



CNEAS

Center for Northeast Asian Studies



People and Publicity

Center for Northeast Asian Studies

Tohoku University

Message from the Director

The core issues in Northeast Asian studies seem to be significantly changing. The main role of the field has traditionally been to produce interdisciplinary knowledge for advancing solutions to environmental problems and economic exchanges among Russia, China, Japan, and other countries. It seems, however, that the future of the field will center around topics including the origins of strife, conflict, and wars in the region, both past and current, and paths toward resolving such problems. This change may affect not only the questions addressed and the methods used in various research areas, but also the framework of interdisciplinary research.

The above observation is attributed to the war that began with Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. This event turned the world toward confrontational globalism. Although there had already been signs of such structural change, but the war has decisively made it irreversible. A pattern has been established in which Europe and the United States impose severe sanctions and Russia opposes them. Currently, significant restrictions are imposed not only on diplomatic activities, but also on economic and academic exchanges. In addition, conflicts have arisen in different parts of the world in connection to this.

Arctic research, in which I am involved, is an interdisciplinary science that was facilitated by end of the Cold War. A mechanism for international cooperation for solving environmental problems in the Arctic Ocean, and scientific committees supporting it, were created toward the end of the Soviet era, leading to the establishment of a cooperative system that involved Europe, the United States, and Russia, as well as countries including Japan, China, and India. Based on this foundation, researchers in the natural sciences and in the humanities and social sciences began to collaborate to assess the impacts of climate change. In my opinion, this may be the most successful case of collaboration between sciences researchers and humanities researchers in tackling common issues. However, the collaboration related to the Arctic region has bifurcated since 2022.

The situation has worsened so much that it is now unimaginable to restore the prior system of international academic cooperation. Prioritized research topics in humanities and social sciences are shifting to security in the divided Arctic region and to sociopolitical issues. In the natural sciences, researchers have to conduct observations and analysis without support from Russia, and therefore traditional research approaches will have to change.

Looking back, the origin of the Center for Northeast Asian Studies, which was established in 1996, can be traced back to international exchanges between Japan and the former Soviet Union that began after the end of the Cold War. In some sense, the Center has a historical background similar to that of Arctic research. Even before 2022, Russia and China were already recognized as authoritarian countries, and we started to regard Northeast Asian studies as a means to understand Japan's neighboring countries. It will be increasingly important to discover interdisciplinary knowledge that will contribute to peaceful coexistence in the region.

The advantages of the Center for Northeast Asian Studies include not only that we have capable researchers whose work is internationally recognized in their specialized fields in humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, but also that they have engaged in interdisciplinary cooperation across the boundaries of the humanities and science. We at Tohoku University are proud of these achievements. In biology, history, archaeology, anthropology, hydrology, geology, and other areas of study, the results of our interdisciplinary research that encompasses the humanities and science have attracted international attention. I believe that based on this foundation we must innovatively advance the field of Northeast Asian studies.



Hiroki Takakura

Faculty

Division of Russian and Siberian Studies

TERAYAMA Kyosuke

Professor

For deeper understanding of the regime built by Stalin, I study various policies on the far eastern region of the Soviet Union that were implemented after the September 1931 Manchurian Incident and drew strong interest from Stalin, who was concerned about a possible recurrence of an intervention war, and I examine the effects of those policies on the entire country. My main focus is on various secret and little known measures for strengthening national defense capabilities, which included transportation of soldiers, workers, and supplies; strengthening of mobilization capacities including the double tracking of the Trans-Siberian Railway and the construction of the Baikal-Amur Mainline; development of the military industry; public health measures to eradicate infectious diseases; expansion of the meteorological observation network; development of communication networks; development of radio networks for propaganda to domestic and foreign audiences; food stockpiling; and military education for all citizens.

J-GLOBAL : 200901070306910856

TAKAKURA Hiroki

Professor

To understand Russia, we must consider the fact that approximately 200 ethnic groups currently live in the country, and that it once held colonies that extended into Central Asia and Alaska. In this context, Siberia remains an internal colony to this day. The reason for this is that Siberia is not only home to numerous indigenous peoples, but also a region whose economic development is based on its abundant natural resources. In addition to research on ethnicities and nationalism in Siberia, I study the cultural and ecological history of the Far North from the standpoint of human history and assess the impacts of climate change.

