

## Director's Message

The Center for Northeast Asian Studies (CNEAS) was established in 1996 as a research institute at Tohoku University. The purpose of its establishment was to comprehensively understand the northern Asian world adjacent to Japan, namely China, the Korean Peninsula, Mongolia, and Russia. Since its inception, we have been conducting empirical research with researchers in the humanities and sciences sharing a common regional perspective.

The diverse research of CNEAS can be broadly summarized into two main research areas. The first area is environmental history, with the implicit background of natural and human history. The second is the blending of cultures, societies, and nations created by the modern international order.

Today, we are facing serious global problems such as trans-boundary environmental pollution, migration, and climate change in the Arctic due to global warming. In order to deal with these problems, we need to integrate various disciplines from the humanities and sciences.

In the fields of humanities and social sciences, we have conducted studies of comparative history of the great powers in the Twentieth Century as well as those of cross-border environmental pollution, human migration and natural resource managements. These include research understanding how people interact with the environment and build community resilience.

We have also engaged with indigenous peoples in the context of circumpolar global warming and the biological-ecological history of human adaptation to environments. These include archaeological studies which investigate activities and culture of ancient human societies, and we believe that these sorts of unique, integrated research opens up new perspectives. Further examples may also be pointed

out in applied fields such as archaeometric engineering and the digitization of cultural heritage. These are issues that have been overlooked in traditional area studies, and their elucidation is gradually reinventing the methodological conventions of area studies itself.

We are also studying how the Covid19 pandemic has affected society. In addition, as a university that experienced the Great East Japan Earthquake, we are also focusing on applied and practical area research for resilience and disaster response.

Our full-time faculty include members from a variety of specialized disciplines, including human and natural history, socio-cultural and environmental anthropology, archeology, environmental policy, ecology, geology, resource engineering, and environmental information studies. As researchers from different disciplines work alongside each other on a daily basis within the same organization, CNEAS has become a site where new challenges and methods for area studies are brought to light.

Faculty at the Center are also engaged in undergraduate and graduate education at Tohoku University in their respective fields of specialization. We actively welcome special researchers nominated by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and are dedicated to the training of junior researchers.

We will continue to deepen our research and disseminate our findings, and hope to play a greater role in disseminating research on Asian regions from a northeastern perspective in order to bring an important understanding of these regions not only to Japanese society but worldwide.

**Satoshi Chiba, CNEAS Director**

(March 2022)



## Faculty

### Division of Russian and Siberian Studies

#### Kyosuke Terayama

Professor

*Soviet-Russian history, Japanese-Russo/Soviet relations*

In order to gain an in-depth understanding of the development of Stalin's regime, I study and investigate Soviet border areas (the Far East, Mongolia, Sinkiang, Finland and Poland) in the interwar period (1918–1939), especially from the point of view of mobilization of human and natural resources by Soviet government, so as to prepare for prospective future war against Japan. I am also engaged in research on censorship policy in the former Soviet Union.

J-GLOBAL ID: 200901070306910856

#### Hiroki Takakura

Professor

*Social anthropology, Siberian and Arctic studies, disaster studies*

My research in progress concerns

the cultural adaptation of Siberian local communities to climate change, focusing on indigenous knowledge of the river ice ecology. Another topic is related to applied visual anthropology and exhibition, bridging people at home with people at field sites. After the 3.11 Tohoku Earthquake, I began documentation projects on the intangible cultural heritage of local communities based on applied disaster anthropology.

J-GLOBAL ID: 201501018786770477

#### Masumi Isogai

Assistant Professor

*Oriental studies, Modern history of Central Eurasia, history of Russia and the Soviet Union*

Russia's Volga-Ural region—that is, the middle and lower Volga River and the southern Ural Mountains—historically have had Turkic Muslim residents. Nowadays most such people identify themselves as Tatars or Bashkirs (Bashkorts). I am studying various aspects of their historical communities, which they maintained as

Muslims. One of my recent studies focuses on the religious and judicial administration for Muslim communities in the Russian Empire in the 19th and early 20th centuries: how “ordinary” Muslims got married or divorced, and inherited property according to Islamic law. Such an approach to these interests and themes is highly significant now, as more and more emphasis is being put on the “multiconfessionality” of Russia in Russia per se.

J-GLOBAL ID: 201501027773689661

(Dr. Isogai was a group member until December 31, 2021).

