

On Parasite Singles and Pagoda-shaped Population Pyramids

The Demographic Thesaurus from a Multilingual and Intercultural Perspective

by Matthias Koch

The interdisciplinary character of demography, the fast development of its subareas, and the unequal development of English, Japanese and German demography make an up-to-date, encyclopaedic, and user-friendly research tool highly desirable for international demographic research. DIJ's new *Trilingual Glossary of Demographic Terminology* meets this need.

Population pyramid, *Bevölkerungspyramide*, *jinkō piramidō*, also known as *age pyramid*, *Alterspyramide* and *nenrei piramidō* – these are the English, German and Japanese terms employed to describe population structures by age and sex. The term made its way from demographic lingo through school books and newspapers into everyday-language quite early. Its most classical version is based on the unrealistic assumption that population will continue to increase constantly. In reality, this idealised population pyramid represents a demographic snap-shot indicating the historic and political circumstances under which the term was created.

Nowadays, the word *population pyramid* is widely used to describe deviations from the ideal, i.e. it often appears as a *contradictio in adiecto*. Depending on the respective cultures and languages, the actual figures can be bell-, spindle-, gourd-, pear-, mitre-, leaf-, pagoda-, mushroom-, or Christmas tree-shaped. Does a population pyramid actually look like one, it is required for English, German and Japanese to explicitly refer to it as a *triangular-shaped population pyramid* (German *dreieckige Bevölkerungspyramide*; Japanese *sankakukei no jinkō piramidō*), or as a *Fuji-shaped population pyramid* (German *Fuji-förmig*; Japanese *Fujisan-gata no jinkō piramidō*).

The same holds true for the antonym. Demographers in post-industrial countries such as Germany or Japan call the expected inversion of the population pyramid and the implosion of society, due to overageing and to a young population deficit, *umgekehrte Bevölkerungspyramide* and *jinkō gyaku piramidō* or *gyaku sankakukei no jinkō piramidō* [*inverted population pyramid*].

In the case of pagoda-shaped population pyramids, definitely not a word from the Anglo-American or German language area, it is quite difficult to find English and German equivalents for the Japanese *buttōgata no jinkō piramidō* and *pagodagata no jinkō piramidō*.

Country- and culture-specific expressions, as well as not clearly-marked differences between scientific and popular scientific termini, can complicate literal translations from English to German to Japanese. The Japanese term *parasaito shinguru* [English *parasite singles*; German *parasitäre Singles*], for instance, sounds like a rather unimaginative calque of the English term; it is, however, pure English made in Japan. Yamada Masahiro, a Japanese sociologist, created the term in his book *Parasaito shinguru no jidai* [The age of the parasite singles], published in 1999. Yamada defines these "social parasites" as singles in their Twenties or early Thirties, living with and being maintained by their parents.

Language change, scientific progress, the tendency of technical terminology towards standardisation, and scientific globalisation have generated numerous synonyms and loan translations. Especially in demography the steadily growing influence of English as a lingua franca is obvious. Examples range from *replacement migration* (German *Ersatzmigration*; Japa-

nese *hojū imin*), over *parent support ratio* (German *intergenerationelle Unterstützungsrage*; Japanese *oyajinkō fuyō shisū*), to *parity progression ratio* (German *Paritätsprogressionsquote*, Japanese *pariti kakudairitsu*), and *total fertility rate* (German *Fertilitätsrate*, Japanese *gōkei tokushu shusshōritsu*). Beautiful German termini technici do of course exist, for example *zusammengefasste Fertilitätsrate*, *zusammengefasste Fruchtbarkeitsrate*, *zusammengefasste Geburtenrate*, *Gesamtfertilitätsrate*, and *Gesamtfuchtbarkeitsrate*.

Each term comes with its own history. In some cases its origin is not quite certain, such as in *Rassenhygiene* (English *racial hygiene*, Japanese *minzoku eiseigaku*), *Herrenrasse* (English *master race*, Japanese *shihaiha minzoku*) or *Gebärmaschinen* (English *birth-giving machine*, Japanese *kodomo o umu kikai*). When apparently out-dated expressions, such as *birth-giving machine*, are again used in public one becomes aware of the fact that in a trilingual thesaurus of demography there is no such thing as an obsolete term. In fact, this was the case of Japan's 71 year-old health minister Hakuo Yanagisawa,

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who recently made use of the term to remind Japanese females of their civic duties. The *Gebärmaschinen-Debatte* [birth-giving machine debate], initiated by the German bishop Walter Mixa at about the same time, showed that the term has a clearly negative connotation in Germany.

Termini used only seldom or in special historic contexts can sound awkward, especially if they have more than one synonym. This holds true for sequences as well. The German *Bevölkerungsweise*, for instance, can be translated as *demographic regime*, *population regime* and *mode of population* in English and as *jinkō taisei*, *jinkō yōshiki* and *reki-shiteki shakaiteki jinkō yōshiki* in Japanese. In the case of termini with the same meaning, only meaningful synonyms should be used.

Whether or not evolutionary, cognitive, mechanistic, organismic, and psychosocial theories of ageing, such as the wear-and-tear theory of ageing, the activity theory of ageing, the genetic control theory of ageing, the telomerase theory of ageing, the gerotranscendence theory, the cross-linkage theory of ageing, and the free radical theory of ageing, can be expressed in English, Japanese and German depends on whether they are established in the subareas of demography in the respective countries, namely in population geography, biodemography, historical demography, mathematical-statistical-theoretical demography, medical demography, political demography, social demography, population sociology, and in economic demography.

It is to be hoped that the *Trilingual Glossary of Demographic Terminology* will be of use to many scholars around the world.

