



1. Title:

Network Studies 2017

2. Contact Person

Bettina Gramlich-Oka (*4065; gramlich-oka@sophia.ac.jp)

3. Other members:

Faculty members: **Mathew Thompson, Christian Hess, David Slater, David Wank.**

Further members of this research group include scholars from Tokyo and vicinity, such as **Linda Grove, Thomas Harper, Kate Nakai, Gaye G. Rowley** and **Fumiko Umezawa.**

Also many post-docs, PhD students from the Tokyo area, and visiting scholars from foreign universities join on a regular basis.

4. Goal and Purpose:

The ICC unit, which was initiated in 2010 (please see [Network studies HP](#)), analyzes cross-cultural networks. The project “Intellectual Networks in Early Modern Japan and Beyond” focuses on various groups with an integrative analysis of a wide variety of writings. The conclusions will enhance our understanding of both the political realm, which informed policies ordered by the shogunate and the domains of the regional rulers (*daimyo*), and the practical realm of how these networks operated. The results will emphasize the traffic of ideas and endeavors among people from various backgrounds and stations in life beyond narrow geographic borders.

The database which we began to develop since 2011 has received a new platform in the fall of 2017. Integration of existing data sets will be performed during 2018 so that by the end of the academic year, a trial version might be made public.

5. Activities in Past and Future:

In 2017–2018 the research unit has been and is active in various forms: (Please refer to [our HP](#) for details)

5.1. The unit meets monthly as a reading group, in which primary sources are read.

5.2. Editorial meetings for the edited volume on *Women and Networks in Nineteenth Century Japan* are held periodically throughout 2017–2018.

5.3. With the help of research assistants the prosopographical database will be integrating data sets from other research projects.

5.4. The database undergoes constant improvement including the visualization with the help of programmers. New feature will be portraits of historical figures.

5.5. Moving towards to making the database the *Japan Biographical Database* with open access.

5.6. Working on text mining software for data purposes.

6. Presentations of the Project in Past and Future:

The project was and will be represented in 2017–2018 at the following venues:

6.1. Leo Born (project programmer) will present our project at the conference “Digital Approaches 2.0” in Frankfurt, Germany, Nov.11 – Dec.1, 2017

Datenbankdesign und Webapplikation der JBDB:
Der Versuch einer Zwischenbilanz

6.2. Plan to have a Symposium at Sophia University in the fall 2018 *Digital Humanities and Databases* (collaborators from the US and Europe will participate)

6.3. Meeting by unit leader with US-based Digital Humanities Project leaders in April 2018.



Sanyo Rai portrait, Edo period
日本肖像画図録 (京都大学文学部博物館図録)
思文閣出版 1991年
Via Wikimedia

6.4. The publication of an edited volume generated from the two *International Symposia* is in planning. The completed manuscript will be sent to Michigan University Press in early 2018.

Tentative title:

Bettina Gramlich-Oka, Miyazawa Fumiko, Sugano Noriko, Anne Walthall (eds.). *Women and Networks in Nineteenth Century Japan*, Ann Arbor: Michigan University Press.

7. Plans and goals:

7.1. the research unit leader is part of a JSPS Research Grant:

基盤研究C: 懷徳堂をめぐる学術交流の思想史的研究 (2016–2019) as a participant (分担者).

The available funds are used for the programmer, extra help in feeding the database and purchase of materials.

7.2. Current discussion with European universities to apply in 2018 for a European Research Council funded project.

7.4. Current discussions with Japan-based digital humanities projects to collaborate

7.5. Current discussions with US-based digital database projects to collaborate

8. Publication Plans and External Funding

8.1. Publications

As shown in 6.4 the edited volume which is the result of two symposia funded by the ICC project is planned to be out during the academic year of 2018. Translation fees for six articles from Japanese into English has been provided from outside funding.

8.2. External Funding

As shown in 7.1. external funding has been secured for the next three years which will assist with feeding the database, and for some payments to the programmer. Together with the ICC fund, the current status of the database can be upheld. However, since the database is supposed to become open access with continuous expansion and modification as the Japan Biographical Database, the digital project itself will never be a terminated project and needs further financial support.

For this reason, we have the plan to apply for European Research Council funding, where the initial five-year grant will allow PhD students and Post-docs to be hired at several European universities, as the springboard to become a university funded continuous project, in which digital humanities and Japanese studies come together.