

Celia Spoden – Curriculum Vitae

German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) Tokyo, Japan
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Employment

Since 09/2021 German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ), Tokyo, Japan

Part of The Max Weber Foundation – German Humanities Institutes Abroad

- Principal Researcher since 09/2024
- Senior Research Fellow 09/2021–08/2024

Research Project: *Cyber-physical Spaces and Avatar Technologies: New Opportunities for an Inclusive Society?*

Duties and Responsibilities:

Organization of the DIJ Social Science Study Group

Mentoring of Ph.D. fellowship holders

Elected representative of the academic staff:

- Member of the DIJ staff and Ph.D. fellowship search committee
- Participation in annual scientific board member meetings
- Participation in the Max Weber Foundation academic staff representatives' meetings

04/2018 – 08/2021 Institute for Ethics, History and Philosophy of Medicine Hannover Medical School, Germany

- Senior Research Fellow (Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin)

Research Project funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research:
PALS-HD: Preferences and Needs of Patients with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Concerning Life-Sustaining Treatments and Options of Hastening Death

04/2008 – 03/2018 Department of Modern Japanese Studies, University of Dusseldorf, Germany

- Lecturer and Research Fellow (Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin)

Research Projects:

- *End-of life Decision Making and Death with Dignity in Japan*
- *Dementia and Local Care in Germany and Japan*
- *Social Participation of Patients with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) in Japan*

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Teaching compulsory and elective courses for undergraduate students
- Student advisory services: Study progress, Japanese exchange study programs, internships in Japan, career counseling
- Supervising undergraduate and graduate theses
- Maintenance of the institute's homepage and blog
- Organizing workshops and conferences with international guests
- Reconceptualization and reaccreditation of the undergraduate and graduate studies programs in 2017
- Interpreting for Japanese guest researchers during interviews and field trips

Education

- 05/2014 Ph.D. in Modern Japanese Studies, Dusseldorf University, Germany
Dissertation: *Über den Tod verfügen. Individuelle Bedeutungen und gesellschaftliche Wirklichkeiten von Patientenverfügungen in Japan*
[Deciding about Death. Individual Interpretations and Social Realities of Living Wills in Japan]

Summa cum laude
- 09/2007 Magister Artium (equivalent to a master's degree):
Modern Japanese Studies (first major) & Philosophy (second major),
Dusseldorf University, Germany

Thesis: *Identitätswandel in Okinawa. Am Beispiel der personalen Identität von Herrn S*
[Okinawan Identity. A Case Study on the Narrative Identity Construction of Mr. S]

Research Interests

My expertise lies in the Anthropology of Japan and Philosophy, particularly Bioethics and Medical Ethics. I have conducted ethnographic research on medical decision-making, end-of-life care, and the social impact of digital technologies for vulnerable populations, particularly those with disabilities and chronic illnesses. My theoretical interests encompass assisted death, demographic change and aging societies, social isolation and loneliness, human augmentation and enhancement. Throughout my career, I have developed a diverse network, collaborating with researchers from various disciplines including medical practitioners, engineers, and humanities scholars.

Award

- 04/2025 Mark Bookman Prize by the Anthropology of Japan in Japan (AJJ) association for the presentation "Avatar Robots as an Alter Ego: New Opportunities for Work or Technological Fixes?" at the joint Japan Anthropology Workshop (JAWS)/AJJ conference in Kobe

Grants & Fellowships

- 12/2024 Grant (43.600 EUR) for the International Symposium "Loneliness as a Social Phenomenon: Cross-Cultural Approaches to a Human Condition" as part of the Thematic Week "Tackling Loneliness" by the Volkswagen Stiftung, June 11-13, 2025 in Hannover, Germany; main applicant
- 09/2023 Financial support by the German Centre for Research and Innovation Tokyo (DWIH; 8000 €) and Nippon Institute for Research Advancement (NIRA; 13000 €) for the international workshop *Discursive and Material Dimensions of the Digital Transformation: Perspectives from and on Japan*
- 01/2018 – 03/2018 Research stay, German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ), Tokyo
Heine Research Academy (HeRA) Travel Grant, Dusseldorf University