CURRENT RESEARCH

Housing and Living Arrangements in the Ageing Society

Living needs change with age. Increased disability-free life expectancy of the young elderly, and statistically deteriorating health of persons over 75 imply different housing requirements.

So far, most of the elderly in Japan are being cared for by their families, especially by their own children. A rather small number of people spend their waning days in nursing homes or

in hospitals. Increasingly, however, the families can no longer offer the necessary nursing care. This is partly due to a changing family structure characterised by a smaller number of children. The fact that women (wives, daughters, daughters-in-law), who traditionally shouldered the burden of nursing the elderly, often have jobs has brought about new challenges, too. Moreover, a growing number of old people do not want to be a nuisance to their families. In combination these changes necessitate new housing options for senior citizens. Nowadays a variety of choices is available.

Thanks to the Long Term Care Insurance System enacted in 2000 and the availability of cheap renovation loans the frequent wish to stay within one's own four walls can often be realized. Old people can also choose from a variety of housing provided by commercial and public suppliers with different levels of assisted living at different prices.

So far alternative forms of living have been of minor importance. Apartment buildings with new living concepts designed especially for the elderly were planned after the Hanshin earthquake in 1995. Forced by the need to provide the older citizens, who had been affected a lot more by the earthquake than the other age groups, with housing and, if necessary, to supply them with nursing facilities and protect them against isolation in unfamiliar surroundings, a new form of housing called "collective housing" has been developed. "Collective housing" grants the occupants an autonomous living space, but simultaneously offers generous common space. This concept has spread to other regions of Japan since, but not without being adapted to the specific surroundings and priorities of the respective tenants. The integration into the neighbouring community, as well as cooperation with nursing homes and day-care facilities for children are possible features, joint activities of the occupants and mutual help are common practise, multigenerationality is often welcome. Other projects incorporating collaborative planning and ownership of housing (cooperative housing), thus requiring a high degree of cooperation from the very start, are heading in a similar direction.

In her research Maren Godzik is examining the living conditions of people over 65. Demographic change is of such a kind that existing housing will not suffice in the future. How will housing and living be affected by the changes in the demographic structure of Japan? The government's social pol-

icy and the presetting of the real estate market will have to be taken into account as well. Particular attention will have to be paid to the following questions: What kind of housing do old people prefer? What is the role of the family when one of its members reaches old age? What are the prerequisites to the new forms of housing? What are the pros and cons of alternative forms of housing/living? Is it likely that they will be largely accepted in the future? These are some of the questions which will have to be looked into by means of key person interviews and case studies.

PhD projects

Performing Gender on Stage from a New Perspective: Women Challenging the Male World of Japanese Nō-Theatre in the Dynamics of Modernisation and Internationalisation

Japanese Nō-theatre is often perceived as an exclusively male performing art which has been preserved completely unchanged for over 600 years. Yet, as a living art, it has been undergoing continuous alteration. For example, Nō experienced a radical change when the Shogunate collapsed after the Meiji Restoration and the actors lost their former patrons. At the turn of the 19th century, Nō was reevaluated again because it was employed as a means to showcase the refinements of Japanese culture. This trend gave rise to a dramatical increase of female amateurs and to a need for female professionals to teach them. Since that time, women have been challenging the notion of Nō as an exclusively male performing art, and Nō critics and performers have been engaging in debates on the role of women in Nō. Particularly since 1948, when women were officially admitted as professional Nō performers, their number has been increasing continuously. Yet, the existence of female professionals in Nō has been widely ignored in scholarly research.

The thesis of Barbara Geilhorn is a first attempt to fill this gap. It analyses in detail the situation of women in Nō, which differs greatly depending on the schools or even troupes. The focus is on the performing and training conditions of professional female performers preparing for the lead role (*shite-kata*) in contemporary Tokyo. *Shite-kata* make up the majority of professionals (over 70%). According to Barbara Geilhorn's research, 17% of the professional Nō performers in 2003 were female while



the highest proportion of actresses, over 20% on average, was found among actors of the lead role. Thus, women in Nō have become a relevant but unrecognized factor.

Yet, attitudes towards female Nō performers are about to change. The appointment of the first 22 women as "Important Intangible Cultural Properties" in July 2004 illustrates this trend. As a consequence, in March 2007 the first actresses appeared in the monthly performances arranged by the National Nō Theatre. Even though this marks an important step in the history of women on the Nō-stage, it is not likely to promote any significant improvement in the situation of actresses. In a time where experiments with new modes of expression become accepted even in Nō, female performers could contribute to the efforts to create performances that attract the interest of contemporary audiences.

Freeter and "Generation Internship". Changing attitudes toward working life in Germany and Japan

Economic recession, rising unemployment and an increase in non-regular employment have transformed the Japanese and the German labour market. At the beginning of the 21st century, a generation of newcomers enter working life under changed conditions. In her PhD project, Carola Hommerich analyses the consequences of rising unemployment and non-regular employment on their perceived chances on the labour market. Are there any measurable changes in attitudes towards work? With comparable levels of economic development, but different cultural backgrounds, Germany and Japan pose examples of industrialized nations that allow for a comparative analysis of the influence of economic circumstances on social values from a cross-cultural perspective.

Carola Hommerich argues that a worsening of socio-economic circumstances leads to a higher valuation of economic security and to less emphasis on post-material work values. To test this research hypothesis, she makes use of a mix of qualitative and quantitative empirical methods. For the qualitative interviews, she chose two groups of non-regular employees for each country: In Japan she interviewed 30 *freeter*, in Germany 30 members of the 'Generation Internship'. As members of both groups face new insecurities and constraints of the labour market, as well as with the way their situation is publicly discussed, it can be assumed that their perception of the situ-

ation has a direct influence on the estimation of their own chances when entering working life, and that it will result in an adaptation of expectations of and attitudes toward work.