J-GLOBAL : 201501018786770477 ORCID : 0000-0002-1470-6173

PAKHOMOV Oleg

Assistant Professor

Social hysteria, mass anxiety, and surges in collective violence can serve, under certain circumstances, as a special mechanism that contributes to

the formation of new political institutions in a manner suited to the historical conditions. In sociocultural psychology, collective psychosis can be defined as a complex of Mass Affective Deformation (MAD complex), that is, external mechanisms that control group and individual behaviors. I am currently analyzing the Russian political history as a cyclical series of Mass Affective Deformations. The MAD complex emerged in Russia in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in connection with Christian eschatology, and was based on cultural and psychological interactions with death. In the context of the formation of crucial political institutions, I also examine the formation of the centralized bureaucratic hierarchy and nation-state.

ORCID : 0000-0003-2530-0854

Division of Mongolian and Central Asian Studies

SANO Katsuhiko

Professor

I study the relationship between human evolution and the progress in the production and usage of stone tools. In particular, I focus on how the physical changes of humans and the development of their cognitive capabilities influenced the ways in which humans made and used tools. Currently, I am conducting research to better understand why archaic humans became extinct while only Homo sapiens achieved global prevalence and population growth. I am therefore focusing on the development of hunting techniques, which was important in Paleolithic subsistence strategies, and am examining their relationship with human evolution.

J-GLOBAL : 201001060985228975 ORCID : 0000-0002-0839-8549

YANAGIDA Kenji

Associate Professor

Societies in most regions of the world are multilingual societies consisting of multiple ethnic groups. National, ethnic, and linguistic boundaries do not coincide. Language forms part of humans' external sociocultural environment in complex and diverse manners. In many cases, however, conceptual distinctions made by native speakers of a certain language are completely unexpected to speakers of another language. Moreover, the distinctions in the mother tongue, despite being merely arbitrary im-

positions constantly enforced by the language, also constitute a frightening 'internal environment' when not recognized as such. I conduct research on language from the perspectives of both this external environment and the internal environment.

J-GLOBAL : 200901067636472315

Division of Chinese Studies

UENO Toshihiro

Associate Professor

I focus on China's frontier region, where various ethnic groups are widely distributed. In the first half of the twentieth century, after the end of the loose integration of the imperial period, the frontier regions were integrated and reorganised into a multi-ethnic China through the construction of the nation-state. I clarify this historical process through the analysis of relevant documents and materials stored in archives around the world, and by clarifying the historical background to contemporary ethnic problems in China, aim to understanding of the multi-ethnic societies of Northeast Asia and contribute to ethnic coexistence in Northeast Asia.

J-GLOBAL : 200901058049007317

ISHII Yumi

Associate Professor

I am oral historian, working on the war memory of Chinese people, with specific focus on the interrelation of memory and rural community. Inspired by the concept of "collective memory," I have conducted field research in Yu-county, Shanxi province for more than 10 years. Through that process, my research interest developed further, which includes: community resilience, revival of rain-making, local history of the "Orphan of Zhao" and its oral adaptation in rural community. I am also interested in the transmission of the story of "Orphan of Zhao" into the 18th century Europe by Jesuit missionaries. With these research interests, I am trying to understand the interaction of East and West, local and global, individual and collective.

J-GLOBAL : 202301020100108975 ORCID : 0000-0001-7851-2231

Division of Japanese and Korean Studies

ISHII Atsushi

Associate Professor

Specialized in international politics and the sociology of science and technology, I study issues related to cross-border air pollution, fishery resource management, whaling, and climate engineering. Currently, I am working on factor analysis of Japan's environmental diplomacy and transdisciplinary scientific research on eel resource management. For the latter, in particular, I conduct focus group interviews, perform stakeholder analysis, examine regime complexes, and perform comparative analysis of domestic resource management policies. In other academic activities, I serve as review editor for *Frontiers in Climate*. I also organize a study group on environmental politics and governance (and seek presenters). My most recent publication is entitled "Pursuing sustainability? Ecosystem considerations in Japan's fisheries governance" (*Marine Policy*, vol. 152; coauthored with Ayako Okubo of Tokai University).