04/2016 – 03/2017	Canon Foundation in Europe Research Fellowship Guest Researcher at Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo, Japan Project: <i>Social Participation of Patients with ALS in Japan</i>
09/2016 – 03/2017	Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Fellowship (declined, because I had already accepted the Canon Foundation Research Fellowship)
08/2009 – 09/2009	Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH) Research on Japan Grant Interviews and fieldwork in Tokyo, Nagoya and Fukuoka Dissertation on Living Wills and end-of-life decision making in Japan
10/2006 – 12/2006	German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Magister Thesis Grant Fieldwork and interviews on Okinawan Identity, in Okinawa, Japan
10/2004 – 09/2005	Japan Student Services Organizations (JASSO) Scholarship Exchange Student at the University of the Ryūkyūs, Okinawa, Japan

Professional Memberships and Functions

AAA	Member of the American Anthropological Association
EAJS	Member of the European Association for Japanese Studies
EASST	Member of the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology
JAWS	Member of The Japan Anthropology Workshop
VSJF	Member and since 2017 responsible (with Carola Hommerich & Nora Kottmann) for the “Sociology and Social Anthropology” section of the Association for Social Science Research on Japan (VSJF), Germany
DIJ	Elected representative of the academic staff at the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) Tokyo since 2023
DWIH	Representative of the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) Tokyo on the Advisory Board of the German Centre for Research and Innovation Tokyo (DWIH) from September 2021 to December 2023

Publications

Monograph

Spoden, Celia. 2015. *Über den Tod verfügen. Individuelle Bedeutungen und gesellschaftliche Wirklichkeiten von Patientenverfügungen in Japan [Deciding Upon Death: Individual Perceptions and Social Realities of Living Wills in Japan]*. Bielefeld: transcript.

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

Spoden, Celia & Ema, Arisa. 2024. Staying Connected: Implementing Avatar Robots at Schools in Germany and Japan. In: *Frontiers in Digital Health-Digital Mental Health* 6:1273415. DOI: 10.3389/fdgth.2024.1273415

Spoden, Celia; Wenzel, Olga; Erdmann, Anke; Neitzke, Gerald & Hirschberg, Irene. 2024. Coping and End-of-life Decision-making in ALS: A Qualitative Interview Study. In: *PLOS ONE*, 19(6): e0306102. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0306102>

Erdmann, Anke; Spoden, Celia; Hirschberg, Irene; Neitzke, Gerald. 2022. Talking About the End of Life: Communication Patterns in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis – A Scoping Review. In: *Palliative Care and Social Practice*. DOI: 10.1177/26323524221083676

Erdmann, Anke; Spoden, Celia (shared first authorship); Hirschberg, Irene; Neitzke, Gerald. 2021. The Wish to Die and Hastening Death in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis: A Scoping Review. In: *BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care* 11:271-287. DOI: 10.1136/bmjspcare-2020-002640

Spoden, Celia. 2020. Deciding One's Own Death in Advance: Biopower, Living Wills, and Resistance to a Legislation of Death with Dignity in Japan. In: *Contemporary Japan*, 32:1, pp. 63–82. <https://doi.org/10.1080/18692729.2020.1714279>

Book Chapters and Articles

Spoden, Celia. 2020. Lost in Translation? Grounded Theory and Developing Theoretical Concepts. In: Kottmann, Nora; Reiher, Cornelia (Ed.): *Studying Japan. Handbook of Research Designs, Fieldwork and Methods*. Baden-Baden: Nomos, pp. 339–342

Spoden, Celia & Yayoi Matsuo. 2018. Herausforderungen der Sterbebegleitung in Einrichtungen für Menschen mit Demenz [Challenges of End-of-life Care in Facilities for People with Dementia]. In: Lewerich, Ludgera; Shimada, Shingo; Spoden, Celia (Ed.). *Altersdemenz und lokale Fürsorge – Ein deutsch-japanischer Vergleich*. Bielefeld: transcript, pp. 157–188.

