

DR. NORA KOTTMANN

4-30-21 Denenchofu, Ota-ku, 145-0071 Tokyo (Japan) / Phone: +81-70-1433 9776

E-Mail: kottmann@dijtokyo.org / Orcid: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8756-1825> / Twitter: @kott_no

CURRENT POSITION

- Sept 2021 – Principal Researcher
German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo
- Nov 2020 – Head of Research Group *Area Studies: Methodological Approaches*
German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo
- Oct 2020 – Adjunct Lecturer
Department of Sociology, Sophia University, Tokyo

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

- July 2015 PhD in Japanese Studies (*summa cum laude*)
Heinrich Heine University of Düsseldorf
- Oct 2003 – Sept 2004 **Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo**
(*funding*: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan)
- Oct 2001 – April 2008 Japanese Studies and Political Science of South Asia
Ruprecht Karl University of Heidelberg
Degree: M.A.
- Aug 2000 – Feb 2018 Multiple research-stays in South and East Asia; *funding*: e.g., Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation, DAAD and HeRA

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Aug 2018 – Oct 2021 Senior Research Fellow
German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo
- Oct 2019 – Sept 2020 Adjunct Lecturer
Department of Global Studies, Musashi University, Tokyo
- Apr 2008 – Aug 2018 Lecturer and Research Associate
Department of Modern Japanese Studies, University of Düsseldorf
- Oct 2015 – Feb 2016 Teaching assignment
University of Cologne
- Mar 2015 Erasmus Teaching Mobility
Department of Languages and Cultures, Ghent University

PUBLICATIONS (SELECTION)

Books

- 2016 | [Heirat in Japan](#). *Romantische und solidarische Beziehungswelten im Wandel* [Marriage in Japan. Romantic and Solidary Relationship Worlds in Flux] Wiesbaden: Springer VS.

Editorship

- 2020 | (with Cornelia Reiher) [Studying Japan](#). *Handbook of Research Designs, Fieldwork and Methods*. Baden-Baden: Nomos.
- 2019 | (with Annette Schad-Seifert) [Japan in der Krise](#). *Soziale Herausforderungen und Bewältigungsstrategien* [Japan in Crisis. Societal Challenges and Coping Strategies]. Wiesbaden: Springer VS.
- 2014 | (with Hans Malmede, Stephanie Osawa, and Katrin Ullmann) [Familie – Jugend – Generation](#). *Medienkulturwissenschaftliche und japanwissenschaftliche Perspektiven* [Family, Youth, and Generation. Media Cultural and Japanese Studies Perspectives]. Wiesbaden: Springer VS.

Journal Articles (peer-reviewed)

- 2022 | (accepted; with Laura Dales) "Doing Intimacy in Pandemic Times: Findings of a Large-Scale Survey Among Singles in Japan." *Social Science Japan Journal*. Online first (open access)
- "Living (Alone) Together in Metropolitan Japan: Shifting Boundaries of Dwelling, Relating and Belonging." *Gender, Place & Culture* 29 (8): 1162–1182.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/0966369X.2021.1973968>.
- (with Forum Mitani and Elisabeth Scherer) "Screening Love: Relational Practices in Japanese TV Dramas Produced during the COVID-19 Pandemic." *Japan Focus: The Asia-Pacific Journal* 20 (14/3): 1–21. [Open access](#).
- 2021 | "'Doing Family' on a Global Stage: German Expatriates in Southern Tokyo." *Recherches Sociologiques et Anthropologiques ((RS&A))* 2021/1: 149–169. Open access.
<https://doi.org/10.4000/rsa.4791>.
- (with Laura Dales) "Surveying Singles in Japan: Qualitative Reflections on Quantitative Social Research during COVID Time." *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*. Online first. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13645579.2021.1998758>

Chapters in Edited Volumes (peer-reviewed and invited; 2019–)

