

The 4th HOKU (Honolulu Office of Kobe University) Symposium

Advanced Interdisciplinary Research Collaboration between Kobe University and University of Hawai'i

Organized by the Institute for Promoting International Partnerships, Kobe University

Date: February 4, 2020





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Date and Time : Tuesday 4 February 2020 9:15AM-5:00PM

Venue : Hawaii Imin International Conference Center at Jefferson Hall
East-West Center, Pacific Room
1777 East-West Road, Honolulu, HI 96848 USA

Opening Remarks 9:15AM - 9:20AM

Chair :

Prof. Yasuhito Shirai, Deputy Director, the Office of the Americas of Kobe University

Opening remarks :

Prof. Hideyuki Yamamoto, Director, the Office of the Americas & Honolulu
Office of Kobe University

Session 1 9:20AM - 12:30PM

History and Literature of Japanese Americans in Hawaii

Session 2 2:00PM - 4:55PM

Economics for Sustainable Society in Hawaii and Japan

Closing Remarks 4:55PM - 5:00PM

Prof. Denise E. Konan, University of Hawai'i

* Co-sponsored by JSPS Grant-in-aid for Science Research (B), 2019-2021 (19H01240, Hideyuki Yamamoto)

Opening Remarks

9:15AM - 9:20AM

Chair : **Prof. Yasuhito Shirai**
Kobe University

Opening remarks: **Prof. Hideyuki Yamamoto**
kobe University

Closing Remarks

4:55PM - 5:00PM

Prof. Denise E. Konan
University of Hawai'i



Session 1

9:20AM - 12:30PM

History and Literature of Japanese Americans in Hawaii

Chair :

Prof. Hideyuki Yamamoto

Kobe University

Guest Speaker : Prof. Rie Makino

Nihon University

Speakers :

Associate Prof. Alina E. Anton

Kobe University

Prof. Ruth Y. Hsu

University of Hawai'i

Prof. Shizue Osa

Kobe University

Commentator : Prof. Miriam Sharma

University of Hawai'i



Rie Makino

Professor
College of Commerce
Nihon University

Rie Makino is professor of English at Nihon University, College of Commerce. Her research interests include Asian American literature and transnational studies. She is the recipient of a Grant-in-aid for Scientific Research from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (2017–20). Her major publication is “Japanese Santa Claus: Levi-Strauss’ Perspective of Non-Assimilation and the Spirit of Charity in Karen Tei Yamashita’s *Through the Arc of the Rain Forest*” in *The American Review: The Japanese Association for American Studies* (2012).

Her essay on teaching Yamashita’s works, “*Brazil-Marú* and Racial Identities in Japanese Classrooms” will be published from MLA Books in 2020.

Juliet Kono and Her Local Hawaii: Glocalism in Tsunami Years

Abstract: The term “transbordering,” within the current context of Asian–American studies, illustrates a variety of meanings with regard to writers and their works: the physical mobility of a writer between his/her nation and host country; the writer’s psychological alienation, being unable to assimilate into his/her circumstance; and the writer’s privilege of intentionally rejecting a sense of belonging to one location. To understand “Asian American” realities, focus must shift from domestic issues within the United States. Japanese American writer and poet Juliet Kono’s works clearly depict some of the aspects of transbordering.

Last year, I received permission from Kono to translate her work *Tsunami Years* (1995) into Japanese. This paper is based on my experience of introducing her works to Japanese audiences by focusing on the abovementioned global and local issues. Kono, an editor of *Bamboo Ridge*, is generally known as a local writer in Hawaii, while at the same time, her being “local” implies an oxymoronic refrain of “globalism.”

Tsunami Years begins with Kono’s quotation of American poet Elizabeth Bishop’s poem “At the Fishhouses” from the collection titled *A Cold Spring*. “The Elizabeth Poems” is dedicated to her mother-in-law, Elizabeth Lee, who died after suffering from Alzheimer’s disease. In this poem, themes related to Kono’s white mother-in-law overlap with those related to Bishop, who was a canonical American writer who crossed racial and national borders. A tsunami stands as a symbol of the disruption of postcolonial politics between her and the two white Elizabeths as well as the disastrous experiences in life.

This paper, by focusing on the glocal elements in Kono’s works, explores her psychological transbordering as a significant element in her localism.



