

Transnational Research in a Multipolar World

International Conference

Max Weber
Foundation

.....
German Humanities
Institutes Abroad

8 – 9 May 2023
DIJ Tokyo &
Sophia University

7-1 Kioicho, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo

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The Conference

Transnational research plays an essential role in global knowledge production. It also fosters mutual understanding and trust among the countries involved. This is especially true for transnational research in the social sciences and humanities, which explicitly aims at bridging and combining different national perspectives on issues of shared interest.

The conference *Transnational Research in a Multipolar World* will discuss the impact of the growing geopolitical tensions on transnational research with a particular focus on “closing spaces”, i.e. the limitations to free scientific research in autocratic regimes. We also take a look at how national research organizations and universities have responded to these challenges. Taking the example of gerontology and gender studies, we then explore how research in the humanities and social sciences responds to societal challenges and how research, in turn, feeds back into society.

The second day of the conference will look at research on and in specific regions – Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and the Indo-Pacific. Taking into account geopolitical shifts, it will explore common topics as well as new venues and formats of transnational research. The conference will end with a keynote speech on world history made in Japan, a field that has increasingly drawn public attention against the background of global history research and history activism in a multipolar world.

Programme Outline

8 May 2023

Venue: Sophia University, Bldg. 2, Floor 17

14:00 Welcome and introduction

Yoshiaki Terumichi (President, Sophia University)

Franz Waldenberger (Director, DIJ Tokyo)

14:15 Coping with international conflict and restrictions of academic freedom

Ute Frevert (President, Max Weber Foundation)

Verena Blechinger-Talcott (Vice-President, Free University Berlin)

Osamu Kobayashi (Director, Department of International Affairs, Japan Science and Technology Agency)

Shigeto Sonoda (Professor, University of Tokyo)

Moderator: **Miloš Řezník** (Director, German Historical Institute Warsaw)

15:45 Break

16:15 Gender issues in historical and comparative perspective

Demographic change – a gendered perspective

Christina von Hodenberg (Director, German Historical Institute London)

The baby and the sword: contradiction in gender role ideologies in Japan

Keiko Hirao (Professor, Shirayuri University)

Moderator: **Christoph K. Neumann** (Director, Orient Institute Istanbul)

17:45 Closing remarks

Simone Lässig (Director, German Historical Institute Washington)

9 May 2023

9:00 Regions in focus

Parallel sessions - please check the conference website for the detailed programmes and venues

- East European and Eurasian Studies in Times of War
- Research Positions in the Triangle of Middle East – Japan – Germany
- Indo-Pacific – Mobilities and Connectivities

12:00 Lunch break

Venue: Sophia University, Bldg. 2, Floor 17

14:00 Reports from the morning sessions

Sandra Dahlke (Director, German Historical Institute Moscow)

Claudia Derichs (Professor, Humboldt University Berlin)

Sebastian Schwecke (Director, Max Weber Forum for South Asian Studies, Delhi)

Moderator: Andreas Eckert (Professor, Humboldt University Berlin)

15:30 Break

16:00 Keynote 'World history made in Japan'

Kaoru Iokibe (Professor, University of Tokyo)

Comment: Martin Baumeister (Director, German Historical Institute Rome)

Moderator: Torsten Weber (Principal Researcher, DIJ Tokyo)

17:30 Closing remarks

Sven Saaler (Professor, Sophia University)

18:00 Dinner reception at Hotel New Otani

Speakers and moderators

Martin Baumeister

has been director of the German Historical Institute in Rome since 2012. Until 2017 he held the chair in Contemporary European History at the Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich. His current research interests are the history of contemporary Southern Europe and the Mediterranean, urban history, the history of religion, and the history of historiography. Among his recent publications is *Rethinking the Age of Emancipation. Comparative and Transnational Perspectives on Gender, Family, and Religion in Italy and Germany, 1800–1918*, New York: Berghahn 2020 (ed. with Philipp Lenhard and Ruth Nattermann).

