



Panorama of Edo (now Tokyo) showing daimyo residences, Japan by Felix Beato via Wikipedia

1. Title:

Network Studies 2010

2. Contact Person

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

3. Other members:

Faculty members: **Shion Kono**, **Mathew Thompson**, **Caroline Hirasawa**

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 and PhD students 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. In a highly connected world, personal, political, or economic networks are often assumed (with suspicion) but seldom studied cross-culturally. The unit collaboratively comes up with a set of theories and models for prosopography and network analysis that consider groups as elements in society. The focus is not on the individual but on the individual within the context of family, work, and leisure. In other words, the research unit highlights the importance of the places in which an individual is active and the function he performs within society.

The research project is an ongoing one with various time periods and regions as its concentration.

As a start-up project we discuss the available theories, methods, and models for our network analysis. This knowledge serves as our foundation for our first focus, on the early modern period in Japan, an understudied era in regards to network analysis. 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 ideological 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.

5. Activities in Past and Future:

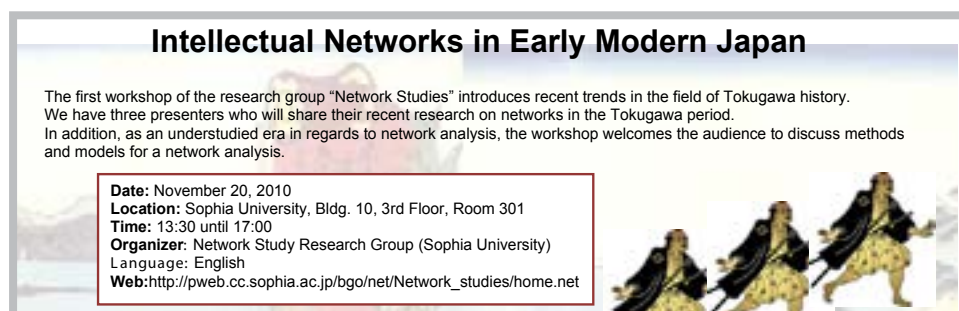
Since launching our research group in May 2010 the research unit has been active in various forms: (Please refer to [our HP](#) for details):

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

b. In addition the unit had a weeklong sōrōbun workshop, in which seven participated under the instruction of Professor Fumiko Umezawa.

c. The unit also hosted two workshops on Network studies, which were video recorded and are accessible on the [Sophia Homepage](#).

- [Workshop 1](#). November 20, 2010



Intellectual Networks in Early Modern Japan

The first workshop of the research group “Network Studies” introduces recent trends in the field of Tokugawa history. We have three presenters who will share their recent research on networks in the Tokugawa period. In addition, as an understudied era in regards to network analysis, the workshop welcomes the audience to discuss methods and models for a network analysis.

Date: November 20, 2010
Location: Sophia University, Bldg. 10, 3rd Floor, Room 301
Time: 13:30 until 17:00
Organizer: Network Study Research Group (Sophia University)
Language: English
Web: http://pweb.cc.sophia.ac.jp/bgo/net/Network_studies/home.net

The poster features a background image of three figures in traditional Japanese attire, possibly a scene from a kabuki play, with a light blue and white color scheme.

- [Workshop 2](#). January 15, 2011



Sophia University Institute of Comparative Culture presents a conference

Networks in Early/Modern Japan

Date: January 15, 2011
Location: Sophia University, Bldg. 10, 3 Floor, Room 301
Time: 13:30 until 17:15
Organizer: Network Study Research Group (Sophia University)
Language: English
Web: http://pweb.cc.sophia.ac.jp/bgo/net/Network_studies/home.net

13:30–14:15

The poster features a background image of three figures in traditional Japanese attire, similar to the one in the first poster, with a light blue and white color scheme.

d. With the help of a research assistant the prosopographical database is continuously fed.

e. One journal article will be published as a result and the financial support from the ICC in February. Bettina Gramlich-Oka, "Neo-Confucianism reconsidered: Family Rituals in the Rai Household," *US-Japan Women's Journal*, vol. 39, 2010.

6. Plans and goals:

a. The unit will continue the monthly meetings

b. Further workshops are in planning

c. Three of the members will be at the European Association for Japanese Studies, Tallinn, Estonia, in August 2011 to present their research under the umbrella of our unit.

d. The conference papers will be published in a special issue.

e. The database will be put up on a server in order to have not only data visualized but also put on GIS maps.

f. Bettina Gramlich-Oka will apply for a research grant from JSPS in the fall 2011.