Alina-Elena Anton

Associate Professor
Graduate School of Humanities
and Faculty of Letters
Kobe University

Alina-Elena Anton specialises in American and Canadian cultural studies, with a particular focus on Japanese American and Japanese Canadian identity. Her research interests also include issues of otherness, transborderness and transculturality, contemporary Japanese literature in an international context, myth, memory and remembering, and more recently mystery and detective fiction. After obtaining her PhD in 2014, she came to Japan on a MEXT scholarship to conduct postdoctoral research on returnee Japanese Americans and Japanese Canadians at Kyoto University's Institute for Humanities. She is the author of several academic papers on Asian American topics, such as "The loved one is always the other" (*Romanian Journal of Artistic Creativity*, 2013) and "'The country I had thought was my home': David Mura's *Turning Japanese: Memoirs of a Sansei*" (*Zinbun: Annals of the Institute for Research in Humanities*, 2016).

At the End of the Rainbow: Nikkei Endeavors in Hawai'i

Abstract: On the island of Kauai, in 1835, a young man from Boston, William Hooper, visited a small sugar mill. Determined to advance the "progress of civilization," Hooper had been sent to the tropical island by a Honolulu mercantile firm financed by New England businessmen, with the mission of establishing the first sugar plantation in Hawaii. Very much a man of his time, Hooper was also in true alignment with Euro-American efforts to colonize the islands and bring the modern industrial order of productivity to the Pacific frontier. Fueled by an impulse to progress enshrined as necessity, expansionist America was decided not to let the land "lie in waste." Crucial in this exploitation was the entry of "strangers from a different shore"—from China, Japan, as well as Korea, the Philippines and India. Encouraged by word of mouth stories about opportunities in Hawaii, immigrants from Japan ventured to the islands most often as contract laborers and "picture brides," chasing hopes of economic betterment and the promise of "sweet" success. The presentation traces the historical efforts of Japanese Issei immigrants and their Nisei descendants to make a home and embed themselves in the Hawai'iian milieu as presented in Kazuo Miyamoto's book *Hawaii, End of the Rainbow* (1964). Using the concepts of *necessity* and *extravagance*, the discussion analyzes the way in which Miyamoto, a Hawaiian-born Nisei doctor and author, depicts "from the inside" important historical experiences of Japanese immigrants, from the difficulty of *hole hole* field work and grueling labor in plantation mills, to the dream of returning home and the challenge of rebuilding shattered lives after the conclusion of World War II. The relevance of Miyamoto's book lies in its bridging the story of Japanese Americans before and during the war, to encompass the "whole unhappy story."



Ruth Y. Hsu

Professor
University of Hawai'i

Professor Ruth Y. Hsu's research interests include Asian American literary and cultural studies, contemporary United States studies, the discursive intersections of nationalism, gender, racial and ethnic identity formations, and cultural transnationalism. She is co-editor with Professor Pamela Thoma (Washington State University) on a Modern Language Association volume titled, *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Karen Tei Yamashita* (forthcoming 2020); recent publications include chapters on the Netflix series, *Orange is the New Black*, Yamashita's *Tropic of Orange* and *Brazil Maru*. An essay on Witi Ihimaera's *The Whale Rider* is under consideration for a special issue of *Atlantic Studies: Global Currents*. Hsu received her doctorate in English from the University of Southern California, whereupon she received her appointment to the faculty of the University of Hawai'i as an Asian American specialist. She has lived in Singapore, Hong Kong, and Los Angeles. Currently, she resides in Honolulu.

On Not Turning Japanese American in Hawai'i: Literary Representations of National and Cultural Identities