### Division of Mongolian and Central Asian Studies

#### Hiroki Oka

Professor

*Mongolian history, Asian history*

My research explores the social and administrative structures established in Mongolia during the Qing dynasty (seventeenth to early twentieth centuries). The recent focus of my work

is on re-examining the historiography of Mongolian scholars in and after the socialist era and also on Qing dynasty policy on Mongolia in the seventeenth century.

J-GLOBAL ID: 200901097635224047

#### Katsuhiko Sano

Professor

*Prehistoric archaeology*

I am investigating temporal advances in technology and function of prehistoric stone tools to better understand the relationship with the human evolution, such as development of cognitive abilities and anatomical features. Currently, I am focusing on the development of prehistoric hunting technology, in particular the emergence of the complex projectile technology using spearthrowers and bows-and-arrows. Comparing hunting technologies between archaic humans and Homo sapiens, I try to find the insights into the replacement of archaic humans by Homo sapiens in many regions of Eurasia.

J-GLOBAL ID: 201001060985228975

## Kenji Yanagida

Associate Professor

*Russian linguistics, sociolinguistics*  
New language varieties may appear due to use of multiple languages and language contact. I am engaged in observation of the changes taking place in the Russian language in this region, along with its decreased status in the multilingual society of Central Asia.

J-GLOBAL ID: 200901067636472315

### Division of Chinese Studies

## Masahisa Segawa

Professor

*Cultural anthropology, South China study*

My recent research topics are: (i) the process through which Chinese lineages (zongzu) have been restored and how they have changed with the advent of the twenty-first century; (ii) changes in the academic, as well as popular discourse concerning Hakka Chinese; (iii) recorded genealogies of the She, Yao, Lee and other Chinese minorities, and their ethnic identity.

J-GLOBAL ID: 200901085011202652

## Jusen Asuka

Professor

*Environmental and energy policy, international cooperation*

The design of policies and measures in Japan and other countries for tackling global environmental issues such as climate change and air pollution is the focus of my research. This work is intended to contribute to energy and environmental policy formulation directly based on qualitative and quantitative analysis.

J-GLOBAL ID: 200901022313452559

## Toshihiro Ueno

Associate Professor

*Modern Chinese history, Chinese ethnology*

My research mainly focuses on the Chinese frontier area inhabited by various non-Han ethnic groups, and on the historical process of the area's integration into mainland China (the Han-Chinese area) and reorganization in the early and mid-twentieth century toward the multiethnic state. By studying related documents that are increasingly being made available, I aim to clarify the historical background of ethnic problems in modern China.

J-GLOBAL ID: 200901058049007317

### Division of Japanese and

### Korean Studies

## Atsushi Ishii

Associate Professor

*International relations, science and technology studies*

My current research focuses on science-politics relationships, science and technology studies, international relations, and transdisciplinary studies. Research issues involve international fisheries, geo-engineering (climate engineering), transboundary air pollution, and whaling. I am participating in a comparative research project on international fisheries policy focusing on explaining state behavior and negotiation outcomes.

J-GLOBAL ID: 200901035840433133

## Alyne Delaney

Associate Professor

*Environmental Anthropology*

Peoples and cultures' connections with their environment is fascinating, with perpetual feedbacks, impacting both

local cultures and environments. I work to understand not only how people interact directly with their environment, such as through harvesting marine resources, but to also understand aspects of how the environment continues to shape identity, worldview, and well-being. I investigate both aspects of culture such as place attachment, cultural heritage, and gender roles, and conduct interdisciplinary work such as with marine ecologists. Long interested in social sustainability and resilience, when the 2011 tsunami struck my field site, I also turned my attention to disaster recovery.

J-GLOBAL ID: 201901016827992100

## Yongchao Cheng

Associate Professor

*Japanese history, East Asian history*

Yongchao's research focuses on the trilateral relationship between Japan, Korea, and China in the 17th-19th century, especially the diplomatic intermediary between Japan and China performed by Chosŏn Korea, the most loyal tributary state of Ming China and later of Qing China. She also engages in collaborative research using historical literature to discover and analyze meteorological and astronomical events.

J-GLOBAL ID: 201801001730339504

## Tsuyoshi Miyamoto

Assistant Professor

*Geology of volcanoes, petrology of volcanic rocks*

The history of the volcanic eruptions of active Quaternary volcanoes (i.e. Mt. Paektu and Towada volcano) in Northeast Asia has been the subject of my research for several years. My particular interest is in the relation-

ship between volcanic eruptions and historical events.

