



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

1. Title:

Network Studies 2012

2. Contact Person

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

3. Other members:

Faculty members: **David Wank**, **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 hosted altogether five workshops on Network studies, which were video recorded and are accessible on the [Sophia Homepage OWC](#). In 2012 two workshops took place.

- [Workshop 4](#). April 14, 2012

Sophia University Institute of Comparative Culture presents the workshop

Networks in Early Modern Japan

Date: April 14, 2012
Location: Sophia University, Bldg. 10, 3 Floor, Room 301
Time: 13:30 until 17:00
Organizer: Network Study Research Group (Sophia University)
Language: English
Web: <http://network-studies.org>



- [Workshop 5](#). October 20, 2012

Networks in Premodern and Early Modern Japan

Date: October 20, 2012
Location: Sophia University, Bldg. 10, 3 Floor, Room 301
Time: 13:30 until 17:00
Organizer: Network Study Research Group (Sophia University)
Language: English
Web: <http://network-studies.org>



c. With the help of research assistants the prosopographical database is continuously fed.

d. Currently the database undergoes some fundamental changes, which will allow the next step: visualization. Two programmers are working on the frames.

e. The project was represented in 2012 alone at the following venues:

Bettina Gramlich-Oka (報告) “Social Network Analysis Applied to Tokugawa Sources,” presented at Frankfurt University (Germany), September 2012.

Bettina Gramlich-Oka (報告) “Confucian Rituals in the Tokugawa period as a Lens for Publics,” presented at University of Winnipeg (Canada), August 2012.

Bettina Gramlich-Oka (報告) “Applying Social Network Analysis to the Edo period: Kudo Heisuke and his Network Domain,” presented at Prague University (Czech Republic), August 2012.

Bettina Gramlich-Oka (報告) “Rai Shunsui and the Creation of a Network”「頼春水をとりまく社会的ネットワーク」, presented at Daitō Bunka University, Faculty of Economics 大東文化大学経済研究所 (Saitama, Japan), January 2012.

f. In October 2012, Gramlich-Oka introduced the ICC project unit in the [Sophia Festival 2012](#).

6. Plans and goals:

a. The unit will continue the monthly meetings

b. An international conference in June 2013 and one more workshop in the fall of 2013 are in planning.

c. The database will grow further (at this point 1000 persons are stored) and the visualization will become possible.

d. Bettina Gramlich-Oka will apply for a research grant from JSPS for 2013.