

AJJ 2026 at Akita University

Conference Schedule

May 23rd (Saturday) and May 24th (Sunday)

Day 1 – Saturday, May 23rd

Time	Session			
9:30 – 11:00		Registration		
11:10 – 11:20		Introductory Remarks		
11:30 – 1:00	Panel session 1 (90 min)	1 Marginalization & Standardization Chair: Dylan O'Brien Maiko Kodaka Dylan O'Brien Robert Dahlberg-Sears	2 Research Across Life Course Chair: Susanne Klien James D. Letson Susanne Klien Gordon Mathews	3 Community and Place Chair: John Mock Alyne Delaney John Mock Liliana Morais Andhika Wijaya
1:00 – 2:00		<i>Lunch Break</i> AJJ Business Meeting/AGM		
2:00 – 3:30	Panel session 2 (90 min)	4 Taking Soil Seriously (1) Chair: Gavin H. Whitelaw Donald Wood Jinjin Zhang David S. Sprague	5 Flexibility & Precarity Chair: Paul Hansen Atsushi Takeda Michael K. Peters Irena Hu	6 Gender and Embodiment Chair: Celia Spoden Qing Xin Maria Ortega Sayako Ono
3:30 – 3:45		Break (15 min)		
3:45 – 5:15	Panel session 3 (90 min)	7 Taking Soil Seriously (2) Chair: Gavin H. Whitelaw Gavin H. Whitelaw Caleb Carter Tom Gill	8 Nightlife Chair: Maiko Kodaka Ethan Fiege Stephen Tian-You Ai Adam Dillon	9 Quixotic Entanglements Chair: Andreas Riessland Mariia Ermilova Felix Borthwick Roman Pasca
5:15 – 5:30		Break (15 min)		
5:30 – 6:30	Keynote Speech	Nakamaki Hirochika Professor Emeritus, National Museum of Ethnology 日本の人類学における日本の人類学的研究—AJJの前と後 “Anthropology of Japan in Japanese Anthropology before and after AJJ” (presentation in Japanese)		
6:30-7:00		Move to Reception Venue		
7:00 – 9:00	Event/ Reception	At the Akita City Cultural Creation Center/Bunka Sōzōkan Akita-shi Senshū Meitoku-chō 3-16 秋田市千秋明德町 3-16 秋田市文化創造館		

Day 2 – Sunday, May 24th

Time	Session			
9:00 – 10:30	Panel session 4 (90 min)	10 Reverberations of 3/11 (1) Tsunami Chair: Satsuki Takahashi Taichi Uchio Maho Yamazaki Shūhei Kimura	11 The Learning Habitus Chair: Gordon Mathews Anastasia Krutikova Aline Henninger Marco Di Francesco	
10:30 – 10:45	Break (15 min)			
10:45 – 12:15	Panel session 5 (90 min)	12 Reverberations of 3/11 (2) Meltdowns and beyond Chair: Shūhei Kimura Xue Yang Satsuki Takahashi Sebastien Boret	13 Sensing Value Chair: Michael Shackleton Greg de St. Maurice Susan Paige Taylor Josh Feng	14 Archive/Media Chair: Kaeko Chiba Kaeko Chiba Deanna Holroyd Fanni Herczeg
12:15 – 12:30	Break (15 min)			
12:30 – 2:00	Panel session 6 (90 min)	15 Marginal Fieldwork Chair: Shimpei Miyagawa Shimpei Miyagawa Srijion Barua Zev Pinter	16 Solidarity in Disruption Chair: Andrea de Antoni Hasnaa Halid Tricia Okada Wan Yin Fung	17 Matsuri Encounters Chair: Hisako Omori Nadia Inserra Abigail Meyer Yan Meilun
2:00 – 3:00	Showing of the film <i>Mark: A Call to Action</i> (2024) on the life of Mark Bookman <i>Judges retreat to discuss Befu and Bookman prizes</i>			
3:00	Announcement of the Winners of the Harumi Befu and Mark Bookman Prizes			

PROGRAMME

May 23rd (Saturday) and May 24th (Sunday)