A specific combination of materialist and post-materialist work values could be found in these groups: A *precarious post-materialist* for whom materialistic values such as economic and physical security gain importance in the face of worsening chances on the labour market and the deflation of the social welfare state. At the same time, this type highly values post-materialist orientations such as self-realization through employment.

In a secondary analysis of quantitative values surveys, Carola Hommerich is currently testing whether a long-term shift of attitudes toward work, triggered by socioeconomic changes, can be verified for Germany and Japan in a more general sense. She is comparing work values of various cohorts using data of the "World Values Survey", the "International Social Survey Programme" focusing on "Work Orientations" as well as the Japanese "Study of National Character".

DIJ EVENTS

Workshop: Nihon no gengo / moji seikatsu [Language and Script Life in Japan]

On March 15, the DIJ hosted a workshop entitled "Nihon no gengo/moji seikatsu" [Language and Script Life in Japan]. Organized jointly with the National Institute for Japanese Language, the workshop dealt with problems concerning written language usage and methods for its empirical study. The presentations were given in Japanese. The program was as follows:

- Welcoming remarks (Florian Coulmas)
- Language life research by the National Institute for Japanese Language (Yokoyama Shoichi & Yoneda Junko, National Institute for Japanese Language)
- Using the internet for studying simplified Kanji characters (Takada Tomokazu, National Institute for Japanese Language)
- Inoue Tetsujiro's studies in Europe and the multilingual format of his

1881 Dictionary of Philosophy (Sanada Haruko, Saitama Gakuen University)

- Regional differences in sign writing: The case of "sushi" (Sasahara Tomoyuki, Waseda University)
- GPS supported linguistic landscape research: A case study from Kyoto (Touyama Hideo, International Research Institute for Zen Buddhism)
- Multilingual life in the linguistic landscape (Peter Backhaus)

DIJ Study Groups

The DIJ hosts study groups in the fields of business & economics, history & humanities, and social sciences. The study groups are intended as forums for Ph.D. candidates and young scholars in the respective fields. They usually meet once a month to present and discuss ongoing research projects in an informal atmosphere. Should you be interested in participating we kindly invite you to get in touch with the organizers: Volker Elis and Florian Köhlbacher for the Business & Economics Study Group, Peter Backhaus and Andrea Germer for the History & Humanities Study Group, Maren Godzik, Barbara Holthus, Ralph Lützel and Gabriele Vogt for the Social Science Study Group.

DIJ PUBLICATIONS

Matthias Koch, Claus Harmer and Florian Coulmas: *Trilingual Glossary of Demographic Terminology: English-Japanese-German, Japanese-English-German, German-Japanese-English. Sankakokugo taishō jinkōgaku yōgoshū. Ei-Nichi-Doku, Nichi-Ei-Doku, Doku-Nichi-Ei* 『三か国語対照人口学用語集 英日独・日英独・独日英』 *Dreisprachiges Glossar der Demographie: Englisch-Japanisch-Deutsch, Japanisch-Englisch-Deutsch, Deutsch-Japanisch-Englisch*. Leiden, Boston: Brill Academic Publishers, 2007, ISBN 978-9004154-76-6, x, 924 pp., € 149 / US\$ 199 / ¥ 28,090

This glossary is an up-to-date research tool for population studies in English, Japanese and German. Based on the technical literature, encyclopaedias, databases and existing glossaries in the three languages listed as well as other relevant languages in which demo-





graphic research is carried out, it comprises 7,828 technical terms accessible in three directions: English-Japanese-German, Japanese-English-German and German-Japanese-English.

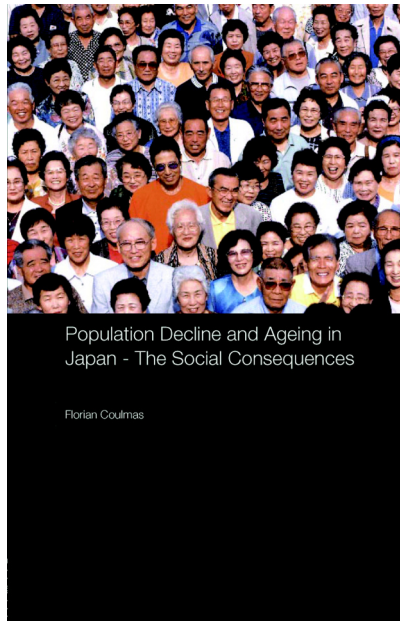
Scientific fields covered include social demography, population geography, political demography, economic demography, historical demography, medical demography, biodemography, mathematical demography, as well as some adjacent fields such as psychology, law, technology, religion, linguistics and education. This wide range of disciplines testifies to the fact that population dynamics have implications for scientific research beyond the narrow confines of formal demography (pure demography). Because of social ageing, falling birth rates and population decline in most industrialised countries, population-driven changes are felt in many areas. The result is a proliferation of terminology. During the past two decades, many new terms have been coined in the various disciplines and in the three languages dealt with here, often without any attempt at coordination or standardisation.

It is the purpose of the authors with this glossary to present the evolving nomenclature in the population sciences including recent lexical innovations and thus provide a state-of-the-art terminological link between the three languages. Each term included in the glossary was checked for accuracy and contextual appropriateness. In many cases one term in one language corresponds to two or several terms in the other two languages. Where alternative or rival terms are in currency, the order of listing reflects frequency of occurrence. English and German entries are arranged in alphabetical order, Jap-

anese entries in the conventional aiueo order of Japanese lexicography.