ORCID : 0000-0002-3111-6626

DELANEY Alyne

Professor

My research focuses on peoples' connections with their environment through varied topics such as investigating coastal people's identities, well-being, place attachment, and cultural heritage. In researching people's environmental connections with the sea, I also research fish-

eries governance and new concepts such as satumi and umiyogu. My research is both anthropologically focused—e.g., focused on rituals, festivals and oral histories—and also brings social science into transdisciplinary research with natural scientists. Long interested in social sustainability and resilience, I also conduct research on disaster recovery and climate change.

J-GLOBAL : 201901016827992100 ORCID : 0000-0002-0516-1343

CHENG Yongchao

Associate Professor

I mainly study the history of the relationships among Japan, Korea, and China from the seventeenth to nineteenth century. After the Imjin War (1592-1598), Tokugawa Japan and Ming-Qing China did not establish formal diplomatic relations, political and diplomatic relationships between the two countries in the early modern period have been considered tenuous relationships that were established indirectly via the Joseon Dynasty and the Ryukyu Kingdom. By putting Joseon Korea as a mediator between Tokugawa Japan and Ming-Qing China, I aim to reconstruct the history of international relations in East Asia by comparing and examining historical sources from China, Korea, and Japan (including the bakufu and the Tsushima Domain). Also, cooperating with astronomers, I am uncovering astronomical and meteorological phenomena in the past based on historical documents.

J-GLOBAL : 201801001730339504 ORCID : 0000-0001-9932-4029

MIYAMOTO Tsuyoshi

Assistant Professor

Volcanic eruptions cause disasters in surrounding areas, and Northeast Asia has multiple volcanoes. I study the kinds of past volcanic activity that occurred in the region to understand the impacts of volcanic eruptions on the natural environment (and human history), focusing on historically recorded eruptions in Japan, China, and North Korea. More specifically, I focus on the two major eruptions of Mt. Paektu (the continent) and Lake Towada (Japan) that occurred one after the other in the tenth century and examine, based on field research, the eruptive sequence and the impacts of the eruptions on the natural environment.

J-GLOBAL : 200901086699393851

Division of Regional Ecosystem Studies

CHIBA Satoshi

Professor

Our laboratory conducts research to clarify the evolutionary process of biodiversity at various spatial and temporal scales. In particular, we focus on organisms such as mollusca, insects, reptiles, and flatworms, examine macro-level mechanisms based on field work and outdoor experiments, and clarify genetic mechanisms based on genomic analysis. We are currently conducting research on the origin and conservation of the biota of Northeast Asia, including Japan, which is known worldwide to have high evolutionary value because of the uniqueness and diversity of the living lineages found in the region.

J-GLOBAL : 200901099098503778 ORCID : 0000-0001-9273-0307

KIMURA Kazutaka

Assistant Professor

The Asian region from the Russian Far East to Vietnam and the Philippines is a hotspot of biodiversity. Taking organisms in this region as examples, I study mechanisms that generate and maintain biodiversity. In this Anthropocene epoch, many human-induced extinctions of plants and animals are expected to occur. To prevent as many such tragedies as possible I would like to contribute to improvement of biodiversity conservation measures. More specifically, I am actively working to better understand the biota of coastal and freshwater areas, which are sus-

Publications

Northeast Asian Studies

Northeast Asian Studies is a peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary journal published by the Center for Northeast Asian Studies of Tohoku University. Contents of vol.29 (2025)

Articles

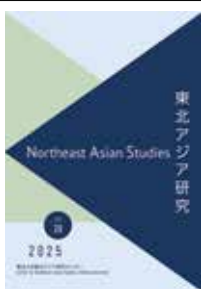
From Odessa to Vladivostok: Soviet Marine Transportation at the first half of 1930s
TERAYAMA Kyosuke

Visual Anthropology in the Environmental Inquiry: Possible Paths
PANÁKOVÁ Jaroslava

Review Paper

The Discourse Space of China's Policy towards Japan: Evidence from International Relations and Japanese Studies Academic Journals (2016-2023)

