



Invitation: Kick-off event on Situated Knowledge at the DIJ

This is an invitation to an exploratory kick-off event on the theme of situated knowledge for the [Knowledge Lab: Knowledge Production and Knowledge Infrastructures](#) at the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ), held in cooperation with Tokyo College (The University of Tokyo) and LMU München. In two sessions, participants will explore and discuss the contexts, conditions, and infrastructures of knowledge production through readings and a reflexive input on their own research.

Date and Place: Thur, May 23 | Meeting Room, [Deutsches Institut für Japanstudien, Tokyo](#)

Program

Part I

- 10:00-10:10 Greeting and Introduction to the Lab
- 10:10-10:20 Self-introductions
- 10:30-12:00 Reading-based discussion
- 12:00-14:00 Lunch (at [Kichiza](#))

Part II

- 14:00-15:00 Reflexive inputs by participants
- 15:00-16:00 Discussion

Readings

Please prepare two of the three following readings for Part I ([pdfs on google drive](#)):

Lara Putnam, "The transnational and the text-searchable: digitized sources and the shadows they cast," *The American historical review* 121, 2 (2016), 377–402.

Brigitte Jordan, "Cosmopolitical obstetrics: some insights from the training of traditional midwives," *Social science & medicine* 28, 9 (1989), 925–944.

Mayke W. C. Vereijken et al., "'Undisciplining' higher education without losing disciplines: furthering transformative potential for students," *Higher education research & development* 42, 7 (2023), 1762–1775.

Reflexive input

Please use the following list of prompts as a guidance for your reflexive input in Part II. Pick some of the prompts that speak to you most; please be as concrete as possible in talking about how the factors mentioned in the prompts shape your own knowledge production and experience as a researcher and academic.

Individual

1. What is my role as an embodied individual in knowledge production?
2. What is my positionality, what are my biases?
3. (How) do I collaborate? What is the role of interaction and collaboration in my field, how does it shape knowledge?

Institutions and infrastructures

1. In which knowledge infrastructures do I work? On the micro, meso, macro level?
2. How do the frameworks of academia/the university affect knowledge production?
3. What are the technological infrastructures involved: digital and physical systems, networks, platforms...
4. How do the specifics of my discipline inform knowledge production?

Locality

1. What are the specific contexts and locations where knowledge is produced?
2. How does space and location affect knowledge production?
3. How do I consider spatial contexts and local perspectives (the traditional role of area studies)?
4. How does it challenge the notion of abstracted, universalized truths?

Wider contexts

1. Which 'external' social, institutional, political, economic, ... factors affect and influences the research process and outcomes?
2. How do languages inform or limit knowledge production, both for the researcher and the object of research?