Comments and suggestions for additional entries to be included in future editions, addressed to demogloss@dij-tokyo.org, will be greatly appreciated.

Florian Coulmas: *Population Decline and Ageing in Japan – The Social Consequences*. London, New York: Routledge, 2007, ISBN: 9780415401258, 176 pp., £ 75.00



This book presents a comprehensive analysis of one of the most pressing challenges facing Japan today: population decline and ageing.

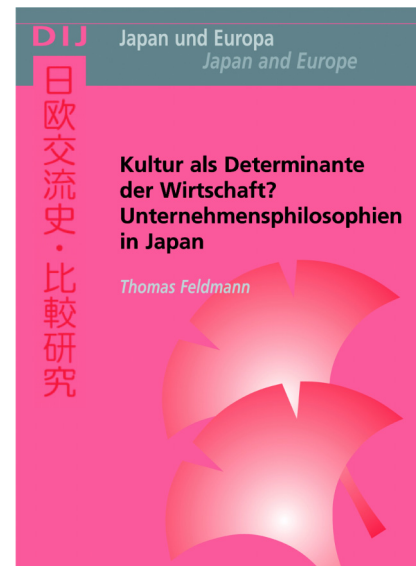
It argues that social ageing is a phenomenon that follows in the wake of industrialization, urbanization and social modernization, bringing about changes in values, institutions, social structures, economic activity, technology and culture, and posing many challenges for the countries affected. Focusing on the experience of Japan, the author explores:

- how Japan has recognized the emerging problems relatively early because during the past half century population ageing has been more rapid in Japan than in any other country
- how all of Japanese society is affected by social ageing, not just certain substructures and institutions, and explains its complex causes, describes the resulting challenges and analyses the solutions under consideration to deal with it
- the nature of Japan's population dynamics since 1920, and argues that Japan is rapidly moving in the direction of a 'hyperaged society' in which those sixty-five or older

account for twenty-five per cent of the total population

- the implications for family structures and other social networks, gender roles and employment patterns, health care and welfare provision, pension systems, immigration policy, consumer and voting behaviour and the cultural reactions and ramifications of social ageing.

Thomas Feldmann: *Kultur als Determinante der Wirtschaft? Unternehmensphilosophien in Japan* [Does Culture Influence the Economy? Corporate Philosophies in Japan] (DIJ-Series Japan and Europe. Historical Relations and Comparative Studies). München: Iudicium, 2007, ISBN 978-3-89129-872-5, 141 pp., € 16,90



The present work is concerned with cultural values and their influence on economic phenomena. It is based on an interdisciplinary framework drawing on economics, cultural anthropology, organization culture studies, and psychology. Based on a discussion of culture concepts and on various approaches dealing with the cultural influence on the economy, the theoretical part focuses on organization cultures.

Japan's corporate philosophies as a cultural form of expression of corporations are at the center of attention. Culturally formed elements of the ideology of corporate personalities as well as corporate strategies are expressed by corporate philosophies. There is a traditional historic foundation of corporate philosophies in Japan. In addition, these philosophies are more widespread and deep-rooted in Japan than in Europe or the United States.



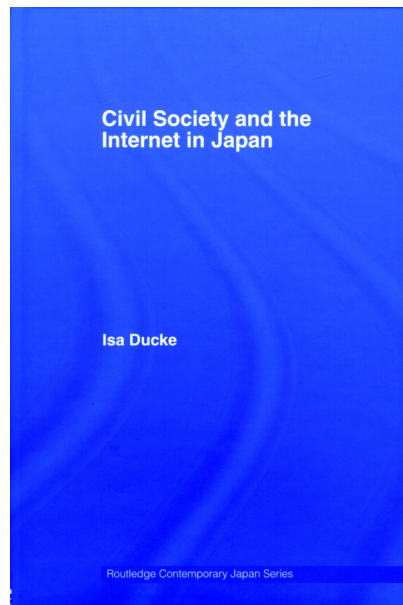
The author identifies various key terms by examining three case studies on corporate identity, including Matsushita, Honda, and Toyota. They serve as a basis for the subsequent content analysis of thirty Japanese corporate philosophies. It is hypothesized that internationally and globally acting Japanese corporations are less influenced by Japanese culture than nationally acting corporations. Fifteen Nikkei 225-listed (First Section) corporations and fifteen Second Section-listed corporations are examined in order to test this hypothesis.

The examination shows that small corporations are indeed less internationally oriented, and that they rather highlight traditional cultural elements. The traditionally established notions of Japanese culture are, on the other hand, less prominent. Japanese corporations that are influenced by external processes can be understood as sources of cultural change. The author finally observes a process of change from a traditionally defined to a rather international Japanese culture.

Isa Ducke: *Civil Society and the Internet in Japan*. London, New York: Routledge, 2007, ISBN 10-0-4-15-41864-X, 194 pp., £ 70.00

Civil society has gained prominence lately due to recent changes brought about by globalization and population ageing. This is nowhere more in evidence than in Japan, making the role of Japanese civil society actors crucial in preparing society for change. New technologies have the potential to support the work of civil society organizations and increase their efficiency. However, empirical studies on the use of new information and communication technologies (ICT), most notably the Internet, by civil society organizations in Japan are still rare.