WANG Guangtao, YU Jiaru, CHENG Zhaoyu



Short Articles

Geometric morphometric analysis of celadon from the Unno-gusuku site on the Tokunoshima island

YATSU Aina, ENOMOTO Misato, and SANO Katsuhiko

The Saga of Three Chinese Chekists in the Soviet Political Police (EASI)
Jon K. Chang

Report

Analysis of the actual operation of China's statute of limitations system—Based on materials from May 5, 2013 to the year-end judgment of 2014 in "BEI DA FA YI"

TAKAHASHI Koji

Book Reviews

TANIMOTO Masayuki. *Indigenous Development in the Megalopolis: Proliferation of Small and Medium Enterprises in the 20th Century Japan*. Nagoya: Nagoya University Press, 424p

SAKAI Kazuho

CHENG Yongchao, *East Asia in the Kai Hentai Transformation: Trilateral Relations among Tokugawa-Josen and China in the 17-19th Centuries [kai hentai no Tohoku aija]* Osaka: Seibundo Shuppan, 2021, 382pp.

YONETANI Hitoshi

ceptible to human-made modifications, as well as the current status and ecological characteristics of endangered species and invasive non-native species.

J-GLOBAL : 201401087879938720 ORCID : 0000-0003-1091-2313

Division of Geochemistry

HIRANO Naoto

Professor

The Pacific Plate, which subducts along ocean trenches off the coast of Northeast Asia, has caused large-scale plate-boundary earthquakes and has created many island-arc volcanoes. However, only recently did scholars begin to understand the true nature of the Pacific Plate. This scientific progress has been driven by intensive explorations conducted since the 2000s to understand ocean floor observations, the rock-samplings from plate-boundary faults, the construction of a high sensitivity seismograph network on Japan Trench, and the discovery of submarine "petit-spot" volcanoes. Our laboratory examines the petrology of petit-spot volcanoes to gain knowledge about the composition of the deep mantle directly beneath the Pacific Plate and on the rocks constituting the plate, seeking some renewals about the nature of the Pacific Plate.

J-GLOBAL : 200901073369508933 ORCID : 0000-0003-0980-3929

GOTO Akio

Assistant Professor

There are various types of volcanic eruptions, such as those that effuse lava calmly and those that eject volcanic bombs and ash explosively. Volcanic eruptions differ in type largely due to the physical properties of magma, especially the viscosity (a measure of resistance to flow), and also by external factors such as whether the magma contacts with water at the eruption. I study the influence of magma viscosity on volcanic phenomena, mainly using experimental methods. I also have conducted field surveys at Zao volcano and Naruko volcano near Sendai for the past several years to assess activity at their crater lakes (Okama and Kat-anuma) and to understand their groundwater flow system.

J-GLOBAL : 200901039820745770 ORCID : 0000-0001-8398-7100

Division of Environmental Information

TAMURA Kohei

Associate Professor

Humans, along with other organisms, transmit information to the succeeding generation through two pathways: genetic and cultural inheritance. In order to comprehensively understand biological and cultural diversity resulting from their interaction (gene-culture co-evolution) in a quantitative manner, I employ diverse methodologies including mathematical modeling and statistical analysis. My work also involves developing a new framework to summarize an enormous amount of data relevant with human history, surpassing the capacity of individual scholars to grasp the whole entirety. Additionally, I'm engaged in establishing infrastructure to sustainably promote research under social conditions where the accumulation of academic knowledge is progressively challenging.

J-GLOBAL : 201601003337041151 ORCID : 0000-0003-2014-5410

Uehiro Research Division of Historical Materials Study

ARATAKE Kenichiro

Professor

To clarify the political and economic realities in Japan from the seventeenth century to the nineteenth century, I analyze the framework of society as a whole. With respect to political history, I study the organ-

ization of regional government systems, which reflected cooperation between samurai and ordinary people in the early modern period, and the specifics of fiscal expenditures. Regarding economic history, I seek to clarify the nature of maritime transportation in Japan and neighboring areas and focus on the activities of merchants who played the leading role in the widespread distribution of goods, as well as on urban-rural relationships. My research requires old documents used by samurai, merchants, and farmers, and in my research projects I utilize historical materials passed down through generations in the Tohoku region.