- 2022 | (forthcoming; with Laura Dales) "Japanese singles and solo-life in the age of the '3 Cs'". In *Singular Selves: An Introduction to Singles Studies*, edited by Ketaki Chowkhani and Craig Wynne.
- 2021 | "A 'Conversation' on Comparisons Between Japanese Studies, Contemporary History and Medieval Art History." In *Miscellanea 23, Comparing Comparisons*, 21–24, edited by James Sidaway and Franz Waldenberger. Tokyo: Deutsches Institut für Japanstudien.
- 2020 | (with Cornelia Reiher) "Introduction: Studying Japan." In *Studying Japan. Handbook of Research Designs, Fieldwork and Methods*, 19–28, edited by Nora Kottmann and Cornelia Reiher. Baden-Baden.
- (with Cornelia Reiher) "How to interview people: Qualitative interviews." In *Studying Japan. Handbook of Research Designs, Fieldwork and Methods*, 184–195, edited by Nora Kottmann and Cornelia Reiher. Baden-Baden: Nomos.

(with Carola Hommerich) "How to combine methods: Mixed methods designs." In *Studying Japan. Handbook of Research Designs, Fieldwork and Methods*, 264–282, edited by Nora Kottmann and Cornelia Reiher. Baden-Baden: Nomos.

"Japanese Women on the Move. Working in and (Not) Belonging to Düsseldorf's Japanese (Food) Community." In *Food Identities at Home and on the Move: Explorations at the Intersection of Food, Belonging and Dwelling*, 174–187, edited by Raúl Matta, Chantal Crenn, Charles-Edouard de Suremain. London: Bloomsbury.

2019 "Games of Romance. Tokyo in the Search of Love and 'Unity in Diversity'." In *Tokyo through the lens of the Olympics*, 89–94, edited by Barbara Holthus, Wolfgang Manzenreiter, Franz Waldenberger and Isaac Gagné. London: Routledge. [Open access](#).

"Verliebt, verlobt, allein. Romantische Beziehungswelten junger Erwachsener in Japan." In *Japan in der Krise. Soziale Herausforderungen und Bewältigungsstrategien*, 99–120, edited by Annette Schad-Seifert and Nora Kottmann. Wiesbaden: Springer VS.

(with Annette Schad-Seifert) "Japan in der Krise – Einleitung." In *Japan in der Krise. Soziale Herausforderungen und Bewältigungsstrategien*, 7–22, edited by Annette Schad-Seifert and Nora Kottmann. Wiesbaden: Springer VS.

Working Paper, Reviews, and Online Publications (2019–)

2022 (forthcoming) "Methoden und Methodologien in der Japanforschung – (digital) vor Ort" (Themenportal der Max Weber Stiftung)

"Review: Fassbender, Isabel. 2021. *The Active Pursuit of Pregnancy. Neoliberalism, Postfeminism and the Politics of Reproduction in Contemporary Japan*". In *Contemporary Japan*. Online first. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/18692729.2022.2111541>.

"Review: Ozawa-De Silva, Chikako. 2021. *The Anatomy of Loneliness. Suicide, Social Connection, and the Search for Relational Meaning in Contemporary Japan*. California: University of California Press." In *Asian Ethnology* 81 (1&2): 351–353. [online](#).

2021 (with Laura Dales) "Looking to capture practices of intimacy in times of social distancing: Mixed-methods research on singles in Japan." In *Center for Research on Families and Relationships* (Blog). [online](#) (3.2.2021).

(with Laura Dales) "Solo-camping and solo-hotpots: Rethinking practices and perceptions of singlehood in Japan in COVID- time." In *The Research Network of Singlehood Studies* (Blog). [online](#) (26.1.2021).

2020 "A 'Conversation' on Comparisons Between Japanese Studies, Contemporary History and Medieval Art History." In *TRAFO – Blog for Transregional Research*. [online](#) (23.07.2020).