Spoden, Celia & Shingo Shimada. 2018. Theoretische Reflexionen: Konzeptionen des Selbst und ihre Bedeutung für unser Verständnis von Selbstbestimmung bei Menschen mit Demenz [Theoretical Reflections: Conceptions of the Self and their Significance for Our Understanding of Self-determination in People with Dementia]. In: Lewerich, Ludgera; Shimada, Shingo; Spoden, Celia (Ed.). *Altersdemenz und lokale Fürsorge – ein deutsch-japanischer Vergleich*. Bielefeld: transcript, pp. 189–204.

Spoden, Celia. 2017. Chapter 12. Well-being and Decision-making Towards the End of Life: Living Wills in Japan. In: Holthus, Barbara; Manzenreiter, Wolfram (Ed.): *Life Course, Happiness and Well-being in Japan*. New York: Routledge, pp. 221–237.

Spoden, Celia. 2017. 「尊厳ある死？日本における患者の事前指示の個人的解釈と社会的現実」 [Dying with Dignity? Social Realities and Individual Interpretations of Living Wills in Japan]. Translated by Takahata Yuto. In: Kato, Yasushi (Ed.): *尊厳概念のダイナミズム。哲学・応用倫理学論集* [The Dynamism of the Concept of Dignity. Essays in Philosophy and Applied Ethics]. Tokyo: Hosei University Press, pp. 299–326.

- Spoden, Celia. 2015. 「尊厳ある死？日本における患者の事前指示の個人的解釈と社会的現実」 [Dying with Dignity? Social Realities and Individual Interpretations of Living Wills in Japan]. Translated by Takahata Yuto. In: ドイツ応用倫理学研究 [Studies of German Applied Ethics] Vol. 5: pp. 106–123.
- Spoden, Celia. 2012. Die Bedeutung des Fremden für die narrative Konstruktion von Identität [The Significance of the Other for the Narrative Construction of Identity]. In: *Minikomi* 82, pp. 27–32.
- Spoden, Celia. 2009. Narrative Identitätskonstruktionen – Ein Beispiel aus Okinawa [Narrative Identity Constructions – An Example from Okinawa]. In: *Zweites Deutsch-japanisch-koreanisches Stipendiatenseminar* 58: pp. 193–199.

Co-Editorship

- Biontino, Juljan; Mladenova, Dorothea; Spoden, Celia (Ed.). 2020. *Contemporary Japan* 32:1. Special Issue: Governing Death and Dying in Japan and its Colonies – From State Control to Self-optimization, pp. 2–5. <https://doi.org/10.1080/18692729.2020.1717153>
- Lewerich, Ludgera; Shimada, Shingo; Spoden, Celia (Ed.). 2018. *Altersdemenz und lokale Fürsorge – ein deutsch-japanischer Vergleich* [Dementia in Old Age and Local Welfare – A German-Japanese Comparison]. Bielefeld: transcript.

Book Review

- Spoden, Celia (2025). Robots won't save Japan: an ethnography of eldercare automation: By J. A. Wright. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2023, 198 pp. *Asian Anthropology*, 1–3. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1683478X.2025.2505376>

Invited Presentations

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| 06/2025 | <i>Avatar Robots for Hospitalized Children and People with Disabilities: Comparing Technological Approaches to Loneliness and Social Isolation from Japan and Germany</i>
International Symposium “Loneliness as a Social Phenomenon: Cross-Cultural Approaches to a Human Condition” as part of the Thematic Week “Tackling Loneliness” by the Volkswagen Stiftung, Hannover, Germany |
| 05/2025 | <i>Avatar Robots for People with Disabilities</i>
Invited presentation at the workshop “The Impact of AI Companionship (Friendship) on Human Wellbeing,” at the Swiss Pavilion, Expo Osaka, Japan |
| 03/2025 | <i>Cybernetic Avatars as Prosthetic Bodies</i>
Invited paper presentation at the “J Body Machines” Workshop at the University of California at Santa Barbara, USA |
| 12/2024 | The role of people with disabilities in the development of the avatar robot OriHime
Invited presentation at the “Caring Machines” Symposium, University of Edinburgh, UK |
| 10/2024 | <i>Why Technology Development Needs the Social Sciences – Opportunities and Risks of Avatar Robots</i>
Invited Keynote by the Minister of Education and Research of the Federal Republic of Germany at the “50 Years Jubilee of Science and Technology Cooperation between Germany and Japan,” Hotel Prince Kyoto Takaragaike, Kyoto, Japan |

