

Refugees and Migrants in Tokyo: An Oral Narrative Approach 2023

David H. Slater: d-slater@sophia.ac.jp

Participating Members: **Murai Noriko**, **Okada Hanako**

New member: **Megha Wadwa**

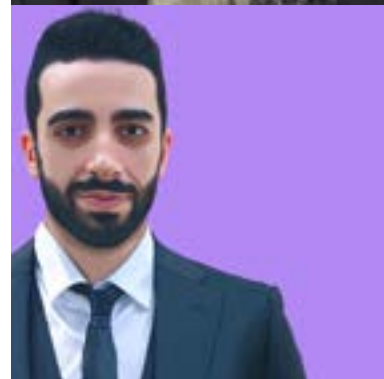
Affiliates: **Tanaka Masako** (Sophia U., Faculty of Global Studies)

Project Statement

This project focuses on the collection, analysis and dissemination of digital video research of the large and growing population of foreign refugee asylum seekers in the Kanto region of Japan.

Summary

In the first year of our 3 year project, we have been quite active in data collection, the dissemination of research results through academic lectures, substantial increases in the work on our website (<https://refugeevoicessjapannet.wordpress.com/>). New this year is our ability to also combines this more traditional work with the photo exhibitions and film showings. This has much widened our audience about issues facing refugee and migrant populations.



2023 was a very productive year for our research. In addition to many talks we have been able to organize this past year, most of our funds were focused on the web-based project, Refugee Voices Japan.

Refugee Voices Japan Website



Our Refugee Voices Japan got an overhaul and a new URL. <https://refugeevoicessjapan.com/>. in addition, almost completing the Japanese translation of the whole website, <https://refugeevoicessjapan.com/ja/>. This makes us the only bilingual site on refugee oral narrative of this size in Japan.

The technological advances were in both the speed and other optimization, the rebalancing of the sound for added clarity and a expansion of the range of scholarly links that we have been able to provide. Taken together, this has much increased our utility as a valuable resource for other classrooms and research around the world.

The increase in content, we have expanded our range by 20% in a single year. This allows us to include a large number of other new voices, two more on labor and one more on family focus, as we have proposed.

Related Publication

[“Creating safe spaces, a sense of belonging and ‘ibasho’ for women refugees in Tokyo”](#)

David Slater with Christina Fukuoka (The Melbourne Asia Review, the Asia Institute, University of Melbourne, Date: October 23, 2023 / DOI: 10.37839/MAR2652-550X16.10 / Edition 16, 2023)



Refugees at an SRSR Café. Credit: Shota Nagao (member of SRSR)



University of Vienna/Phaidra
BEITRÄGE ZUR JAPANOLOGIE 50

Research into Japanese Society

Reflections from three projects involving students as researchers during the COVID-19 pandemic

Editors: Sebastian Polak-Rottmann, Antonia Miserka

Publisher Department of East Asian Studies , Vienna , 2023

Part 1: Giving students something worth researching: Involving undergraduate students in research at Sophia University

Giving students something worth re-searching - David H. SLATER (Project advisor and editor)

Positionality in student research with an African refugee: Negotiating successful interviewing through student mentoring as senpai - Ayano SOMA

Shifting perspectives under political stress: Interviewing Burmese students stranded in Japan - Thaw TAR

Understanding vulnerabilities virtually: Oral narrative research on a Syrian refugee amid the COVID-19 pandemic - Megumi Faith MALLARI

ICC Hosted Events



Modes of Transport: Bois du Rose

- **Catalina Alvarez**, Fordham University
 - **Daniel Fishkin**, University of Virginia
- March 25, 2024



“Mark-A Call to Action”: Film Showing and Discussion

- **Ron Small**, Filmmaker
 - **Nagase Osamu**, Professor, Ritsumeikan University
 - **Dr. Paul Bookman**, Mark Bookman’s father
- Feb 25, 2024



[Japan's Prisoners of Conscience: Protest and Law During the Iraq War](#)

• **Lawrence Repeta**, Former Professor of Law, Meiji University
December 1, 2023



[Japan's Triple Disaster: Pursuing Justice after the Great East Japan Earthquake, Tsunami and Fukushima Nuclear Accident \(Routledge, 2023\).](#)

• **Dr. Natalia Novikova** (Language Instructor at Tamagawa University, Japan)
• **Dr. Julia Gerster** (Assistant Professor at the Disaster Culture and Digital Archive Division at the International Research Institute for Disaster Studies at Tohoku University, Japan)
• **Dr. Manuela Hartwig** (Currently a Research Associate at the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Tsukuba, Japan)
November 25, 2023



[Househusbands and Breadwinning Mothers:\(Un\)doing, Displaying and Challenging Gender in Japan](#)

• **Ofra Goldstein-Gidoni**, Professor, Tel Aviv University
October 13, 2023



[Involuntary Consent: The Illusion of Choice in Japan's Adult Video Industry?](#)

• **Akiko Takeyama**, Professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Director of the Center for East Asian Studies at the University of Kansas
July 24, 2023



[Becoming Mr. Everyman: Middlebrow Media and White-Collar Masculinity in Japan's Era of High Economic Growth](#)

• **Hannah Airriess**, Assistant Professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at Indiana University, Bloomington
July 26, 2023





[Fashioning Lesbianism: *Seitō* \(1911-1916\) and the global New Woman](#)

· **Eleanor Medhurst**, A historian of lesbian fashion and author of the website Dressing Dykes)

July 21, 2023



[Screening of “My Small Land”](#)

June 23, 2023



[“Cinema of Discontent: Representations of Japan’s High-Speed Growth”](#)

· **Tomoyuki Sasaki**, Associate Professor of Japanese Studies at the College of William & Mary in Virginia

June 9, 2023



[Hashtag activism found in translation: Unpacking the reformulation of #MeToo in Japan \(*\)](#)

· **Saki Mizoroki**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Isarel, University of Tokyo

April 28, 2023



[“Migration to Japan: Focus on Kurdish Communities” Workshop](#)

· **Dr. Evelyn Reuter** (Visiting Scholar, Sophia University)

· **Dr. David H. Slater** (Professor of Cultural Anthropology, Sophia University)

April 8 (15:00-18:00) and April 9 (10:00-12:30), 2023