Verena Blechinger-Talcott

is executive vice president of Free University Berlin and professor of Japanese Politics and Political Economy. She received her PhD in Political Science in 1997 from Munich University. She joined the DIJ Tokyo in 1997, where she focused on comparative research of Japanese politics and international relations. In 2004, she joined the Free University Berlin as professor for Japanese Politics and Political Economy, was dean of the Department of History and Cultural Studies (2007-2011), and director of the Center for Area Studies (2009-2018). Blechinger-Talcott is chair of DIJ's advisory board, and, since 2021, has been president of the European Association for Japanese Studies. She has written and edited several books and numerous articles on Japanese politics, international relations, and political economy.

Claudia Derichs

is professor of Transregional Southeast Asian Studies at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. She studied Japanese and Arabic in Bonn, Tokyo, and Cairo and holds a PhD in Japanology (1994, University of Bonn). Her research covers gender, religion, and political violence in Southeast Asia and the Middle East, looking particularly at transregional Islamist movements in and beyond the “long 1960s”. She is the editor-in-chief of the scopus-listed *International Quarterly for Asian Studies (IQAS)*. She works towards new orientations in Area Studies and subscribes to current approaches of epistemic decolonisation in Western academia.

Sandra Dahlke

is director of the German Historical Institute (GHI) Moscow. After studying History and Slavic Studies in Paris, Cologne, and Hamburg, she obtained her PhD at the University of Hamburg in 2005 with a dissertation on “Emel'jan Jaroslavskij (1878-1943): Individual and Rule under Stalinism”. Her research focuses on the history of Tsarist Russia in the second half of the 19th century and the Soviet Union. From 2007 to 2008 and in 2011 she was visiting scholar at the Centre d'études des mondes russe, caucasien et centre-européen (CERCEC) at the Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), Paris. In 2013, she assumed the position of deputy director at the GHI Moscow.

Speakers and moderators

Andreas Eckert

is professor of African history at Humboldt University Berlin. Between 2009 and 2023 he directed the Käthe Hamburger Collegium “Work and Human Life Course in Global History” (re:work). He is the chair of the Forum Transregional Studies and of the advisory board of the German Historical Institute Paris. His current research focuses on the history of labor and work in Africa, on the history of slavery, and on colonialism. He recently published *The history of slavery from the beginnings until the 21st century* (in German, 2021) and is currently working on a study on the transformations of labor in Africa since 1900.

Ute Frevert

is director at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development and president of the Max Weber Foundation. Between 2003 and 2007 she was professor of German history at Yale University and prior to that she taught history at the universities of Konstanz, Bielefeld, and the Free University in Berlin. Her research interests include the history of emotions, gender history, and the social and cultural history of modern times. Her publications include *Women in German History: From Bourgeois Emancipation to Sexual Liberation* (1988), *Men of honour: A social and cultural history of the duel* (1995), *A Nation in Barracks: Modern Germany, Military conscription and civil society* (2004), and *The politics of humiliation: A modern history* (2020). Frevert was awarded the Leibniz Prize in 1998 and the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany in 2016.

Keiko Hirao

is professor of sociology at Shirayuri University and professor emerita at Sophia University. Her research interests include gender stratification, intergenerational relations, human capital development, and social sustainability. She is the author of *Child Rearing War Front* (Chobunsha 1991), chapters in *Women's Working Lives in East Asia* (Stanford University Press, 2001), *Political Economy of Japan's Low Fertility* (Stanford University Press, 2006), *Working and Mothering: Images, Ideologies, and Identities* (NIAS Press, 2007). Her recent book *Invisible Hands and Invisible Heart* (Sophia University Press, 2015) discusses the structural undervaluation of care work vis-à-vis pecuniary activities. She co-authored *Families, Family Policies, and Sustainable Development Goals* (UNICEF 2019). This policy tool evaluates family policies worldwide across the six Sustainable Development Goals.

Christina von Hodenberg

is director of the German Historical Institute London (GHIL) and a professor in European History at Queen Mary University of London. She has written five monographs in the fields of media history, social protest, and gender history. Her most recent book, a revisionist account of the late-1960s protest movements, is now forthcoming in English as *The Other 1968: Social History of a Revolt* (Oxford University Press). She is editor of several book series with Oxford University Press and Berghahn Books, and serves on a number of academic advisory boards in Germany and the United Kingdom.