- 05/2024 *An Alter Ego in the Classroom: Potential and Limitations of Avatar Robots for Hospitalized Children or Children with Disabilities*
Invited presentation at the international symposium "Participation (Un)plugged: Exploring Dignity and Disability through Human-Robot Interaction," Institute of Ars Vivendi, Ritsumeikan University, Japan
- 04/2024 *Realizing the Japanese Government's Robot Strategy in the (Non-)Fictional World: The Avatar Robot Café Dawn Ver.β and the Anime "Time of Eve"*
Invited talk at the workshop "Popular Cultures of Digitalization," University of Tübingen, Germany (online)
- 03/2024 *Preventing Social Isolation: Avatar Robots as Alter Egos for Hospitalized Students*
Invited presentation at the workshop "Relationship in Human-Machine Interaction," organized by the German Research Foundation (DFG) Tokyo and the German Center for Research and Innovation Tokyo, Japan
- 03/2024 *Das Moonshot Research and Development Program und Avatar-Technologien als Maßnahmen für eine überalterte Gesellschaft*
[The Moonshot Research and Development Program and Avatar Technologies as Measures for an Ageing Society]
Keynote speech on the occasion of a briefing event of the Committee for Science, Research and Art of the State Parliament of Baden-Württemberg, Germany, at the DIJ Tokyo, Japan
- 10/2023 *Social Inclusion Through Cyber-Physical Embodiment in the Classroom. Case Studies from Japan and Germany*
Invited presentation at the workshop "Mediated Social Touch. Interdisciplinary Explorations of Digital Touch to Connect Humans," by the DIJ & Cybernetic Being Project, Moonshot Research and Development Program, in Hakone, Japan
- 09/2023 *Avatar Robots at School in Germany*
Invited presentation at the symposium "Staying Connected: Implementing Avatar Robots at Schools in Norway, Denmark, Germany, and Japan," at the Institute for Future Initiatives, The University of Tokyo, Japan
- 06/2023 *Staying Connected: Telepresence Robots at School in Japan and Germany*
Invited presentation at the workshop "Caught Yet Blind in Indra's Net: Reflections on Interconnected Crises in the Late Capitalist Anthropocene," DIJ Tokyo, Japan
- 02/2023 *Cyber-Physical Presence: Telepresence Robots at School in Japan and Germany*
Invited presentation with Arisa Ema (The University of Tokyo) in a panel on "Culture and Space: Cultural Negotiations of Robots in Everyday Spaces," at the symposium *Robots, AI and Culture*, at the University of Sydney, Australia (online)

- 03/2022 *Visionen von cyberphysischen Räumen und Avataren in Japan: Auf dem Weg in eine Zukunft frei von physischen, kognitiven, räumlichen und zeitlichen Einschränkungen?*
[Visions of Cyber-Physical Spaces and Avatars in Japan: Towards a Future Free of Physical, Cognitive, Spatial and Temporal Limitations?]
Invited presentation at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Natur- und Völkerkunde Ostasiens (OAG) in Tokyo, Japan (online)
- 04/2014 *Conceptions of a Meaningful Life and “Good” Death in End-of-life Decision Making*
Invited presentation at the international workshop “Deciphering the Social DNA of Happiness: Life Course Perspectives from Japan,” at the University of Vienna, Austria
- 10/2010 *Wer entscheidet? Eine Fallstudie zu Patientenverfügungen und Entscheidungsfindungen in Japan*
[Who Decides? A Case Study on Living Wills in Japan]
Invited presentation at the Institute for History, Theory and Ethics of Medicine, University of Ulm, Germany
- 06/2010 *Patientenverfügungen in Japan – Ausdruck selbstbestimmter Entscheidungsfindungen?*
[Living Wills in Japan – An Expression of Self-determinant Decision Making?]
Invited presentation at the Mittagsforum [Lunch Lectures] of the Faculty of East Asian Studies, at Ruhr University Bochum, Germany
- 09/2009 *Zum Spannungsverhältnis zwischen ärztlicher Fürsorge und Patientenautonomie am Beispiel von Patientenverfügungen*
[Living Wills and the Tension between Medical Care and Patient Autonomy].
Invited presentation at the conference “Feministische Ethik mit dem Schwerpunkt das Konzept der Menschenwürde oder zwischen Sorge und Autonomie” [Feminist Ethics and the Concept of Human Dignity or between Care and Autonomy], at Nanzan University in Nagoya, Japan