2019 "Review: Making Meaningful Lives. *Tales from an Aging Japan*, by Kavedžiji, Iza, Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2019." In *Contemporary Japan*. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/18692729.2020.1816270>.

"Review: Intimacy and Reproduction in Contemporary Japan, by Castro-Vázquez, London, Routledge, 2017." In *Contemporary Japan*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/18692729.2019.1621716>.

"Japanese-German-Symposium: Work Style Reform and Gender Equality in Japan and Germany – Report". *Journal. Netzwerk Frauen- und Geschlechterforschung* 44: 78 – 84 ([online](#)).

“Dreaming of Being a Chef? The Overseas Mobility of Young Japanese Women and Their Employment in Düsseldorf’s Japanese Foodscapes.” *Working Paper* 2019/1, German Institute of Japanese Studies.

PRESENTATIONS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND INVITED TALKS AND LECTURES (SELECTION; 2019–)

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| 2022 | <p>(Jun 15) <i>(Re)producing privilege: Digital family practices of transnational families in and beyond COVID-times</i> (Reykjavic/Island)
Nordic Ethnology and Folklore, Conference</p> <p>(Apr 12) <i>Gendered analysis of changing social contracts: Familial and personal relationships in times of the pandemic and beyond</i>
Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto (online)</p> <p>(Mar 27) <i>Alone/together. ‘Doing solo’ and the Gendered Effects of the Pandemic in Metropolitan Japan</i> (Honolulu/Hawaii)
Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Annual Conference</p> <p>(Feb 14) <i>Ninkatsu and other -katsu-discourses. A commentary.</i> Book presentation: <i>The Active Pursuit of Pregnancy</i> (Brill; 2021) by Isabel Fassbender. Ritsumeikan University</p> |
| 2021 | <p>(Sept 30) <i>Space, place and the pandemic: First insights into spatial configurations of singles’ intimate practices</i> (online)
Japanese Studies Association of Australia (JSAA) 2021, The University of Queensland</p> <p>(Sept 27) <i>Studying Japan: Research Designs, Fieldwork and Methods</i> (with Cornelia Reiher) Workshop ‘Studying Japan. Perspectives from “Inside” and “Outside”’; organized by the German Institute for Japanese Studies (Tokyo), the Center for Japanese Studies of Fudan University (Shanghai), and the Global Japanese Studies Education and Research Incubator (GJS-ERI) of Osaka University (online)</p> <p>(Aug 25) <i>(Re)negotiating what’s ‚normal‘: Work-life-choices and practices of intimacy of never married adults in metropolitan Japan</i>
European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS) 2021; Ghent University (online)</p> <p>(Aug 25) <i>Book Presentation: Studying Japan</i> (with Lynne Nakano, Cornelia Reiher and Christian Tagsold)
European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS) 2021; Ghent University (online)</p> <p>(Jul 21) <i>(Re)Mapping Belonging. Personal Relationships in the Time of COVID-19</i>
Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto (online)</p> <p>(Jul 06) <i>Vom Familienessen zum „Dinner for one“? Geschlechterungleichheit, der Trend zum Single-Dasein und die Pandemie in Japan</i> (online)
5. Online-Forum des Netzwerks Ernährungskultur; Universität Bochum</p> <p>(Jun 23) <i>‘There is always room for improvement ...’ Expatriate women, trailing husbands and negotiations of interfamilial power</i> (online)
International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF) 2021; 15.th Congress, University of Helsinki</p> <p>(May 07) <i>Japanese singles and solo-life in the age of the ‘3Cs’</i> (with Laura Dales)
Asian Studies Seminar, University of Western Australia (online)</p> <p>(May 18) <i>Studying Japan – Buchvorstellung und Diskussion</i> (with Cornelia Reiher)</p> |