Speakers and moderators

Kaoru Iokibe

is professor at the Graduate Schools of Law and Politics, University of Tokyo. His research area is the political and diplomatic history of modern Japan. He has published three books in Japanese: *Okuma Shigenobu and Party Politics: The Origin of the Multi-party system* (2003); *History of Treaty Revision* (2010); and *History of Deception: Insincere Politics of Sincere Society* (2020). He was concurrently an Academic Associate at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, in 2021-22 to promote his recent research on the postwar Japan-US Alliance and the Status of Forces Agreement. He also serves as director of the Japanese Political Science Association. Since 2012, he has been leading a project to investigate Japan-related historical documents in Germany.

Osamu Kobayashi

is the director of the Department of International Affairs as well as Office for International Science and Technology Policy and Information Study at the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). Prior to his current position he was Director of JST's Singapore Office. The focus of his 20-year career at JST has been promoting international research cooperation, including: matched-fund bilateral and multilateral joint research for innovative scientific breakthroughs (SICORP program); joint research with like-minded funders from both North and South to drive sustainable development (SATREPS and e-ASIA programs).

Simone Lässig

is director of the German Historical Institute Washington DC and professor of Modern History at Braunschweig University (on leave). She has been a visiting professor at St Antony's College, Oxford (2009/10) and a Remarque Visiting Fellow at New York University (2022). For her book on the embourgeoisement of German Jewry she was awarded the 2004 German Historical Association's biennial prize. Her main fields of research are modern Jewish history, the history of knowledge and migration, digital history, and biography as a historical genre. Her last book *Refugee Crises, 1945–2000. Political and Societal Responses in International Comparison*, ed. with Jan Jansen, was published with Cambridge UP in 2020.

Christoph K. Neumann

is director of the Orient-Institut Istanbul. After receiving his Dr.phil. in 1992 at LMU Munich, he worked at the Orient-Institut Istanbul, Boğaziçi University, the Czech National Library and Charles-University in Prague, Istanbul Technical University and Istanbul Bilgi University. In 2008 he became professor of Turkish Studies at LMU. Neumann has published on Ottoman historiography, Ottoman social and cultural history, the urban history of Istanbul, political culture in the Republic of Turkey and Turkish fictional literature. He has also translated Turkish fictional literature into German. His current research is concerned with the emergence of a public sphere in nineteenth-century Istanbul.

Speakers and moderators

Miloš Řezník

is director of the German Historical Institute in Warsaw. He is on leave from the Chemnitz University of Technology (Saxony) where he holds a professorship for European Regional History. He is a historian of East-Central Europe. His research focuses on ethnicity, nationality and nation-building, politics of history, changes of elites, and Romantic epistemology. He is co-chair of the German-Czech Historians' Commission. His publications include a monograph on the acculturation of Polish aristocracy in the Habsburg monarchy (*Neuorientierung einer Elite. Ständewesen, Aristokratie und Loyalität in Galizien, 1772–1795*, 2016) and a book on regionality as historical category (*Regionalität als historische Kategorie*, co-edited, 2019).

Sven Saaler

is dean of the Graduate School of Global Studies (GSGS) and professor of Modern Japanese History at Sophia University in Tokyo as well as a member of the Steering Committee of the National Institutes for the Humanities. After earning a Ph.D. in Japanese Studies and History from Bonn University, he held positions at Marburg University, the German Institute for Japanese Studies, and the University of Tokyo. He is author of *Politics, Memory and Public Opinion* (2005) and *Men in Metal. A Topography of Public Bronze Statuary in Modern Japan* (2020), as well as co-author/co-editor of *Pan-Asianism in Modern Japanese History* (2007), *The Power of Memory in Modern Japan* (2008), *Pan-Asianism: A Documentary History* (2011), and the *Routledge Handbook of Modern Japanese History* (2018).

Sebastian Schwecke

is director, Max Weber Forum for South Asian Studies (MWF), Delhi. His research combines economic history and economic anthropology, focusing on market grammars in modern South Asia, credit, trust and risk, reputational economies, property constructions, and labor in commercial settings. Recent publications include the monograph *Debt, Trust, and Reputation. Extra-legal Finance in Northern India* (Cambridge University Press, 2022), the co-edited volume *Rethinking Markets in Modern India. Embedded Exchange and Contested Jurisdiction* (Cambridge University Press, 2020), and the forthcoming co-authored article ‘Translating Transactions. Markets as Epistemic and Moral Spheres’ (*Modern Asian Studies*).