Civil Society and the Internet in Japan addresses this hitherto neglected area of study, asking how citizen groups utilize the Internet and how significant it is in their effectiveness. Isa Ducke provides an introduction into the theory regarding technological impact on democracy and this is supported with a series of fascinating case studies that take a closer look at the role of the Internet during the history textbook controversy; analyse the strategies of small citizen's groups; make comparisons between Internet use in Japan, Korea and Germany; and examine how the Internet is used as a platform to discuss the dispatch of Japanese troops to Iraq.



Providing original qualitative and quantitative research based on extensive empirical data, *Civil Society and the Internet in Japan* will be of interest to students and scholars of Japanese politics, media and information technology and civil society.

From 2001 to 2006 Isa Ducke was a research fellow at the DIJ.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

Interdisciplinary and International Conference "National Socialism and Gender"

(Berlin, February 15–17, 2007)

The Free University Berlin hosted a three-day conference on National Socialism from a gender-specific perspective, which brought together researchers of various disciplines and different European countries. Considering the far-reaching significance of gender images for propagating and enacting the national socialist Weltanschauung, there are rather few studies that focus on gender in the "Third Reich". The conference aimed at filling this gap by taking up approaches from feminist theory and developing them in an interdisciplinary and international perspective. Andrea Germer (DIJ) gave a paper entitled "NS-Frauen-Warte and Nippon Fujin: Visual Interpretations of Gender in Germany and Japan during WWII". With her comparative analysis of visual material from Germany and Japan, Andrea Germer provided a non-European perspective on the visual strategies of National Socialism for gender-specific mobilization.

Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting

(Boston, MA, 22–25 March 2007)

March 22 through 25, 2007, the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies was held in Boston, MA. The conference, attended by 3,100 participants, offered a total of 228 sessions, of which 45 were specifically focused on Japan. Two members of the DIJ, Gabriele Vogt and Barbara Holthus, presented their work.

Gabriele Vogt organized a panel on "Labor Migration to Japan: Demography and the Sense of Crisis". Her own presentation was entitled "Closed Doors, Open Doors, Doors Wide Shut? Migration Politics in Japan", in which she mapped the discourse on labor migration by various government agencies in comparison to the political reality in contemporary Japan. Other presentations in this panel were given by Abe Atsuko (Obirin University), Ryoko Yamamoto (University of Hawaii) and Deborah Milly (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University). Glenda Roberts (Waseda University) served as commentator.

Barbara Holthus presented a paper on "Discourses on Marriage in Japanese Women's Magazines since 1970" in the individual paper panel entitled "Social Change in Modern Japan", organized by Patricia Mclachlan of the University of Texas, Austin. She demonstrated the complexity and heterogeneity of marriage discourses in the magazines, as well as the fact that the combination of career and marriage has remained the most significant problem for Japanese women over time.

The conference was an overall very inspiring venue, and, due to two fire-alarms on the second day, also a good practice in evacuation procedures. The next AAS Meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia April 6–8, 2008.

Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting

(Oakland, CA, 29 March – 1 April 2007)

March 29 through April 1, 2007, the Pacific Sociological Association (PSA) held its Annual Meeting in Oakland, CA. For four days, more than 1300 sociologists came together to present their work in 228 sessions. Founded in 1930, the Pacific Sociological Association is a regionally based professional association of sociologists in the Pacific Region of North America, including Hawaii, British Columbia and Alberta in Canada and Chihuahua in Mexico, working in partnership with the na-



tional American Sociological Association (ASA). Papers from all areas of sociology were presented at the conference, such as criminology, medical sociology, social psychology, sociology of sports, social movements, race/ethnicity, class, and gender.

Barbara Holthus from the DIJ presented her work on "Japanese Women's Magazines: Discourses on Men and Marriage since 1970" in a sociology of the family panel entitled "Family Matters: Old & New", organized by Sharon Elise and Jill Weigt from California State University San Marcos. She put her research on marriage discourses in Japanese women's magazines in a comparative perspective to the situation of social change in respect to marriage, divorce, single motherhood, and the birthrate in the US.

BOOK REVIEWS

Toshiaki Kawahara & Tadayuki Yamamoto (eds.): *Gaikokujin to issho ni ikiru shakai ga yatte kita* [Living together with foreigners in a new society]. Tokyo: Kurosio, 2007, 153 pp., ¥ 1,200 (ISBN 978-4-87424-369-5)

河原俊昭・山本忠行(編)『外国人と一緒に生きる社会がやってきた!~多言語・多文化・多民族の時代へ~』、くろしお出版

Until a few years ago, someone who wanted to learn about multiculturalism in Japan would have faced a rather strange situation. While there were increasingly large numbers of Japanese publications dealing with issues of cultural and/or linguistic diversity, virtually none of them addressed the topic as a domestic affair. Scholarly interest rather focussed on remote overseas societies such as India, Australia, or Canada, to name but a few of the usual suspects.

Only recently, it seems, has Japan realized that these issues are of increasing relevance in its own backyard. The present publication is the best proof, addressing as it does not a specialist readership but the general public. Its aim is to provide some guidance as to how to deal with issues of multiculturalism and, particularly, multilingualism in everyday life.

To this end, the book's narrative revolves around one prototypical Japanese family, "Suzuki". The Suzuki household consists of a father and a mother, three children (university, high school and primary school students,

respectively), and a grandmother who, according to the book's introduction, "rather dislikes foreigners" (p. 8). The starting point of each of the fourteen sections is the Suzukis' living room, where the family members meet to talk about their everyday experiences with foreigners and foreign languages at work, at school, on television, and elsewhere. In the second part of each chapter, the family asks an expert for his or her opinion in order to get some more in-depth information on the respective point in question.