- Düsseldorf University, Institute for Modern Japan (online)
- (Mar 23) *Negotiating Belonging: German Expatriates in Southern Tokyo* (online)
Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Annual Conference
- (Mar 11) *Love in the Time of COVID-19: The 'New Normal' in the TV Series #rimorabu ('Remote Love')* (with Elisabeth Scherer; online)
University of Vienna, Department of East Asian Studies
- (Feb 26) *'We are all one extended family in this House!' Shifting boundaries of housing and (post)familial relationships in Japan* (online)
IV ISA Forum (International Sociological Association); Porto Alegre, Brasil
- 2020 (Dec 17) *Methoden in der Japanforschung – Buchvorstellung* (with Cornelia Reiher; online)
University of Munich
- (Dec 9) *Doing Research on/in Japan: Methods and Methodologies* (online)
EURAXESS
- (Oct 10) *(No) space for us: Singles' relationship worlds in contemporary metropolitan Japan* ('Single Studies: Global Perspectives'; online)
Manipal Academy of Higher Education (India) and University of the District of Columbia
- (Jun 30) *(Re)Mapping Belonging – Personal Relationships and the Emergence of a 'Hyper-Solo-Society' in Japan* (online)
Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto
- 2019 (Dec 02) *From Comparing to Contextualizing and Framing Japan (and back)*
Joint DIJ-MWS@NUS Workshop, German Institute for Japanese Studies
- (Nov 22) *Mapping (Not) Belonging. 'New' Spaces and 'New' Relationships in Postfamilial Tokyo*
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA), Vancouver
- (Nov 08) *Games of Romance? The Olympic Games Vision of Unity in Diversity in the Context of Tokyo's 'Hyper-Solo-Society'*
Vereinigung für sozialwissenschaftliche Japanforschung (VSJF), Bochum, Germany
- (July 24) *Prospective and Wrap-up* (with Cornelia Reiher)
International Conference: 'Studying Japan: The impact of transnationalization and technological innovation on methods, fieldwork and research ethics'
Berlin/Germany
- (July 24) *Mixed Methods: How to Combine Methods* (with Carola Hommerich)
International Conference: 'Studying Japan: The impact of transnationalization and technological innovation on methods, fieldwork and research ethics'
Berlin/Germany
- (July 24) *Qualitative Interviews: How to Interview People* (with Cornelia Reiher)
International Conference: 'Studying Japan: The impact of transnationalization and technological innovation on methods, fieldwork and research ethics'
Berlin/Germany
- (July 23) *Studying Japan: An Introduction* (with Cornelia Reiher)
International Conference: 'Studying Japan: The impact of transnationalization and technological innovation on methods, fieldwork and research ethics'
Berlin/Germany

(July 16) 'Talking about sex? We never did in the first years.' *Space, Place, and Sexuality in Contemporary Japan*

International Convention of Asia Scholars (ISA), Leiden/The Netherlands

(Nov 24) (No) *Space for us? Dwelling Spaces and Personal Relationships in Contemporary Japan*

Sociology and Social Anthropology- Section; VSJF-Annual Conference, Freie Universität Berlin

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (FULL COURSES)

Vienna University (Austria)

Autumn 2022 „Unity in Diversity“? Gender, Sexualität und sozialer Wandel in Japan

Sophia University, Tokyo

Spring 2022 Gender and Sexuality in East Asia (Department of Sociology, in English)

Autumn 2021 Qualitative Methods in Sociology (Department of Sociology, in English)

Spring 2021 Gender and Sexuality in East Asia (Department of Sociology, in English)

Musashi University, Tokyo

Spring 2020 Gender and Sexuality in East Asia (4SWS, with Dr. Barbara Geilhorn, in English)

Autumn 2019 Lifestyles and Personal Relationships in East Asia (MA, in English); teaching project (empirical study)

University of Cologne

Autumn 2015 What a *dorama!* Japanese TV Series and Recent Societal Discourse (MA; in German)

Heinrich Heine University of Düsseldorf

Apr 2008 – Aug 2018 27 courses