Shigeto Sonoda

is a professor at the University of Tokyo. After his 19 years’ service for private universities, he returned to his *alma mater* in 2009 where he was appointed as professor at the Interfaculty Initiative for Information Studies and the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia. His special interest is in globalization of Asia in comparative perspectives. His latest publications (all in Japanese) include *Global Views of China* (ed. with Yu Xie, 2021) and *National Sentiments in Asia* (2020). Sonoda has been serving as director for the Beijing Center for Japanese Studies at Beijing Foreign Studies University in China since 2018.

Speakers and moderators

Yoshiaki Terumichi

is the 16th president of Sophia University (since April 2017). He graduated from Keio University in 1985 and earned his M.D. and Dr. Eng. from Keio University in 1990 and 1994, respectively. He became a professor at Sophia University in 2004. His research field is Multibody Dynamics. He has served as Director of Center for Student Affairs, Director of Admissions Office, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Executive Director for Global Academic Affairs and Director of Human Resources Center for International Cooperation. Since 2019, he has served as the Vice President of the Japan Association of Private Universities and Colleges.

Franz Waldenberger

is director of the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) in Tokyo. He is on leave from Munich University where he holds a professorship for Japanese Economy. His research focuses on the Japanese Economy, Corporate Governance and International Management. He is editor-in-chief of the international peer reviewed journal *Contemporary Japan*. His recent publications include *The Future of Financial Systems in the Digital Age* (co-edited with M. Heckel). As member of the Japanese German Forum and the board of the Japanese German Business Association, he has for many years been working for the betterment of German-Japanese relations.

Torsten Weber

is a historian of modern East Asia and principal researcher at the DIJ Tokyo, where he is also in charge of the institute's science communication and public relations. His research focuses on the history of Japanese-Chinese relations and interactions in the modern and contemporary eras, including the politics of history and memory. His monograph *Embracing 'Asia' in China and Japan. Asianism Discourse and the Contest for Hegemony, 1912-1933* (Palgrave, 2018) studies the politicization of Asia as a regional and epistemological concept. Focusing on John Rabe's Nanjing diaries, his current research project studies how war experiences are testified and contested in the context of 'history problems' between China and Japan.

Organizing institutions

Max Weber Foundation

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German Humanities
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Max Weber Foundation

The Max Weber Foundation is one of the mainstays of German global research in the humanities and social sciences. It runs eleven academically autonomous Institutes around the world as well as Branch Offices. Its Central Office is located in Bonn. The Institutes are situated in Beirut, Istanbul, London, Moscow, New Delhi, Paris, Rome, Tokyo, Warsaw and Washington. They act as crucial bridges between their host countries and Germany. The Max Weber Foundation appoints renowned scholars to lead the Institutes.



German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ Tokyo)

The DIJ researches the society, economy, politics, culture, and international relations of modern Japan from a multidisciplinary perspective. Located in Tokyo and rooted in the German academic system, the DIJ is a unique academic institution in the international research landscape. Our local presence enables us to investigate complex issues and current developments through our own surveys and field research in a timely manner and on a continuous basis. The Institute enjoys high recognition in social science and humanities research on Japan beyond the host country and Germany. The DIJ was founded in 1988 and has been part of the Max Weber Foundation since 2002.



Sophia University

Sophia University was founded in 1913 as Japan's first Catholic University and has been leading the globalization of Japanese academia, emphasizing an internationally oriented curriculum and rigorous training in foreign languages. A major teaching and research university in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences, Sophia is home to 13,800 students and 1,400 teaching and administrative staff, encompassing dozens of nationalities. Sophia University has been selected as one of the universities to receive funding from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) for internationalization efforts in the program "Top Global University Project".



Graduate School of Global Studies (GSGS)

The Graduate School of Global Studies at Sophia University focuses on a wide variety of issues from a global perspective, such as nationalism, development, religion, civil society, race, migration and environment. Employing a variety of approaches, including theoretical, empirical, policy-oriented, and social activism, the program is an interdisciplinary effort that crosses the boundaries between the humanities and social sciences.