Abstract: According to the US national Census in 2000, descendants of Japanese alone (not combined through intermarriage with other ethnic groups) constituted 16.7% of the total population of Hawai'i. Today, Japanese Americans are the second largest Asian group in the 50th State of the United States. This talk will focus on literature, plays, and films produced by Americans of Japanese descent who consider themselves local Japanese; the word, "local," refers to persons who have lived in Hawai'i their whole lives or for generations. The texts that I will analyze in this talk represent crucial events in the formation of local Japanese culture, which many local Japanese writers argue is unique from Japanese American culture in the continental US, and not to be conflated, that is, local Japanese have distinctive histories, culture, and literature from Japanese Americans in the US. This talk will analyze novels and a movie about the plantation experience, the arrest and internment of many Issei, and the origins and development of anti-Japanese sentiment and educational policies, including the Americanization program aimed at schoolchildren prior to the outbreak of World War II and the more recent concept of Asian settler colonialism aimed against all Asians in Hawai'i. In the first group, on plantations, I shall analyze Milton Murayama's *All I Asking For Is My Body*, and the 1994 film, *Picture Bride*; in the second group, on the incarceration of Issei, *Life Behind Barbed Wire: The World War II Internment Memoirs of a Hawai'i Issei* by Yasutaro Soga; and then this talk will examine the work of Lois-Ann Yamanaka, Richard Hamasaki, Lee Tonouchi's writing in Hawai'i Creole English, and the ongoing contribution of *Bamboo Ridge* journal to the distinctive oeuvre of local Japanese literature.



Shizue Osa

Professor
Graduate School of Intercultural Studies
Kobe University

She earned her Ph.D in Japanese History from Ritsumeikan University. Her specialized areas include modern Japanese history, especially, cultural history and gender history. She has taught at Kobe University since 2010. She published edited several books on Japanese gender history and war memory and two monographs in Japanese: *Modern Japan and Linguistic Nationalism*, and *Time, Space, and War Memory of US-Occupied Japan*.

Where were Nisei soldiers? - an examination of war memories from a gender perspective

Abstract: A typical example of categorizing people according to the attributes of their group, rather than treating them as individuals, can be found during periods of external war. It is important to examine people's recollections to discover where these groups were, what they did and how they were perceived. In particular, how is the collective identity of being "nationals of a country," the image of soldiers, and the strong gender role segregation among soldiers associated with war memory? Today, I will focus on how the war against Japan has been remembered and is recalled regarding Japanese-American soldiers, by covering three key topics.

The first topic is "what does the topic of Japanese-Americans during World War II remind people of?" Studies in the Japanese language on Japanese-American soldiers in the war against Japan have been accumulated from the perspective of intelligence media activities by the U.S during World War II, in particular, Nisei=Kibei.

The second topic is the memories and records pertaining to Japanese American soldiers in occupied Japan. In Japan, there are many compilations of people's testimonies on war memory, except for those about the occupation period, which are very scarce.

In addition, the occupation period, as defined by political history, is from September 1945 to April 1952. However, U.S. troops were still stationed at various places on the Japanese mainland in the mid-1950's.

Third topic is "Records and Memories on nisei female recruits". In the stage of total war, the boundaries between the frontline and the home front become blurred. During World War I, many colonial soldiers were mobilized to the battlefields. In World War II, military mobilization of women became a reality, though there were discussions as to whether women should be allowed to wear military uniforms and how differences in races or ethnic groups should be dealt with. Recent history studies have a keen interest in arguments regarding female recruits, not limited to socialist countries. Scholars of feminism, which is sounding an alarm on emphasizing either equality or difference, are also interested in this topic.

I believe that examining the occupation era in Japan, which directly followed experiences of warfare, allows interesting and profound observations.



Commentator

Miriam Sharma

Professor
Asian Studies
University of Hawai'i

Miriam Sharma is an Emerita Professor of Asian Studies at the University of Hawai'i where she has also taught in the Ethnic Studies and Sociology departments and the Honors Program, in addition to holding administrative positions.

She received a B.A. and M.A. in History; a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Hawai'i as well as engaging in postdoctoral work in Political Economy at the New School (New York). Her teaching interests are in contemporary Asian culture and society, Gender, Agrarian Relations, Migration, and Culture and Colonialism. Research and publications focus specifically on South Asia (especially North India). She has also taught "Gender Issues in Japan" and "Multicultural Japan" at Obirin University, Machida (fall 2017, Spring 2019).