Conference Presentations

- 04/2025 *Avatar Robots as an Alter Ego: New Opportunities for Work or Technological Fixes?*
Presentation at the joint Japan Anthropology Workshop (JAWS)/ Anthropology of Japan in Japan (AJJ) conference in Kobe
- 07/2024 *Remotely Controlled Avatar Robots for Work: New Opportunities or Technological Fixes?*
Presentation at the quadrennial joint meeting of the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST) and the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S), Amsterdam, The Netherlands

- 11/2023 *Cyber-Physical Spaces in Japan: Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities Through Avatar-Work*
Presentation at the panel “Beyond ‘Lonely Death’: Communication and Engagement in Japan’s Aging Society,” at the American Anthropological Association (AAA) conference in Toronto, Canada
- 08/2022 *Soziale Chancen und Risiken digitaler Technologien: Kybernetische Avatare und cyber-physische Räume als neue Möglichkeiten zur Partizipation an der Arbeitswelt*
[Opportunities and Risks of Digital Technologies: Cybernetic Avatars and Cyber-Physical Spaces as New Ways of Participating in the Workplace]
Presentation at the economy section of the 18th German Japanese Studies Conference, online
- 07/2022 *Visions and Realizations of Cyber-Physical Spaces in Japan: Solving Societal Issues by Cybernetic Avatars*
Presentation at the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST) Congress “The Politics of Technoscientific Futures,” Madrid, Spain
- 05/2022 *Cybernetic Avatars and the Vision of an Inclusive Society*
Presentation at the conference “Artificial Intelligence and the Human – Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Science and Fiction,” by The Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society (HIIG), the Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB) and Waseda University, at the JDZB, Berlin, Germany
- 09/2020 *Lebensqualität bei Amyotropher Lateralsklerose – ein geeignetes Bewertungskriterium für oder gegen lebenserhaltende Maßnahmen?*
[Quality of Life in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis – A Suitable Criterion for or Against Life-sustaining Measures?]
Annual conference of the German Academy for Ethics in Medicine (AEM), online
- 08/2018 *Erwerbsbiografien und das Konzept shakaijin*
[Employment Biographies and the Concept *shakaijin*]
Presentation at the “Society” section of the 17th German Japanese Studies Conference, The Free University of Berlin, Germany
- 08/2017 *Avoiding Conflicts at the Deathbed: A New Awareness of Dying and Living Wills in Japan*
Presentation at the European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS) Conference in Lisbon, Portugal
- 09/2016 *Differing Approaches to Terminal Care for People with Dementia in a Japanese and a German Nursing Home*
Presentation at the 2nd European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS) Conferences in Japan, Kobe University, Japan

