



Dr. Sebastian Polak-Rottmann

born: 13.09.1990

nationality: Austrian

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educational background

Dr. phil. (2017-2022, Japanese Studies, University of Vienna, with distinction)

supervisors: Prof. Dr. Wolfram Manzenreiter (Dep. of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna) and Prof. Dr. Birgit Sauer (Dep. of Political Science, University of Vienna)

M.A. (2017-2022, Japanese Studies, University of Vienna, with distinction)

supervisor: Prof. Dr. Wolfram Manzenreiter (Dep. of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna)

B.A. (2011-2016, Political Science, University of Vienna)

B.A. (2010-2013, Japanese Studies, University of Vienna, with distinction)

Junior & Senior High School GRG23 Vienna (2001-2009, “Matura” with distinction)

academic positions

since 2025 senior research fellow and head of research cluster “Sustainability” (German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo)

2022-2025 senior research fellow (German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo)

2019-2022 research fellow (Dep. of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna)

2018-2019 research assistant (“Praedoc”, Dep. of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna)

2017-2018 lecturer (Dep. of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna)

2015-2016 tutor (Dep. of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna)

2009-2010 civilian service at the Geologischen Bundesanstalt Vienna (GBA)

grants

09.2019 – 08.2022: [DOC-team Stipendium](#), Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW)

07.2016 – 08.2016: [Kurzfristiges wissenschaftliches Auslandsstipendium \(KWA\)](#), University of Vienna

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books and edited volumes

2024: *Wie politische Partizipation Freude bereiten kann: Sechs Dimensionen des subjektiven Wohlbefindens politisch handelnder Personen im ländlichen Japan*. Munich: Iudicium.

2023: *Research into Japanese society: Reflections from three projects involving students as researchers during the COVID-19 pandemic*. Vienna: Abteilung für Japanologie, Institut für Ostasienwissenschaften, Universität Wien. (with Antonia Miserka)

2020: *Japan's New Ruralities: Coping with Decline in the Periphery*. New York: Routledge. (with Wolfram Manzenreiter and Ralph Lützel)

2020: *Wiener Selektion japanologischer Methoden: Jahrgang 2020*. Wien: Abt. für Japanologie des Inst. für Ostasienwiss. der Univ. Wien. (with Christina Gmeinbauer and Florian Purkarthofer)

articles (peer-reviewed)

accepted: "Yorokonde Moran: The Shared Well-being Experience of Making Others Happy (and Feeling Happy Because of It)", *Social Science Japan Journal*. (with Dionyssios Askitis)

2024: "Happiness as a by-product – the impact of civic engagement on women's well-being in rural Japan", *Japan Forum*, 1–29. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09555803.2024.2407780>. (with Antonia Miserka)

2024: "Community-Based Care During COVID-19: Balancing Social Distancing and Social Care in Rural Japan – The Case of the Aso Region", *The Asia-Pacific Journal - Japan Focus*, 22/3/5. (with Hanno Jentzsch)

2021: "Of Dying Machines and Grievable Digital Lives: Framing War and Life in NieR:Automata", *Asien: The German Journal on Contemporary Asia* 158/159, 11–33. (with Christina Gmeinbauer)

2018: "The safest country in the world? Notions of risk and security in the Japanese private security industry", *Vienna Journal of East Asian Studies* 10, 83–106.

2018: "Das Ende des »Mythos« des sicheren Japans: Das Sicherheitsgefühl aus Sicht der japanischen privaten Sicherheitsindustrie", David Chiavacci and Iris Wiczorek (eds.): *Japan 2018: Politik, Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft*. München: Iudicium, 211–241.

other articles

2023: "Being active and sharing happy moments: exploring the relationship of political participation and subjective well-being", *Asian Anthropology*, 22/4, 293–297.