Session 2

2:00PM - 4:55PM

Economics for Sustainable Society in Hawaii and Japan

Chair :

Prof. Tomoko Kinugasa

Kobe University

Keynote speech: Prof. Denise E. Konan

University of Hawai'i

Speakers :

Prof. Tomoko Kinugasa

Kobe University

Dr. Kimberly Burnett

University of Hawai'i



Keynote speech

Denise Eby Konan

Dean of the College of Social Sciences
Professor of the Department of Economics
University of Hawaii at Manoa

A noted international trade economist, Dr. Denise Eby Konan has worked extensively in Asia, the Middle East and North Africa. She has been a consultant to the World Bank, the Council of Foreign Relations, the Arab League, and governments of Egypt, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Hawai'i and publishes on issues of regional economic integration, trade in services, intellectual property rights, foreign direct investment and energy. Dr. Konan is a Research Fellow at the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization (UHERO) and founding Director of the Center for Sustainable Coastal Tourism at the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program. Dr. Konan served for two years as the Interim Chancellor and for three years as the Assistant Vice Chancellor of UHM. She received her undergraduate degree from Goshen College and her doctorate from the University of Colorado.

Impact of solar penetration on net electricity load profiles on Oahu, Hawaii

Abstract: This paper uses data provided by Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) for the period from September 2010 to May 2014. The study explores the effect of customer mix of each distributed transformer on the shape of load profiles along with their variability. Results suggest that in a more residential-concentrated area, net load generally has two peaks — morning and night, while a more commercial-or industrial-concentrated area exhibits one midday peak. The shape of a given areas' load profile is mostly influenced by its customer-mix and the time-of-day, while its load volatility is largely the result of weather patterns and the level of PV penetration. Since solar power typically exhibits different generation characteristics from power produced by other conventional sources, more precise solar forecasts enable electric system operators to better manage electricity generation with fluctuating solar output.

Keywords: Net electricity load, Customer mix, transformer, shape of load profile, load volatility, and PV penetration

JEL Classification: Q4, Q42



Chair

Tomoko Kinugasa

Professor
Graduate School of Economics
Kobe University

Tomoko KINUGASA is a Professor of Economics at Kobe University in Japan. She received her Ph.D. from University of Hawaii at Manoa. Her research interests include the effects of demographic change on saving and economic development, determinants of technical change and efficiency of agriculture, and regional development by promoting agriculture. She was a Visiting Scholar in the East-West Center in 2013-2014. She received the Murao Educational Foundation, Academic Award in 2017, the Association for Regional Agricultural and Forestry Economics Award in 2016 and the Abe Fellowship in 2012.

Challenges facing Japan under a Declining Population

Abstract: The population of Japan has been declining since 2008. In this lecture, I will talk about the effect of population on economy, how depopulation influences the Japanese economy in particular, and what necessary measures Japan should take in the face of population decline. Population can have both positive and negative effects on economy. Above all, the contribution of population as a source of technological progress through accumulation of knowledge and competition is important in Japan.

In a depopulated society, Japan is likely to suffer from a decline in labor force, and population aging will have a serious impact on social security such as medical and nursing care. Japan needs to try to increase fertility as much as possible to mitigate the negative effects of depopulation. In order to increase fertility, it is important to increase the marriage rate among younger generations. It is also important to create a society in which women can work while taking care of children. More women and more seniors will need to work in order to increase the labor force. In addition, accepting more foreign workers is important.

On the other hand, population aging and depopulation might have some benefits for Japan. In Japan, life expectancy is quite high and is continuing to slowly increase. People tend to save more because they expect to live longer after retirement. If the older generation's savings increase, capital accumulation will be promoted, and this will stimulate economic growth. In addition, less children could increase education expenditure per child, and this can contribute to economic growth. Japan will need to take advantage of these benefits by educating older people on how to save efficiently and by improving the education of the younger generation.

Furthermore, we should note that increased population could be harmful for the environment and that a declining population might be better in this respect. Rapid population aging will certainly cause many serious problems and taking steps to avoid these issues is important. However, Japan would need to place more emphasis on environmental issues and aim for sustainable growth.



Kimberly Burnett

Specialist
University of Hawaii
Economic Research Organization

Kimberly Burnett is faculty member with the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization. Her primary research interests include environmental and natural resource economics, invasive species management, and watershed management, particularly for Hawaii and the Pacific. Kimberly's publications and extramural grants have focused on invasive species and watershed management, groundwater management and the value of watershed conservation.

