

## Local Self-organization and Civic Engagement in Regional Japan

Date: Tuesday, March 7th, 2023

Location: DIJ Tokyo

9:00 **Greetings**

9:15 **Panel 1: Introductory overviews**

Franz Waldenberger (DIJ Tokyo): *Japanese Municipalities – A Quantitative Overview.*

Matsuda Tomoo (MRI): *Local Communities in Japan – Challenges and Coping Strategies.*

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 **Panel 2: Civic Engagement and the Demographic Challenges of Regional Japan**

Sebastian Polak-Rottmann (DIJ Tokyo): *Linking Agents in Social Welfare Provision in Rural Japan: Building up Resilient Communities.*

Isaac Gagné (DIJ Tokyo): *Social Welfare of and for the Community: Neighborhoods, Networks, and Volunteerism in Iida and Natori.*

Barbara Geilhorn (DIJ Tokyo): *Japanese Regional Theatre Tackling the Challenges of Old Age and Elderly Care.*

Ken Hijino (Kyoto University): *'Populationism' and the politics of depopulation in Japanese municipalities.*

13:00 Lunch

14:30 **Panel 3: Ambiguities of Decentralization, Peripheralization, and Local Self-Organization**

Sonja Ganseforth (Leipzig University): *Local Self-Organization in Natural Resource Management – Fishery Cooperatives Under Pressure.*

Okada Norio (Kwansei Gakuin University, Nishinomiya): *SMART Governance for Japan's Creative "Machizukuri" Challenges: From Problem-oriented Approach to Sense-making/Value Creation Approach.*

Hanno Jentsch (Leiden University): *Governing Decline – Shifting State-Society Relations in Regional Japan.*

16:00 Coffee break

16:30 **Panel 4: What is the Local in Japanese Regions?**

Sonja Ganseforth & Hanno Jentsch

17:15 **Final discussion and outlook**

18:00 **Book Break *Rethinking Locality in Japan* (Routledge 2022)**