- 08/2015 *Weiterleben lernen: Strategien im Umgang mit chronischer Krankheit. Fallbeispiele aus Japan*
[Learning to Live On: Strategies for Coping with Chronic Illness. A Case Study from Japan]
Presentation at the 16th German Japanese Studies Conference, University of Munich, Germany
- 03/2015 *Würdevolles Sterben? Individuelle Deutungen und gesellschaftliche Wirklichkeiten von Patientenverfügungen in Japan*
[Dying with Dignity? Individual Interpretations and Social Realities of Living Wills in Japan]
Presentation at the second annual German-Japanese workshop “Zur Aktualität des Würdebegriffs,” at Dusseldorf University, Germany
- 06/2011 *Planen mit dem Unblanbaren – Von der Projektidee zum Interview*
[Planning With the Unpredictable – From the Idea of a Research Project to Conducting Interviews]
Presentation at the workshop “Feldforschung in Japan – Berichte aus der Praxis” [Fieldwork in Japan – Reports from the Field], at Dusseldorf University, Germany
- 03/2011 人生の最期における自己決定の可能性
[The Possibility of Self-determination at the End-of-life]
Presentation at the German-Japanese workshop “Leben, Sterben, Menschenwürde” [Life, Death and Human Dignity], at Dusseldorf University, Germany
- 11/2010 *Selbstbestimmtes Lebensende? Zur Bedeutung von Entscheidungsfindungen bei chronisch Kranken*
[Self-determined End of Life? On the Meaning of Decision Making for Patients with Chronic Diseases] Presentation at the Sociology and Anthropology Section, annual conference of the German Association for Social Science Research on Japan, at Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
- 10/2009 *Sterbehilfe und Patientenverfügung als Ausdruck einer Vertrauenskrise? Biomedizin und die soziale Praxis des Umgangs mit dem Sterben*
[Euthanasia and Living Wills as an Expression of a Crisis of Trust? Biomedicine and the Social Practice of Dealing with Dying] Presentation with Uwe Krähnke at the “Biomedizin – Gesellschaftliche Deutung und soziale Praxis” [Biomedicine – Social interpretation and practice] conference, Evangelisches Studienwerk e.V. Villigst, Schwerte, Germany
- 02/2009 Participation (competitive) at the Winter School *Verantwortlichkeit – eine nützliche Illusion?* [Responsibility – A Useful Illusion?], Marsilius Kolleg and Interdisciplinary Forum for Biomedicine and Cultural Studies, at Ruprecht Karls University Heidelberg, Germany

Chair and Discussant

10/2024	Chair of the panel “Imaginations of Futuristic Japan,” at the workshop <i>Imagined Futures in Japan and Beyond</i> , DIJ Tokyo, Japan
09/2023	Chair of the session “Sociocultural Practices on Situating the Self and the Other: Robots with Heart, Virtual Humans and Matter with Soul,” at the workshop <i>Discursive and Material Dimensions of the Digital Transformation: Perspectives from and on Japan</i> , DIJ Tokyo, Japan
04/2023	Discussant at the workshop <i>Robot (Inter)Faces: Understanding and Mapping Robot/Avatar Faces</i> , at the Institute for Future Initiatives, The University of Tokyo, Japan
03/2023	Chair of the panel discussion <i>Human-Machine Interaction and Responsibility</i> , organized by the German Research Foundation, the German Center for Research and Innovation Tokyo and the DIJ, at the DIJ Tokyo, Japan
07/2019	<i>Methods in Japanese Studies: New Trends and Challenges</i> Roundtable discussant at the International Conference “Studying Japan: The Impact of Transnationalization and Technological Innovation on Methods, Fieldwork and Research Ethics,” at the Free University of Berlin, Germany
03/2017	Discussant at the session “Ontology and Human-Machine Interaction: The Case of ALS and Cyborg-type Robot HAL,” at the workshop <i>Humans & Machines in Medical Contexts: Case Studies from Japan</i> , DIJ Tokyo, Japan
11/2008	Chair of the session “Aging Society and the Organizations of Households,” at the conference of the German Association for Social Science Research on Japan (VSJF) <i>Demographic Change in Japan and the EU – Comparative Perspectives</i> , at Dusseldorf University, Germany

Organization of Events

06/2025	<i>Loneliness as a Social Phenomenon: Cross-Cultural Approaches to a Human Condition</i> International Symposium organized together with Carolin Fleischer-Heininger, Sachiko Horiguchi, and Aaron Hames as part of the Thematic Week “Tackling Loneliness” by the Volkswagen Stiftung, June 11-13, 2025 in Hannover, Germany
09/2023	<i>Discursive and Material Dimensions of the Digital Transformation: Perspectives from and on Japan</i> Joint workshop with Jiré Emine Gözen and Harald Kümmerle at the DIJ Tokyo, Japan; financed by the German Centre for Research and Innovation Tokyo (DWIH) and NIRA; supported by Sophia University Tokyo and The University of Europe for Applied Sciences Berlin
03/2023	<i>Human Machine Interaction and Responsibility</i> Panel discussion organized together with the German Research Foundation (DFG) Tokyo and the German Centre for Research and Innovation Tokyo (DWIH), at the DIJ Tokyo, Japan