J-GLOBAL ID: 200901086699393851

### Division of Regional

### Ecosystem Studies

## Satoshi Chiba

Professor

*Ecology and evolution, conservation biology*

The research in my laboratory is focused on understanding the mechanisms that regulate biological diversity on various spatial and temporal scales. I use insect, amphibian, crustacean, land and marine mollusk, and trematode parasite, and other organism model systems to clarify the evolutionary origins of biological diversity in Northeastern Asia.

J-GLOBAL ID: 200901099098503778

## Takahiro Hirano

Assistant Professor

*evolutionary ecology*

The biggest mystery of evolutionary ecology: why are there so many different kinds of organisms? Northeast Asia has a high diversity of mollusks due to different geographical differences such as continents, islands and ancient lakes. Mollusks are a good material for evolutionary ecology because they reflect the local ecology and environment in their shells which preserve well in the fossil record. Therefore, I am studying the process of species diversification using mollusks and their predators in the region. Through a combination of a variety of approaches in molecular biology, paleontology and evolutionary ecology, I am conducting comparative studies on the evolutionary history of mollusks across the globe.

J-GLOBAL ID: 201801020177735867

## Publications

### CNEAS MONOGRAPH SERIES

Research results of CNEAS joint research projects and individual projects, irregular publication.

62. Mongolian Bible Translations: In the Context of the History of Religious Cultural Exchange, Katsuhiko Takizawa, Yutaka Shibayama ed. 2017.
63. Blanislaw Pilsudski's Sakhalin Ethnography: The Enchiw, Nivkh and Uilta around the beginning of the 20th century, Translated, edited and annotated by Koichi Inoue, Supervised by Hiroki Takakura, 2018.
64. The Immigration of the Lord of Iwadeyama-Date and his Ex-Vassals to and their Cultivation of Hokkaido: Reading the Agatsuma House Archives, TOMODA Masahiro, KIKUCHI Yuko, TAKAHASHI Sakari, 2018.



65. Urbanization and Traditional Dwellings in Contemporary Mongolia: Housing management and Home Construction in Ger Area, Ulaanbaatar, Takiguchi Ryo ed. Yatsuo Hiroshi, Sakamoto Go, Sato Noriyuki, Matsumiya Yuko, G.Luvsanjamts, 2018.
66. Shinto priest historical documents of the Shioyama shrine in the Edo period, Kenichiro Aratake, Yoichi Takahashi(eds), 2019.
67. Mobility and Symbiosis in Northeast Asia: On the Frontier of China, Mongolia, Russia and Korea, Hiroki Oka ed., 2020.
68. The fencer of the common people in Dewa: "Bugenryu Kenjutsu Jitsuroku" by Gunta Takeda, Arata Hirakawa ed., 2021.
69. The Real Image of Society as Seen in Regional Newspapers from the Late Modern Period: Reading the Shiroishi Jitsugyo Shimpō of Miyagi Prefecture, Kenichiro Aratake, Sayaka Abe eds., 2021

### CNEAS REPORT

A series for such purposes as timely reports from symposiums, cataloging references, and promotion of exchange with national and

## Division of Geochemistry

### **Tatsuki Tsujimori**

Professor

*Geological sciences, metamorphic petrology*

The strength of my research lies in combining detailed fieldwork and geological observations with quantitative petrological and geochronological approaches aimed at understanding the geodynamic processes at convergent plate boundaries—from mineral equilibrium/kinetics scale to plate-tectonic scale. Currently, my research focuses on petro-tectonic studies of fossilized subduction zones in Southwest Japan, Far East Russia, Central America, and East Africa, and integrated petrologic/geochemical investigation of jadeite “jadeite jade”.  
J-GLOBAL ID: 200901018882492235

### **Naoto Hirano**

Associate Professor

*Petrology and volcanology, tectonics*

“Petit-spot” volcanoes — unknown volcanoes until recently — can be found throughout the Far Eastern region and on the sea floor of the Pacific Ocean. Little is known about how they were formed. My research focuses on the relationship between the origin of these volcanoes and plate-tectonic movements.  
J-GLOBAL ID: 200901073369508933

### **Akio Goto**

Assistant Professor

*Physical volcanology, physical properties of magma*

Volcanic eruptions differ greatly from one volcano to another, and their controlling factors are not clearly known. To clarify these factors, I measure the physical properties of magma, conduct experimental simulations of volcanic eruptions, and

observe actual eruptions.

