neutral objects”. In contrast, it is perceived as a process where social actors with varying visions, values, and concepts of usage inscribe their ideas into product designs and reconstitute a specific social order during the construction of large technical infrastructures. This enables a critical analysis of the interplay with their cultural and social context. Moreover, focusing on the geographic, cultural and societal locale of Japan facilitates the reflection of underlying principles, unchallenged narratives and explanations on technology.

## Publications at DIJ (Selection)

- Brucksch, Susanne; Sasaki Kaori (eds.): *Humans and Machines in Medical Context. Case Studies from Japan*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, (forthcoming).
- Brucksch, Susanne: “Reflections From the Field of Healthcare: The Impact of the Digital Transformation on Social Sciences”, in: F. Waldenberger, H. Kümmerle (eds.): *Miscellanea 20*, Tokyo: DIJ, (forthcoming).
- Brucksch, Susanne (2020): “Sustaining Healthcare in Japan’s Regions: The Introduction of Telehealth Networks“, in: W. Manzenreiter, R. Lützel, S. Polak-Rottmann (eds.): *Japan’s New Ruralities: Coping with Decline in the Periphery*, London: Routledge, 140-158.
- Brucksch, Susanne (2019): “Robotic Care Devices: Aktuelle Entwicklungen in der Pflegerobotik in Japan” [Robotic Care Devices: Recent Developments of Care Robots in Japan], in: J. Hergesell, A. Maibaum, M. Meister (eds.): *Genese und Folgen der Pflegerobotik*. Weinheim: Beltz Juventa, 94-120.
- Brucksch, Susanne; Schultz, Franziska (2018): *Ageing in Japan. Domestic Healthcare Technologies. A Qualitative Interview Study on Care Robots, Monitoring Sensor Systems, and ICT-based Telehealth Systems. Report*. May 2018. NL: Leiden Asia Centre (LAC) / Tokyo: German Institute for Japanese Studies Tokyo (DIJ).
- Sasaki, Kaori; Brucksch, Susanne (2018): 医療機器と医学にまつわる STS 研究、そして日本を事例とする STS 研究の可能性—ワークショップ [Humans & Machines in Medical Context: Case Studies from Japan: Seeking Various Potentials for Further Developments of STS Case Studies on The Relation between Medical Devices and Medical Practice in Japan], *科学技術社会論研究 [Journal of Science and Technology Studies] 15 (11)*, 148-153.
- Brucksch, Susanne (2017): “Employing the concept of techno-governance to analyse the field of biomedical engineering in Japan”, *Global Perspectives on Japan GPJ (I)*, 95-126.
- Brucksch, Susanne; Wagner, Cosima (eds.) (2016): *Technikstudien and STS: Launching a Research Initiative Regarding Intersections between Technology and Society in Japan*. ASIEN 140 (July 2016). (peer-reviewed journal)
- Brucksch, Susanne; Wagner, Cosima (2016): “Introduction to the Technikstudien — Science & Technology Studies (STS) Research Initiative on Japan”, in: S. Brucksch; C. Wagner (eds.): *Technikstudien and STS: Launching a Research Initiative Regarding Intersections between Technology and Society in Japan*. ASIEN 140 (July 2016), 5-21.