Supporting institutions



German Centre for Research and Innovation Tokyo (DWIH Tokyo)

DWIH Tokyo is a platform for German universities, research institutions and research-based companies in Japan. With its unique network of German organizations from science, research and innovation, it holds numerous events throughout the year, connecting stakeholders from Japan and Germany. DWIH Tokyo is part of a global network of six German Centres for Research and Innovation (“Deutsche Wissenschafts- und Innovationshäuser”). Since its establishment in 2010, it has been supported by the German Federal Foreign Office.



Inter-University Research Institute Corporation
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National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU)

NIHU is the only inter-university research institute corporation for the humanities in Japan. It consists of:

- National Museum of Japanese History (REKIHAKU)
- National Institute of Japanese Literature (NIJL)
- National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics (NINJAL)
- International Research Center for Japanese Studies (NICHIBUNKEN)
- Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN)
- National Museum of Ethnology (MINPAKU).

NIHU's mission is to comprehensively explore humanity and its cultures, to promote harmony between nature and humanity, in collaboration with universities, other research institutes, and researchers in Japan and overseas.

Venue

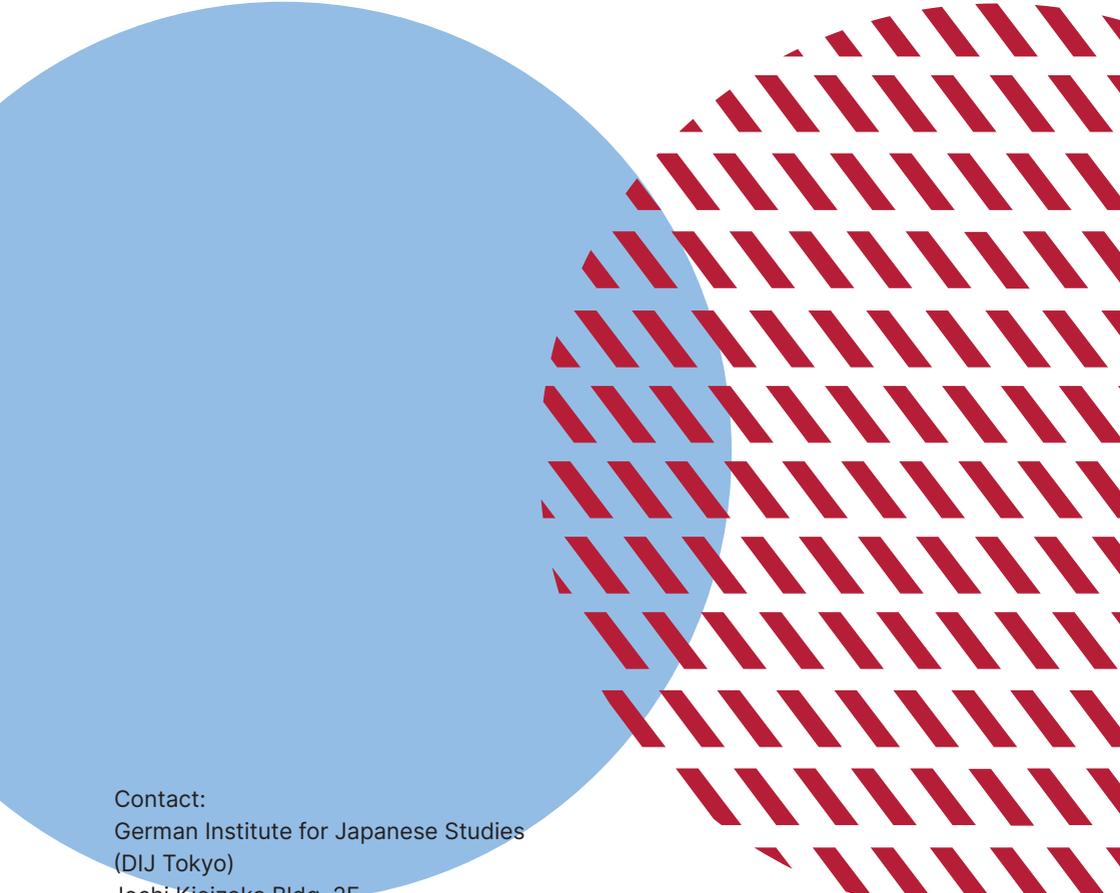
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