Day 1 – Saturday, May 23rd

9:30-11:00 Registration

11:10-11:20 Introductory remarks by Paul Hansen and Tom Gill

<p>11:30 – 1:00</p> <p><u>1. Marginalization and Standardization</u></p> <p>Chair: Dylan O’Brien (Temple University Japan)</p>	<p><u>Maiko Kodaka (Sophia University)</u> Living with an Imagined Ideal: Male Vulnerability and Romance in Japan</p> <p><u>Dylan O’Brien (Temple University Japan)</u> Towards a Phenomenology of Misperception: Jewish (In)visibility and the Optics of Otherness in Multicultural Japan</p> <p><u>Robert Dahlberg-Sears (Independent Scholar)</u> Cultivating Civic Belonging in the Public Park: Space and Folk Memory in Shakujii-Kōen</p>
<p>11:30 – 1:00</p> <p><u>2. Research Across Life Course</u></p> <p>Chair: Susanne Klien (Hokkaido University)</p>	<p><u>James Letson (Hokkaido University)</u> <i>Papa, kaeritai yo!</i> Family, fieldwork, and fatherhood “in the field.”</p> <p><u>Susanne Klien (Hokkaido University)</u> Different Shades of Fatigue: Weariness, Meaning and Fieldwork</p> <p><u>Gordon Mathews (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)</u> My Friends/Informants Over Five Decades: Love, Loss, and Qualms</p>
<p>11:30 – 1:00</p> <p><u>3. Community and Place</u></p> <p>Chair: John Mock (Temple University)</p>	<p><u>Alyne E. Delaney (Tohoku University)</u> Between Sea and Society: Embodied Research and Lived Experiences of Connections and Resilience in Coastal Japan</p> <p><u>John Mock (Temple University Japan)</u> This Old (Tea) House: Preservation and Identity in Peripheral Japan</p> <p><u>Liliana Morais (Rikkyo University)</u> Beyond “Revitalization”: Sensory Encounters through Convivial Craft in Rural Japan</p> <p><u>Andhika Wijaya (Tohoku University)</u> Stories from Dispossessed Pasts: Embodying Local History in Tourism Practices of the Tsugaru Region</p>

1:00-2:00 Lunch Break
AJJ Business Meeting

<p>2:00 – 3:30</p> <p><u>4. Taking Soil Seriously (1)</u></p> <p>Chair: Gavin H. Whitelaw (Harvard University)</p>	<p><u>Donald C. Wood (Akita University)</u> Unearthing Soil-centered Householding in 1930s Japan: Yoshida Saburō's 1938 Nichiroku as the Record of a Family's Lived Experience</p> <p><u>Jinjin Zhang (Chinese University of Hong Kong / Harvard Yenching Institute)</u> Data-Soil: Setting Foot on Our Digital Furusato</p> <p><u>David S. Sprague (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies / Temple University Japan)</u> Children of the Soil Come to Town, or Do They?</p>
<p>2:00 – 3:30</p> <p><u>5. Flexibility & Precarity</u></p> <p>Chair: Paul Hansen (Akita University)</p>	<p><u>Atsushi Takeda (Ritsumeikan University)</u> Tourism, Mobility, and Multiculturalism in a Japanese Ski Resort</p> <p><u>Michael K. Peters (Shizuoka University)</u> Reflexivity Towards the Flexibility of Citizenship: Making Meaning of Naturalization Through the Journeys of Professional Athletes in the Japanese B. League</p> <p><u>Irena Hu (Duke University)</u> Imagining Tokyo, Sensing Precarity: Taiwanese Women in Yoshiwara and the Ethics of Ethnographic Withholding</p>
<p>2:00-3:30</p> <p><u>6. Gender and Embodiment</u></p> <p>Chair: Celia Spoden (University of Tokyo)</p>	<p><u>Qing Xin (Princeton University)</u> Working Through Dearth, Dissatisfaction, and (Un)Desirability: Japanese Female Genital Cosmetic Surgeons in a Feminized Landscape of Harm and Healing</p> <p><u>Maria Ibari Ortega (University of the Arts of Yucatan)</u> Ethics at the Edge of Sensation: Corporeal Plasticity and the Saturation of Being.</p> <p><u>Sayako Ono (University of Tokyo)</u> Japanese Male Ballet Dancers and Embodied Aesthetic Norms</p>

