

The Intimate in and beyond Pandemic Times: Family, Personal Relationships and Singlehood

Speakers (in alphabetical order)

Laura Dales is Senior Lecturer in Asian Studies at the University of Western Australia. Her main research interests include agency, sexuality, friendship and dating across Asia, as well as singlehood and marriage in contemporary Japan. She is currently writing a book based on an ARC-funded project examining intimacy beyond the family in contemporary Japan and working on a DIJ-funded research project with Dr Nora Kottman, on intimate practices among unmarried individuals in Japan during COVID.

Daiki Hiramori is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Global and Interdisciplinary Studies at Hosei University. His research interests include quantitative sociology, queer and feminist studies, sexuality and gender stratification, and the demography of sexual orientation and gender identity. In addition to a PhD in Sociology and a Graduate Certificate in Feminist Studies from the University of Washington, he holds a BA in Sociology with a minor in Mathematics from International Christian University.

Saori Kamano obtained her Ph.D. in Sociology at Stanford University. She is currently a Senior Researcher at the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research in Tokyo, Japan. Her fields of interest include Family, Sexuality, and Gender, and her recent research focuses on the demography of sexual orientation and gender identity, quantitative analyses of the well-being of sexual and gender minorities, as well as relationships and lives of same-gender couples.

Nora Kottmann is principal researcher and head of the research group “Methods and Methodologies” at the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) in Tokyo. Her research focuses on issues related to gender, personal relationships, intimacy, mobility, and (not) belonging. She is currently conducting research on (digital) family practices of highly mobile, transnational families and working on a DIJ-funded research project with Dr. Laura Dales, on intimate practices among unmarried individuals in Japan during COVID.

南後由和 (Nango Yoshikazu) 明治大学情報コミュニケーション学部准教授。社会学、都市・建築論。主な著書に『ひとり空間の都市論』、『商業空間は何の夢を見たか』（共著）、『建築の際』（編）など。

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Akiko Yoshida holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Oklahoma. She recently retired from, and is to be Professor Emeritus at, the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater. Her research foci are singlehood, gender roles, parenthood, and transnational family care. Her publications include a research monograph entitled *Unmarried Women in Japan: The Drift into Singlehood* (Routledge, 2017), a co-authored referred article, “Gender Role Attitudes: An Examination of Cohort Effects in Japan” (*Journal of Marriage and Family*, 2019), and a chapter in *Studying Japan: Handbook of Research Designs, Fieldwork and Methods* (Nomos, 2020).