J-GLOBAL ID: 200901039820745770

## Division of Geoscience and

### Remote Sensing

### **Motoyuki Sato**

Professor

*Applied electromagnetics, subsurface sensing*

Based on electromagnetic wave theory, we are developing radar remote sensing systems for humanitarian demining and land slide monitoring. We developed Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) system “ALIS” for land mine detection, and currently ALIS is working in minefields in Cambodia, Colombia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Ground Base Synthetic Aperture Radar (GB-SAR) can monitor very small ground surface deformation from remote site more than 1km away. We have continuously monitor Aratozawa landslide site since 2011 and have provided early warning to the local community.  
J-GLOBAL ID: 200901076271360279

### **Abdelhameed Ahmed**

Assistant Professor

*Electromagnetic waves*

My current research work focuses on designing, developing, and testing remote sensing systems. Archeological survey based on electromagnetic waves is another scope of my research.

One of the most important projects I am currently participating in is an electromagnetic survey for the great Giza Pyramid located in Egypt. We have developed a new low-frequency radar system that can image the huge structure of the great pyramid. In addition to this, I am participating in using the 79 GHz MIMO GB-SAR

for cultural heritage preservation.

We started the system installation in Egypt in front a huge cliff located in Helwan city, Egypt as a primary site to check the environmental effect to the SAR imaging.  
J-GLOBAL ID: 202001006018308864

## Department of the Uehiro Toboku

### Historical Materials Research

### **Kenichiro Aratake**

Professor

*Japanese history*

My main area of research is the economic history of Japan in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. This includes not only study of old documents (komonjo), but extensive fieldwork and interviews across Japan to reconstruct a substantive image of early modern Japanese Society.  
J-GLOBAL ID: 201201056410639911

### **Teiji Nomoto**

Assistant Professor

*Japanese history*

My major research objective is to investigate the governance structure of the Tokugawa Shogunate through the study of hatamoto, which refers to government bureaucrats in the Edo period. While they are referred to as government bureaucrats, hatamoto—unlike the bureaucrats in the modern government—had territories granted by General Tokugawa along with their duties and had the characteristic of federal lord. I would like to continue contributing to the study of political history in the Edo period by going beyond the traditional framework by focusing on hatamoto and their territories in various parts of Japan and closely examining historical records on both samurai warriors and villages.  
J-GLOBAL ID: 201901016200383957

### **Hiroyuki Fujikata**

Assistant Professor

*Family history in early modern Japan*

The household unit was the basic unit that comprised many social status groups in early modern Japan. I study issues relating to these household units by examining samurai, especially daimyo’s vassals. This research not only deeply analyzes the history of samurai, but also contributes to elucidating the structure of over-all society at the time. Furthermore, this research also aids in understanding modern Japanese society, as the Meiji government utilized the samurai household unit as a model for the family system, which became a foundation of the nation-state.  
J-GLOBAL ID: 201501073435930169

## Department of Research

### Coordination

### **Yuanyuan Teng**

Assistant Professor

*Regional economics, human geography*

My research focuses on the migrations and social integration of farmers who lost their land due to urban development in China. As a result of China’s dual urban-rural structure, considerable gaps in human capital and socio-economic status have existed between new urbanites and other urban residents. Will this gap gradually narrow over time? Can the educational and occupational outcomes of the land-lost farmers’ offspring, who are disadvantaged in terms of their parents’ human capital, be improved through their resettlement to cities with better educational and living conditions? In addition, I am also interested in the mechanisms of residential choice.  
J-GLOBAL ID: 201901021344156924

international researcher communities (since 2010).

24. Permafrost and Culture: Global Warming and Sakha Republic (Yakutia), eds. Takakura Hiroki, Iijima Yoshiro, Vanda Ignatyeva, Aleksandr Fedorov, Goto Masanori, Tanaka Toshikazu, Russian Federation (in Russian), 2019.

25. Tohoku Region Hot Springs Historical Documents in the Early Modern : The decipherment of the Kamasaki Hot Springs Ichijo Family Documents, ed. Kenichiro Aratake, 2020.

26. Permafrost and Culture: Global Warming and Sakha Republic (Yakutia), eds. Takakura Hiroki, Iijima Yoshiro, Vanda Ignatyeva, Aleksandr Fedorov, Goto Masanori, Tanaka Toshikazu, Russian Federation (in Russian), 2021.

27. Language and Life: Oral Histories of Kamchatka Indigenous Peoples (in Russian),



eds. Nagayama, Y., Pronina, E. P., 2021.

28. A Desire for Continuity: An Anthropological Study of Family Life through an analysis of a Pre-modern Genealogical Book in the New Territories of Hong Kong, Masahisa Segawa, 2021.

## **CNEAS BOOKS**

A new series published for the purpose of sharing the results of our research with general public, published by Tohoku University Press since 2011.