Issues discussed include questions such as what term should be used when referring to foreigners in Japan (including the neutral *gaikokujin*, the pejorative *gaijin*, and the most politically correct if somewhat unhandy *gaikokuseki jūmin*) (sect. 2); what characteristic combination patterns there are in international marriages and why that is so (sect. 3); how to interpret statistics about criminal offences by foreigners (seemingly being on a constant record high) properly (sect. 4); how, to what extent, and from what age on children should be taught foreign languages (sect. 6); why the Japanese of foreign sumo wrestlers is much better than the English of Japanese baseball players (sect. 10); if Japanese is likely to one day become an official language of the United Nations (sect. 12); and what the world would look like if there were but one language (sect. 14). In addition, the book contains various columns and five brief reports by foreigners about their personal experiences of living in Japan.

Though the book's general stance toward linguistic and cultural diversity is utterly positive, the articles do not turn a blind eye on the difficulties an increasing diversity poses to a society that for a rather long time used to operate under considerably homogeneous conditions. Since multilingualism and multiculturalism will be issues of growing importance in Japan's near future, the book hopefully will familiarize a wider readership among the general public with these topics.

(Peter Backhaus)

Yonetani Masafumi: *Ajia/Nihon* [Asia/Japan]. Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten, 2006, 190 pp., ¥ 1,470 (ISBN 4-00-027012-5)

思考のフロンティア II 12 アジア/日本 米谷匡史

The Chinese proverb "Sleeping in the same bed, but dreaming different dreams" (Japanese: *dōshō imu*) may not only be regarded as a cause for childless marriages and therefore represent

a core problem of demographic change in today's Japan. It also characterises the historical and contemporary state of Japan's relations with Asia. Referring to the latter, Yonetani Masafumi offers this metaphor in the recent volume of Iwanami's "Intellectual Frontier" series, which, after previous titles such as *Democracy, Violence, Nationalism, and Liberty*, now addresses *Asia/Japan*. In line with the overall focus of the series (English cover title: "Thinking in the Extreme"), *Asia/Japan*, too, constitutes an intellectual history. While it largely focuses on Japanese consciousness of (East-) Asia between the mid-19th and mid-20th centuries, the concluding chapter also contains a brief account of post-war Japanese Asia discourse and of current debates about an "East Asian Community" (*Higashi Ajia Kyōdōtai*).

The book consists of three parts, of which the third one – as in all volumes of this series – is an excellent annotated bibliography. In the first part, Yonetani analyses "Experiences of 'Modernity' in East Asia", whereas the second part examines "Genealogies of East Asian Reform Discourse".

Yonetani's narrative evolves around the conceptual dichotomy of "invasion/solidarity" (*shinryaku/rentai*), which characterises Japan's ambivalent relations with its East Asian neighbours. In many political debates both concepts, signifying a "modern", "Western" policy approach *against* Asia on the one hand, and a cooperative policy approach *with* Asia on the other, had permanently struggled with each other. While official Japan soon opted for invasion and for the occupation of Asia, some intellectuals continued to offer pro-Asian alternatives up until the 1940s. The critiques of Japan's colonial and imperial policy by Yoshino Sakuzō, Yanahaira Tadao, Ozaki Hotsumi, and Miki Kiyoshi are examples of such dissent.

Yonetani's approach is noteworthy (and open to criticism), in as far as he almost entirely neglects the role that "the West" played for Japan as a threat and as an inspiration for both modernisation and reforms. This limited focus, on the other hand, allows him to concentrate on intra-Asian interaction, which accounts for the strength of his book: Yonetani avoids adopting a post-colonial narrative that would portray Japan as a monolithic oppressor maltreating the fundamentally opposing, but weak victim (Asia) in word and deed. Even before the recent booming interest in Takeuchi Yoshimi's Asiaphile works it had been well-known that Japan's historical consciousness of Asia was much more



complex and heterogeneous. Therefore, the “dreams” that Japanese, Koreans, and Chinese dreamt “in the same bed” may not simply be distinguished based on nationalities. Rather, they differed individually, and a number of factors (other than nationality), including political orientation, friendships, and personal experiences, must be considered, too. Common political views often resulted in transnational contacts, such as between Yoshino Sakuzō and Li Dazhao, or even in transnational networks like the *Ashū Washinkai* (Society for Asian Friendship). Thus far, this aspect of Japanese consciousness of Asia has mostly been neglected by scholarship, and Yonetani must be credited for reminding us of its existence. The common, if not always undifferentiated, critique of political reality by these East Asian intellectuals was mainly directed against the responsible politicians and military, not against “the Japanese” or “the Chinese” as such.

Far from being a eulogy of Pan-Asian friendship, *Asia/Japan* may be read as an encouragement not to sacrifice the re-discovery of “East Asia” in the post-Cold War era to historical heritage or national(istic) consciousness. However, Yonetani’s thorough and diligent historical study refrains from preaching political messages to the reader. This is one of the reasons why it stands out from the bulk of recent, often tendentious publications on the history of Japan’s relations with Asia.

(Torsten Weber)

Matsutani Akihiko: *Shrinking Population Economics: Lessons from Japan* (= LTCB International Library Selection; 19). Second edition. Tokyo: I-House Press, 2006, xiv, 200 pp., ¥ 1,500 (ISBN 4-903452-03-4)

Better living conditions, new lifestyles, shrinking regional disparities, a demand-led labour market, a consumption-driven economy. This is what might result from a successful adjustment to the challenges of demographic change in Japan. The outcome will be less positive if individuals, companies, regions, and governments fail to choose the right response to the new situation. Since shrinking is inevitable, it is time to get rid of the outdated growth paradigm and to face the task of adjusting to an economy with a shrinking population by downsizing production capacity and rearranging public services. Although the potential danger of negative economic growth cannot be denied, it is entirely possible

that Japan will succeed in maintaining its vitality.