Linked natural resource management: Examples from Hawaii and Japan

Abstract: Natural systems in Hawaii and Japan share similar linkages regarding the relationship between management of land and sea. For example, in Hawaii the abundance of economically and culturally significant marine species has been shown to be related to nearshore water quality, which is often directly related to groundwater levels and corresponding management actions such as groundwater withdrawals and the protection of upland forests (Burnett et al. 2017, Wada et al. 2020). In Japan, withdrawal of groundwater may have important implications for economically and environmentally significant coastal fisheries (Burnett et al. 2018). Using a case study from both Hawaii and Japan, in this lecture I will discuss the importance of explicitly recognizing how natural systems are related, and jointly managing these resources in order to maximize economic, environmental, and social benefit.

In the first set of case studies, data from the Kiholo aquifer on the Kona Coast of Hawaii Island are used to numerically illustrate optimal joint management strategies and test the sensitivity of those strategies to variations in physical and behavioral parameter values. The main result is that protection of a culturally important algae species reduces net present value by \$12 million, but optimal investment in watershed conservation may offset that potential reduction by \$8 million.

In Japan, groundwater is used for a variety of activities, including household consumption, agriculture, and manufacturing. In Obama City, Japan for example, groundwater is used to melt snow (~13% of total groundwater use) during the winter, the remainder being used for mostly domestic purposes, such as drinking water. In this lecture I will discuss benefits and costs of this practice, given concern about the impacts of this snow-melting practice on nearshore marine resources. We find that the net benefit of continuing to use groundwater for snow-melting becomes negative only if the impact on fishery productivity is substantial.

Improving the understanding of connections spanning from mountain to sea and integrating those connections into decision models have been increasingly recognized as key to effective coastal resource management.

Burnett, K., C.A. Wada, M. Taniguchi, R. Sugimoto, and D. Tahara. 2018. Evaluating the Tradeoffs between Groundwater Pumping for Snow-Melting and Nearshore Fishery Productivity in Obama City, Japan. *Water*, 10, doi:10.3390/w10111556.

Burnett, K., C.A. Wada, A. Endo, and M. Taniguchi. 2017. The Economic Value of Groundwater in Obama. *Journal of Hydrology: Regional Studies*, 11: 44-52. doi:10.1016/j.ejrh.2015.10.002

Wada, C. A., S. Pongkijvorasin, and K. Burnett. 2020. Mountain-to-sea ecological-resource management: forested watersheds, coastal aquifers, and groundwater dependent ecosystems. *Resource and Energy Economics*, forthcoming.

Organizer



Hideyuki Yamamoto

Director, the Office of the Americas &
Honolulu Office of Kobe University
Professor, Graduate School of Humanities
Kobe University

Hideyuki YAMAMOTO is Professor of American Literature in the Graduate School of Humanities, and Faculty of Letters at Kobe University, Japan. He received his M.A. in English from Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan in 1989. He has taught at Kobe University since 1996. Awarded with Monbusho (Japan's Ministry of Education) research fellowship, he did research on Asian American literature and drama/theater as a Visiting Scholar in Asian American Studies Center at UCLA in 1998-99. Funded by the JSPS (Japan Society for Promotion of Science), he has done short-term research in the States numerous times and have published papers and books on Asian American literature and drama/theater for the past two decades. He has served as president of AALA (Asian American Literature Association) in Japan since 2017.



Yasuhito Shirai

Deputy Director, the Office of
the Americas of Kobe University
Professor, Department of Agrobioscience,
Graduate School of Agricultural Science
Kobe University

He obtained a Ph.D. in 1994 from Graduate school of agricultural science and then got the position as Assistant Professor at Graduate School of Science and Technology of Kobe University. During an assistant professor, he also worked as a visiting scholar at Zoology, University of Cambridge in 1995 and moved to Biosignal Research Center (BSRC) of Kobe University in 1997. After an experience as a visiting scholar in University California, San Diego from 2000-2001, he was promoted to an Associate Professor in the BSRC. He got a second Ph.D from school of medicine of Kobe University in 2005. Finally, in 2010, he was promoted to a Professor in Laboratory of Chemistry and Utilization of Animal Production Resources, Department of Agrobioscience, Graduate School of Agricultural Science. His major is a signal transduction research to develop functional food, medical food and medicine for diabetic dysfunctions, allergy and cancer etc, focusing diacylglycerol kinase and protein kinase C. He was awarded the prize of "Young Scientist Award of the Japanese Pharmacological Society in 2004.



Edited by

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