3:30-3:45 Break

<p>3:45 – 5:15</p> <p><u>7. Taking Soil Seriously (2)</u></p> <p>Chair: Gavin H. Whitelaw (Harvard University)</p>	<p><u>Gavin H. Whitelaw (Harvard University)</u> Rotting Relations: Leaf Litter, Soil, and Satoyama Stewardship in Urban Japan</p> <p><u>Caleb Carter (Kyushu University)</u> Volcanic Landscapes of Ritual: Reimagining Late Nineteenth-Century Séances on Mount Ontake</p> <p><u>Tom Gill (Meiji Gakuin University)</u> Soiled Ideals: How the obsession with land destroyed rural communities after the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster</p>
<p>3:45 – 5:15</p> <p><u>8. Nightlife</u></p> <p>Chair: Maiko Kodaka (Sophia University)</p>	<p><u>Ethan Fiege (Ritsumeikan University)</u> Dealing with Nightlife Over Tourism in Kyoto: A Study on Kyoto’s Mainstream Clubbing Scene</p> <p><u>Stephen Tian-You Ai (Harvard University / Niigata University)</u> Anikura’s Database Intimacy: Remix, Beats, and Tactility</p> <p><u>Adam Dillon (Griffith University)</u> “Which costume do I wear tonight?” - Drinking, Listening and Transitioning between Tokyo’s Trans and Metal Scenes</p>
<p>3:45 – 5:15</p> <p><u>9. Quixotic Entanglements</u></p> <p>Chair: Andreas Riessland (Nanzan University)</p>	<p><u>Mariia Ermilova (Hōsei University)</u> Too Hot to Play: Sensing Summer Heat and Childhood Displacement in Tokyo</p> <p><u>Felix Borthwick (Duke University)</u> Right to Residence: The (Non)Politics of Public Housing Governance in Contemporary Japan</p> <p><u>Roman Paşca (Akita University)</u> Who Chooses Whom? The Life, Emotions, and Dilemmas of a Researcher in Akita</p>
<p>5:15 to 5:30: Break 5:30-6:30 Keynote Speech</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Nakamaki Hirochika “Anthropology of Japan in Japanese Anthropology before and after AJJ” (in Japanese)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">6:30-7:00: Move to Reception Venue</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">7:00-9:00: Reception at the Akita City Cultural Creation Center/Bunka Sōzōkan Akita-shi Senshū Meitoku-chō 3-16 秋田市千秋明德町 3-16 秋田市文化創造館</p>	

Day 2 – Sunday, May 24th

<p>9:00 – 10:30</p> <p><u>10. Reverberations of 3/11(1) Tsunami</u></p> <p>Chair: Satsuki Takahashi (Hōsei University)</p>	<p><u>Taichi Uchio (Shizuoka University of Art and Culture)</u> 3.11 and Its Disaster-Affected Sphere: The Transnationality of Disaster through Tsunami, Marine Debris, and Invasive Species</p> <p><u>Maho Yamazaki (Tōhoku Gakuin University)</u> Narrating the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami from the Boundaries of the “Community of the Disaster-Affected”</p> <p><u>Shūhei Kimura (Tsukuba University)</u> To Live with Waves of Disasters</p>
<p>9:00 – 10:30</p> <p><u>11. The Learning Habitus</u></p> <p>Chair: Gordon Mathews (Chinese University of Hong Kong)</p>	<p><u>Anastasia Krutikova (Waseda University)</u> Lived Education and Cultural Difference in French International Schools in Japan</p> <p><u>Aline Henninger (University of Orléans)</u> Doing Fieldwork at Primary School about Sex Education</p> <p><u>Marco Di Francesco (Independent Scholar)</u> Embodiment and Entanglement in the World of Rakugo Oral Storytelling</p>

10:30 – 10:45, Break (15 min)