This in short is the contents of Matsutani Akihito’s work *Shrinking Population Economics. Lessons from Japan*. The author concentrates on drawing a scenario about how Japan’s economy and society are going to change until the year 2030. By means of combining meticulously researched demographic data with economic analysis, Matsutani has created a comprehensive and cautiously optimistic vision of a new Japan.

The author is a former bureaucrat from the Ministry of Finance, currently working as a professor at the National Institute for Graduate Studies in Tokyo. This book is the translation of a work in Japanese language which was published previously under the title *Jinkō genshō keizai no atarashii kōshiki* by Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Inc. In the English edition, a supplementary introduction by the author, an index, and a blurb were added. The translation by Brian Miller is both readable and reliable.

The book is divided into six chapters: about Japan’s socioeconomic transition, changes in its economic structure, regional issues, public services and taxes, employment and lifestyles and, as a conclusion, a guide map for future development.

Matsutani does not make a secret of his critical attitude towards the conventional attempts to react to demographic change. According to his opinion, measures to raise Japan’s birth rate will prove just as futile as the attempt to promote the immigration of foreign workers. His major point is that it is necessary to accept the fact that population and economic growth will decline in the near future. In spite of this being a major challenge for the actors in every part of the Japanese society, it also includes the opportunity to change the country for the better.

While most of his forecasts about Japan’s economy and demographic structure are based on thorough analysis and quite persuasive, his predictions concerning the future shape of Japan’s society by and large reflect European concepts, especially when it comes to topics like regional development, working life, and lifestyle. For this reason, the subtitle *Lessons from Japan* strikes me as misleading, as the actual content of the book suggests the alternative title “Lessons from Europe for Japan”.

Much can be derived from reading this book. Many of the author’s opinions and conclusions are unorthodox, thought-provoking and challenge conventional wisdom and common con-

ceptions about the impact of demographic change. This book can therefore be recommended not only to readers who would like to know more about the future of Japan’s economy and society, but also to a wider audience interested in possible outcomes of demographic change in the developed world in general.

(Volker Elis)

OTHER MATTERS / OUTLOOK

Call for Papers

Japanstudien: Yearbook of the German Institute for Japanese Studies

Japanstudien accepts submissions by scholars in any relevant academic discipline. The topic of volume 20, which is expected to be published in autumn 2008, is

Between Growth and Shrinkage – New Tendencies in Japan’s Regional Development

City of Yubari facing bankruptcy – Skyscraper boom in central Tokyo – Empty lots and houses in Tokyo’s commuter suburbs – “Ganbaranai sengen Iwate”: a prefecture drops out – Nanmoku village: elderly people win absolute majority – Amalgamation fever in Niigata prefecture: from 120 to 35 municipalities

For years, the discourse on Japan’s regional structure has been dominated by the hyper-concentration of economic, cultural, political and societal functions on the Tokyo metropolis and the corresponding relative insignificance of all other regions. Recently, however, new developments have become apparent which might lead to a more diversified regional structure. These developments are:

- political decentralization and the amalgamation of municipalities as an instrument to cut administrative expenditures. This might save some municipalities from bankruptcy, but could also lead to oversized administrations out of touch with their citizens;
- a paradigm change in regional planning: the State abandons its task of mitigating regional disparities and calls upon the direct re-



sponsibility of each commune and prefecture instead;

- a deepening gap between shrinking and growing regions. For overcrowded areas, though, the shrinking process might also offer new opportunities;
- the undocking of specific urban quarters in Tokyo or in the Kansai region from the rest of their city region as a result of efforts to compete with top locations of other world metropolises.

Overall, these developments might lead to an even stronger association between place and living conditions in Japan. Furthermore, not only rural regions, but a significant number of cities as well will have to cope with, which is almost the opposite of the well-known problems linked to overcrowding that have been characterizing large parts of urban Japan up to now. *Japanstudien* 20 intends to deal with these new trends from various perspectives and disciplines, including demographics, geography, sociology, political science, economics, jurisprudence and cultural studies. Some relevant topics are:

- The general development of regional disparities during the latter decades
- The process of political decentralization in Japan
- Shrinkage, stagnation and re-urbanisation in urban agglomerations
- Spatial disparities in health and education
- Changes in the system of regional revenue redistribution and regional policy
- Tourism and construction projects as instruments to revitalise deprived regions
- The renaissance of domestic manufacturing locations
- Urban planning under the conditions of shrinkage and demographic ageing
- Causes and effects of recent municipal amalgamations
- The city as a product: city marketing and globalisation
- Regional trends and demographic gender balance
- Ageing and vanishing villages
- The conservation/creation of identity in rural regions
- Housing policy and regional housing markets
- Electoral district politics in shrinking regions
- New regional developments as a topic of Japanese literature and art
- etc.

Manuscripts should be about 5,000–8,000 words in length. Please submit an abstract of about 400 words and a short

biography of about 200 words by 31 August 2007 (editors: Volker Elis, elis@dijtokyo.org and Ralph Lützel, luetzeler@dijtokyo.org). Accepted manuscripts (in English or German) should arrive by 31 January 2008. Articles previously published or submitted for publication elsewhere cannot be accepted. We also welcome contributions and reviews of current publications (of about 1,000–2,000 words) on other topics, particularly if related to the DIJ's present research focus 'Challenges of demographic change'. All contributions will be peer-reviewed. Previous issues of *Japanstudien* – partially in full text – can be found on our homepage (http://www.dijtokyo.org/?page=publication_list.php&p_id=1).