7. Nature and Culture in Northeast Asia, Masachika SHIOTANI and Akio GOTO, 2018

8. People and areas connected by ancient documents: Future of history data preservation activities, eds. Aratake Kenichiro, Takahashi Yohichi, 2019



## NORTHEAST ASIA MONOGRAPH SERIES

This commercially published series presents scholarly monographs in Northeast Asian regional studies aimed at specialists, general readers, and university students. By appealing to a readership not only in Northeast Asian studies but more broadly among scholars and the academic community in related fields, the series is intended to raise awareness in society about the potential of scholarship opened up by the field of Northeast Asian area studies.

20. Post-disaster Communities, Local Cultures and Ethnography: Towards the Development of Disaster Humanities, TAKAKURA Hiroki and YAMAGUCHI Mutsu, Shinsensha, 2018.
21. Japan and the World around the Meiji Restoration: Experience of Diplomacy and Mutual Understanding, ed. TOMODA Masahiro, Yoshikawakobunkan, 2019.
22. State Capacity Building in Contemporary



- China ((Emerging-Economy State and International Policy Studies)), eds. Hiroko NAITO and Vida Macikenaite, Springer, 2020.
23. Michinoku History Course: The Tohoku Region during the Edo Period as Depicted in Contemporary Documents, eds. Aratake Kenichiro, Nomoto Teiji, Fujikata Hiroyuki, Yoshikawakobunkan, 2020.
24. Internal Migration in China: Encounter with Inner Others, eds. KAWAGUCHI Yukihiro and HORIE Mio, Kyoto university press, 2020.
25. Feudal Lordship and Retainer of Hatamoto in the Early Modern Japan, NOMOTO Teiji, Yoshikawakobunkan, 2021.
26. A Desire for Continuity: An Anthropological Study of Family through an Analysis of a Pre-Modern Genealogical Book, SEGAWA Masahisa, Fukyusha, 2021.



## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium

### Environment of Northeast Asia: Cultural Perception and Policy Engagement

Tohoku University's Center for Northeast Asian Studies (CNEAS) celebrated its 25th anniversary by holding a commemorative public lecture and international symposium on June 26 and 27, 2021.

In the 25 years since its establishment, the movement of people and goods within the region has increased due to the progress of globalization in the Northeast Asian region; climate change and environmental issues have also come to be shared as urgent issues to be resolved. In this symposium, we held a commemorative lecture and a general session under the overall theme of "Dynamism in a Changing Environment."

In this lecture, Professor Yosuke Kaifu of the University of Tokyo pre-

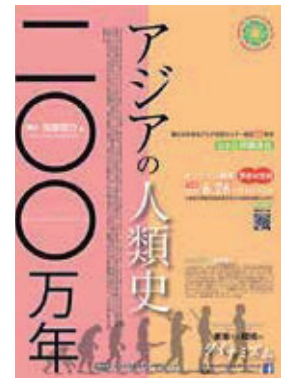


sented on "Two Million Years of Human History in Asia," and a wide-ranging discussion was held on the current status of research trends and the location of new issues concerning Northeast Asia. In addition, there were three session groups: Session A "Regions Emerging from the Environment," Session B "Environment and Cultural Conservation," and Session C "Politics and Society in Northeast Asia," for a total of eight sessions.

In each session, various issues facing the Northeast Asian region, such as environmental problems, were discussed through research practices rooted in the region.

This symposium demonstrated the steady progress of interdisciplinary research collaboration among various disciplines through the Center's research activities during this period.

A total of 555 people registered to attend the lecture and symposium.



## Student Support

The Center provides a good research environment for graduate students, including graduate student rooms and individual research spaces. We also have a space for student exchange to promote active interaction among students from different fields. Financial support is possible for graduate students through research assistantships for externally funded projects such as the National Institutes for the Humanities and the Arctic Region Research Project (subsidized by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology). In addition, faculty members actively support graduate students in applying for JSPS Research Fellowships and grants for overseas study.



## Recent Career Information

Recent CNEAS students have gone onward to a variety of different careers. Master's course graduates have gone into the private sector (IT, finance, environmental consulting, food, pharmaceuticals, etc.), taken part in overseas study, and have continued onward to doctoral studies.

Doctor's course graduates have joined University faculty (Tohoku University, Kyoto University, Yamaguchi University, Shokei Gakuin University, Kagoshima University, University of the Philippines, Mongolian Nationalities University, etc.), and become researchers at public research institutions (National Ainu Museum, National Institute for Defense Studies, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology.