08/2017	<p><i>Attitudes Toward Death, Dying and Funerary Customs in Japan – Past, Present and Future</i></p> <p>Joint panel organization with Dorothea Mladenova (Leipzig University) und Juljan Biontino (Chiba University) at the European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS) Conference in Lisbon, Portugal</p>
03/2015	<p><i>Zur Aktualität des Würdebegriffs</i></p> <p>[On Current Issues Concerning the Concept of Dignity]</p> <p>Second German-Japanese workshop of the Department of Modern Japanese Studies, Dusseldorf University and the Department of Humanities and Philosophy, Hitosubashi University, Tokyo at Dusseldorf University, Germany</p>
03/2014	<p><i>Zur Aktualität des Würdebegriffs</i></p> <p>[On Current Issues Concerning the Concept of Dignity]</p> <p>First German-Japanese workshop of the Department of Modern Japanese Studies, Dusseldorf University and the Department of Humanities and Philosophy, Hitosubashi University, Tokyo at Dusseldorf University, Germany</p>
03/2011	<p><i>Leben, Sterben, Menschenwürde</i> [Life, Death and Human Dignity]</p> <p>German-Japanese workshop of the Department of Modern Japanese Studies, Dusseldorf University and the Department of Practical Ethics, Nanzan University, Nagoya at Dusseldorf University, Germany</p>
03/2010	<p><i>Zur gesellschaftlichen Relevanz unternehmerischen Handelns</i> <i>Unternehmensethik in Deutschland und Japan</i></p> <p>[On the Social Relevance of Corporate Action. Business Ethics in Germany and Japan]</p> <p>German-Japanese workshop of the Department of Modern Japanese Studies, Dusseldorf University and the Department of Practical Ethics, Nanzan University, Nagoya at Dusseldorf University, Germany</p>
03/2009	<p><i>Angewandte Ethik in Deutschland und Japan unter der Perspektive des Kulturvergleichs</i></p> <p>[Practical Ethics in Germany and Japan from the Perspective of Cross-Cultural Studies]</p> <p>German-Japanese workshop of the Department of Modern Japanese Studies, Dusseldorf University and the Department of Practical Ethics, Nanzan University, Nagoya at Dusseldorf University, Germany</p>

Organization of DIJ Study Groups

04/2025	<p><i>Speaking of competence: Lived experiences of language between the private and the professional</i> by Florian Grosser, University of Vienna</p>
09/2024	<p><i>Attitudes Toward Facial Analysis AI: A Cross-National Study Comparing Argentina, Kenya, Japan, and the USA</i> by Chiara Ullstein, Technical University of Munich, DIJ Study Group</p>
04/2024	<p><i>Who Drives the Green Shift? Environmental Attitudes in Japan from 1993 to 2020</i> by Carola Hommerich & Joanna Kitsnik, Sophia University, DIJ Social Science Study Group (organized together with Markus Heckel)</p>

01/2024	<i>The Japanese like to sue, but they do not have to: An Analysis of Traffic Accident Disputes in Japan</i> by Julien Schickling, Goethe University Frankfurt, DIJ Social Science Study Group
01/2024	<i>Religion in Japan's Cultural Heritage Campaign: Latest Trends and Perspectives</i> by Josko Kozic, Heidelberg University, DIJ Social Science Study Group
12/2022	<i>"Caring Machines"</i> by Giulia De Togni, The University of Edinburgh Medical School, DIJ Social Science Study Group

Teaching Experiences

Teaching Assignments at European and Asian Universities

Fall 2024/25	University of Vienna, Austria Teaching assignment at the Department of East Asian Studies, Japanese Studies "Zwischen Utopie und Dystopie: Roboter Narrative und Entwicklung in Japan im globalen Kontext" [Between Utopia and Dystopia: Robot Narratives and Development in Japan in a Global Context]
Fall 2022/23	Sophia University Tokyo, Japan Teaching assignment "Qualitative Methods in Sociology," Sophia Program for Sustainable Futures (SPSF)
05/2017	University of Zurich, Switzerland Teaching assignment at the Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies "Songenshi und die Sterbehilfe-Debatte in Japan" [Death with Dignity and the Debate on Euthanasia in Japan], Special Lecture in Japanese Studies II, invited by Prof. Dr. Raji Steineck
05/2010	Ghent University, Belgium Teaching assignment at the Department of Languages and Cultures – Asian and African Studies; Erasmus Teaching Mobility Grant Lecture: "Is there a Right to Die? The Case of an ALS Patient in Japan"