Personnel News

Dr. Peter Backhaus was elected DIJ staff council representative on April 26, 2007.

Dr. Harald Conrad, research fellow at DIJ since July 2000 and Deputy Director since November 2005, left the institute at the end of March to become an associate professor at the Faculty for Asia Pacific Management of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in Beppu. During his time at the DIJ, Harald Conrad conducted research on Japanese social policy, the economic aspects of demographic change and on changes in human resource management practices. He published numerous books and articles, organized various conferences and symposia and was a co-organizer of the Social Science Study Group. He can be reached under conrad@apu.ac.jp.

Since April 1, 2007, **Dr. Volker Elis** is the head of DIJ Business & Economics Section.

In February 2007, **Dipl. Bibl. Sigrid Francke, M.A.**, became the head librarian of the DIJ library. She underwent professional training as a librarian and as a translator (English, Spanish) at the Cologne University of Applied Sciences. After working for several years, including one year in Osaka, she attended the Free University of Berlin where she majored in Japanese Studies and German Language and Literature Studies and received her M.A. in 2006.

Dr. Maren Godzik was elected speaker of DIJ research fellows on April 26, 2007. Also, she is the co-organizer of the Social Science Study Group.

Dr. Barbara Holthus joined DIJ in March 2007 as a research fellow. Previously, she was a research assistant at the Social Science Research Institute of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Barbara Holthus studied Japanese Studies, American Literature and Teaching German as a Foreign Language at the Universities of Hamburg, Munich, and Osaka. In 2006 she completed her doctoral thesis entitled "Media and Gender in Japan: Partner Relationships in Japanese Women's Magazines since 1970" in the Department of Languages, Literature, and Media Studies at the University of Trier.

At DIJ, Barbara Holthus will contribute to the institute's research project "Challenges of Demographic Change" with a study on daycare centers (*hoikuen*) as one institution debated in regards to the declining birthrate in Japan. She plans to analyze the social policy measures for and the media discourses about daycare centers. Furthermore she intends to conduct interviews with parents and the representatives of social movements. Since April 1, Barbara Holthus is the co-organizer of the Social Science Study Group.

Since April 1, 2007, **Dr. Matthias Koch** heads DIJ's German-Japanese Relations Section.

Dr. Florian Kohlbacher joined DIJ in April 2007 as a research fellow. He studied international business administration at the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration from where he also received his Ph.D. in 2006. His dissertation will be published this year as "International Marketing in the Network Economy: A Knowledge-Based Approach" by Palgrave Macmillan. From 2003 to 2004, Florian Kohlbacher was a marketing assistant in a product introduction project at Schindler Lifts and Escalators Ltd. in Vienna. So far, he has spent more than 3 years in Japan, among others as an exchange student at Kobe University, as a visiting scholar at Hitotsubashi University and as trainee and part-time employee with various companies. At DIJ Florian Kohlbacher will contribute to the institute's research focus "Challenges of Demographic Change" with a research project on the implications of the current demographic development for businesses in Japan. Also, he is the co-organizer of the Business & Economics Study Group.

PD Dr. Ralph Lützel joined DIJ in March 2007 as a research fellow. He had already worked at the DIJ in this position between 1993 and 1998. In the



meantime, he was employed as a research fellow at the University of Bonn, Department for Research on Modern Japan and – from September 2005 to February 2006 – at the University of Duisburg-Essen, Institute of East Asian Studies. Ralph Lützel studied Geography, Japanese Studies and Historical Geography at the University of Bonn and completed his doctoral thesis on regional differences of mortality in Japan in 1993. In 2005, he submitted his habilitation thesis on urban segregation in Tokyo to the Faculty of Letters at the University of Bonn.

At DIJ Ralph Lützel will contribute to the institute's research project "Challenges of Demographic Change", mainly with a study on the causes and effects of demographic change in selected Japanese municipalities. Furthermore, he plans to compile an annotated bibliography on Japanese population statistics and population surveys. Since April 1, 2007, he is the co-organizer of the Social Science Study

Group as well as the head of DIJ Social Science Section.

On May 1, 2007, **Dr. Gabriele Vogt** took over the position of Deputy Director of DIJ.

Dissertation Fellows

Nadine Burgschweiger, Japanese Studies, Law, "Preferential trade agreements in East Asia and Japan's free trade policy" (05.2007–11.2007).

Steffen Heinrich, Political Science, Economics, Japanese Studies, "National social policy under pressure to reform: The impact of globalisation and post-industrial change on the welfare state and the policy process in Germany and Japan" (04.2007–12.2007).

Carola Hommerich, Sociology, "Changing attitudes towards working

life in Germany and Japan". She was recently awarded a 3rd prize for excerpts from her research at the German Students Award given out by the Körber Foundation (03.2007–09.2007).

DIJ Forum

Keizo Yamawaki, Professor, Meiji University: "The Challenges of the Japanese Integration Policy" (April 12, 2007).

Patricia Steinhoff, Professor, University of Hawaii: "Invisible Civil Society: The Effects of the 1970s New Left Protests on Contemporary Japan" (May 31, 2007).

Keiko McDonald, Professor, University of Pittsburgh: "The Agony of Eldercare: Two Japanese Women Directors Study an Old-Age Problem" (June 21, 2007).

Published by: IUDICIUM Verlag GmbH, Hans-Grässel-Weg 13, D-81375 München. Printed by: AZ Druck und Datentechnik GmbH, Heisinger Str. 14, 87437 Kempten. Publication dates: each June, October, February; not on sale in bookshops.