2023: "Rural spaces, remote methods—the virtual Aso Winter Field School 2022", Sebastian Polak-Rottmann and Antonia Miserka (eds.): *Research into Japanese society: Reflections from three projects involving students as researchers during the COVID-19 pandemic*. Vienna: Abteilung für Japanologie, Institut für Ostasienwissenschaften, Universität Wien, 63–78. (with Hanno Jentzsch)

2023: "Cosmopolitan rurality and changing life in rural Japan – A discussion with John W. Traphagan and Sebastian Polak-Rottmann", Sebastian Polak-Rottmann and Antonia Miserka (eds.): *Research into Japanese society: Reflections from three projects involving students as researchers during the COVID-19 pandemic*. Vienna: Abteilung für Japanologie, Institut für Ostasienwissenschaften, Universität Wien, 187–210. (with John W. Traphagan)

2023: "Gute Orte für das Alter: Bestandsrevitalisierung für eine kommunenbasierte Altenpflege", *Archithese*, 4.2023, 18–23. (with Victoria Schweyer and Jana Wunderlich)

2021: "Exploring Rural Well-Being through an Interdisciplinary Lens: The 'Shrinking, but Happy' Research Team at the University of Vienna", *Asien: The German Journal on Contemporary Asia* 158/159, 161–176. (with Dionyssios Askitis and Antonia Miserka)

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2020: “Security for the Tokyo Olympics”, Barbara Holthus, Isaac Gagné, Wolfram Manzenreiter, and Franz Waldenberger (eds.): *Japan Through the Lens of the Tokyo Olympics*. New York: Routledge, 130–135.

2020: “Methodenmix: Ein interdisziplinäres Forschungsprojekt zu Wohlbefinden im ländlichen Japan”, Christina Gmeinbauer, Sebastian Polak-Rottmann, and Florian Purkarthofer (eds.): *Wiener Selektion japanologischer Methoden: Jahrgang 2020*. Wien: Abt. für Japanologie des Inst. für Ostasienwiss. der Univ. Wien, 65–87. (with Antonia Miserka and Dionyssios Askitis)

2020: “Epilogue: Think global, act peripheral in Japan’s new ruralities”, Wolfram Manzenreiter, Ralph Lützel, and Sebastian Polak-Rottmann (eds.): *Japan’s New Ruralities: Coping with Decline in the Periphery*. New York: Routledge, 295–301. (with Ralph Lützel and Wolfram Manzenreiter)

2020: “Introduction: Japan’s new ruralities”, Wolfram Manzenreiter, Ralph Lützel, and Sebastian Polak-Rottmann (eds.): *Japan’s New Ruralities: Coping with Decline in the Periphery*. New York: Routledge, 1–24. (with Ralph Lützel and Wolfram Manzenreiter)

2018: “Interview: Feldforschung in Aso”, *Minikomi Informationen des Akademischen Arbeitskreises Japan* 87, 53–58.

book reviews

2024: “Hokkaido Dairy Farm: Cosmopolitics of Otherness and Security on the Frontiers of Japan: Paul Hansen, Albany: State University of New York Press, 2024, xii, 304 pp. + index, ISBN 978-1-43849-647-4 hb, <https://sunypress.edu/Books/H/Hokkaido-Dairy-Farm>.” *Japanese Studies*, 44/2, 260–262.

2021: “Cosmopolitan rurality, depopulation, and entrepreneurial ecosystems in 21st-century Japan: by John W. Traphagan, Amherst, Cambria Press, 2020, 296 pp., USD 109.99 (hardcover), ISBN: 9781621965022”, *Contemporary Japan: Journal of the German Institute for Japanese Studies Tokyo*.

2020: “In Heisei angekommen – eine Rezension zu Local political participation in Japan: A case study of Oita”, *Minikomi: Austrian Journal of Japanese Studies* 88, 68–73.

memberships in academic associations

JAWS (Japan Anthropology Workshop)

Nihon Sonraku Kenkyu Gakkai

EASJ (European Association for Japanese Studies)

IDRiM Society

Nishi Nihon Shakai Gakkai

AAJ (Akademischer Arbeitskreis Japan)

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