Institute for Ethics, History and Philosophy of Medicine, Medical School Hannover, Germany

02/2021 & 02/2020	Propädeutikum "Krebserkrankungen" [Propaedeutic "Cancer"] Class on "Überbringen schlechter Nachrichten" [Delivering Bad News] and "Gespräche mit Patient:innen" [Conversations with Patients] for medical students
05/2018	Modul: Geschichte, Theorie und Ethik der Medizin [Module: History, Theory and Ethics of Medicine] Co-teaching with Wiebke Lisner on "Ethische Dilemmata in der Medizin" [Ethical Dilemma in Medicine] for medical students

Department of Modern Japanese Studies, Dusseldorf University
(all classes in German)

Fall 2017/18	Artificial Humans or Human Machines? The Relationship between Humans and Technology in Japan
Fall 2017/18	Research Methods and Oral Presentation Techniques
Fall 2017/18	Scientific Writing Techniques
Spring 2017	KUBUS Praxis Forum (career orientation for Modern Japanese Studies' students)
Spring 2017	Research Methods and Oral Presentation Techniques
Spring 2017	Scientific Writing Techniques
Fall 2015/16	Illness and Disease in Contemporary Japan
Fall 2015/16	Modern Japanese Identity Constructions between the Self and the Other
Spring 2015	Individualization of Death and Dying? Euthanasia and Living Wills in Japan
Spring 2015	KUBUS Praxis Forum (career orientation for Modern Japanese Studies' students)
Fall 2014/15	The Japanese Community in Dusseldorf. Empirical Research Seminar
Fall 2014/15	Modernization and the Transfer of Knowledge: The Introduction of Western Medicine in Japan
Spring 2014	KUBUS Praxis Forum (career orientation for Modern Japanese Studies' students)
Spring 2014	Globalization and the Japanese Diaspora
Fall 2013/14	Chance or Nightmare? On Interpretations of Medical-technological Progress in Japan
Fall 2013/14	<i>Ikigai</i> or the Meaning of Life – In Case Studies and Theory
Spring 2013	Introduction to Scientific Working Methods
Fall 2012/13	Self-determination and Responsibility in Current Bioethical Debates in Japan
Spring 2012	Modernization and Translation of Western Key Concepts: Dignity in Japanese Discourses
Fall 2011/12	Difficult Decision Making: The Importance of Self-determination in Medical Contexts

Spring 2011	What is Supposed to Be Protected by the Term “Human Dignity”? A Comparison between Germany and Japan After 1945 (together with Frank Meier and Anna-Lena Dießelmann)
Spring 2011	eLearning Initiative II (Developing eLearning materials together with Modern Japanese Studies’ students) Jury Prize for the “Best Student Project” by the University of Dusseldorf November 30, 2011
Fall 2010/11	eLearning Initiative I (Developing eLearning materials together with Modern Japanese Studies’ students)
Spring 2010	Death and Dying in Japan
Fall 2009/10	Introduction to Scientific Working Methods
Spring 2009	Introduction to Scientific Working Methods
Fall 2008/9	Old Age and Aging in Japan
Spring 2008	Okinawa: The “Other” Japan

Completed Higher Education Didactics Courses at the University of Dusseldorf, Germany

09/2008 & 02/2009	Introduction: Teaching and Learning
11/2009	Inspiring Presentations and Interesting Text Work
01/2010	Activating Teaching with Methods
04/2010	Presenting in a Way that Promotes Learning
09/2010	ePortfolio in Teaching
10/2010 & 12/2010	eLearning
10/2011	Oral and Written Exams
07/2014	Presenting with Prezi
11/2014	Student Counseling and Supervision