<p>10:45 – 12:15</p> <p><u>12. Reverberations of 3/11 (2) Meltdowns</u></p> <p>Chair: Shūhei Kimura (Tsukuba University)</p>	<p><u>Yang Xue (Independent Researcher)</u> Sensing the Frontier: A Response to Emptiness in Namie, Fukushima prefecture</p> <p><u>Satsuki Takahashi (Hōsei University)</u> Entrained Life: Fish That Draw Humans into Care</p> <p><u>Sébastien P. Boret (Tōhoku University)</u> Wellbeing in the Face of Adversity: Human Rights as a Means of Resistance and Resilience in Contemporary Asia</p>
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<p>10:45 – 12:15</p> <p><u>13. Sensing Value</u></p> <p>Chair: Michael Shackleton (Osaka Gakuin University)</p>	<p><u>Greg de St. Maurice (Keio University)</u> Making Sense of Okinawan Coffee and its Valuations</p> <p><u>Susan Paige Taylor (Waseda University)</u> The Smell of Old Books, or Lack Thereof: Embodiment and Discourses of Scent</p> <p><u>Josh Feng (University of California, Berkeley)</u> Learning Sweetness: Sensory Labor and the Making of the Miyazaki Mango</p>
<p>10:45 – 12:15</p> <p><u>14. Archive/Media</u></p> <p>Chair: Kaeko Chiba (Akita International University)</p>	<p><u>Kaeko Chiba (Akita International University)</u> Sensory Digital Archives and Revitalization in Post-Growth Akita</p> <p><u>Deanna Holroyd (Akita International University)</u> Recalibrating the Field after Career Relocation to Japan: Rethinking the Digital Fieldsite in Transnational Social Media Ethnography</p> <p><u>Fanni Herczeg (Ritsumeikan University)</u> Narrating Nuclear Incidents: Hegemony Supplementing a Non-Securitised Approach in Japanese News Media, 1991-2010</p>

12:15 – 12:30, Break (15 min)

<p>12:30 – 2:00</p> <p><u>15. Marginal Fieldwork</u></p> <p>Chair: Shimpei Miyagawa (Temple University Japan)</p>	<p><u>Shimpei Miyagawa (Temple University Japan)</u> Enchanted Infrastructures: Bangladesh's Quasi-Industrial Metal Work and Japan's Quasi-Industrial Saké Work</p> <p><u>Srijon Barua (Temple University Japan)</u> Enchanted Infrastructures... / On the Precipice of Guerrilla Altruism (or Vice Versa)</p> <p><u>Zev Pinter (Temple University Japan)</u> The Mental Health Experience of Foreigners in Japan</p>
<p>12:30 – 2:00</p> <p><u>16. Solidarity in Disruption</u></p> <p>Chair: Andrea de Antoni (Kyoto University)</p>	<p><u>Hasnaa Haziqah Abd. Halid (Ritsumeikan University)</u> Feeling Solidarity: Youth Political Culture, Affect, and Pro-Palestinian Activism in Kyoto</p> <p><u>Tricia Okada (Tamagawa University)</u> Phenomenologies of Loss and Migration: (No) Rules for Healing</p> <p><u>Wan Yin Kimberly Fung (Hitotsubashi University)</u> After the Aftermath: Attending to and Passing by the Ashio-Watarase River Region</p>

<p>12:30 – 2:00</p> <p>17. Matsuri Encounters</p> <p>Chair: Hisako Omori (Akita International University)</p>	<p><u>Incoronata (Nadia) Inserra (University of Tokyo)</u> Practicing Socially-Engaged Ethnography in Japan: Personal and Methodological Reflections on Manazuru's Kibune Matsuri</p> <p><u>Abigail Meyer (University of Leeds)</u> Negotiating Belonging through Participation in Matsuri: Reflecting on Own Experiences as an Impetus for Research</p> <p><u>Yan Meilun (University of Tokyo)</u> Attuning Bodies in Everyday Life: Proximity, Risk, and Living by Constraint in Japan</p>
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<p>2:00 – 3:00</p>
<p>Showing of the Film: <i>Mark: A Call to Action</i>, about the life and career of Mark Bookman Judges retreat to discuss Befu and Bookman prizes</p>

<p>3:00: Announcement of the Winners of the Harumi Befu and Mark Bookman Prizes</p>

End of the Conference