J-GLOBAL : 201201056410639911 ORCID : 0000-0002-9405-6616

NEMOTO Minami

Assistant Professor

My research mainly concerns the relationship between the "family" and "daimyo (feudal lord) family" in early modern samurai society. It has been traditionally considered that in this society the families of vassals were subsumed under the daimyo family, and that the families of vassals relied on the continuance of the daimyo family for their livelihood. Recent studies, however, have revealed that vassals had a strong interest in the continuance of their own families. Based on the results of these studies, I will examine actions and claims of people who lived in early modern samurai society and clarify how they perceived the relationship between their families and the daimyo family to which their families belonged.

J-GLOBAL : 201901004268920227

Department of Research Coordination, Division for Scholastic Information

TENG Yuanyuan

Assistant Professor

My primary research interest centers on population migration, the development of migration/settlement intentions, and the interplay between living environments and well-being. My recent investigations have spanned three main areas. The first area examines the relationship between changes in the socioeconomic status of farmers whose land was expropriated due to urban development in China and their subsequent urban resettlement. Secondly, I explore the relationship between the living environments of foreign residents in Japan and their integration. The third investigates the mechanisms that shape migration/settlement intentions among the Japanese population.

J-GLOBAL : 201901021344156924 ORCID : 0000-0002-6569-9188

Research Unit for Minority Rights and Media

Alimtohte SHIHO

Assistant Professor

I conduct comprehensive, interdisciplinary comparative research on philosophy, politics, and society in East Asia and Islamic regions and clarify the relevant historical development. More specifically, I am interested in the history of Islamic studies focusing on Central Asia and China as a modern academic field and examine how in Japan, China, and the West the existence of Central Asian Turkic Muslims and Chinese Muslims was "rediscovered" in the process of modernization in East Asia, and how Islamic studies focusing on Central Asia and China started and evolved.

J-GLOBAL : 201701010203826652

CNEAS Monograph Series

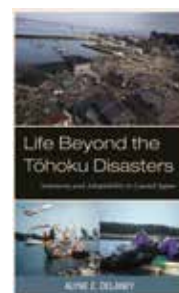
76. ARATAKE Kenichiro (ed.). *Reading the Agatsuma Family Documents 1 - The Organization of the Iwadeyama Date Family [Agatsuma-ke Monjo o Yomu I - Iwadeyama Date-ke no Soshiki]*. Iwadeyama Kobunsho o Yomu Kai, 2025.



Northeast Asian Monograph series

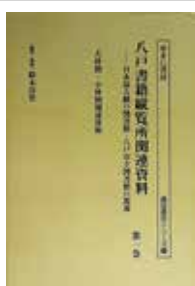
33. ARATAKE Kenichiro, and NOMOTO Teiji (eds.). *The Organization and Policy of the Sendai Domain [Sendai Han no Soshiki to Seisaku]*. Iwata Shoin, 2025.

32. Alyne Delaney. *Life Beyond the Tōhoku Disasters: Autonomy and Adaptability in Coastal Japan*. Lexington Press. May 2024.



Other Publications

SUZUKI Yoshitoki (ed). *Series of Bibliographic Information on Japanese Publications 125: Private Hachinohe Library Materials. 3 Volumes: One of the Oldest Libraries in Japan. Origin of Hachinohe City Library.* [Shoshi Shomoku Shirizu 125: Hachinohe Shoseki Jüransho Kanren Shiryo Zen 3-kan: *Nihon Saikokyū no Toshikan. Hachinohe Shiritsu Toshokan no Genryū.* Yumani Shobou. 2025.



Michael Knüppel, Oleg Pakhomov(eds.). *Vladimir Il'ich Iokhel'son: Personal Memoirs from Siberia.* Verlag: Books on Demand. 2024.



The Digital Archive of Northeast Asian Studies

<https://archives.cneas.tohoku.ac.jp/en>



CNEAS Project Research

Unit title	Period	Leader
Research Unit for Minority Rights and Media	2022-2027	TAKAKURA Hiroki
UN Decade of Ocean Science: Transdisciplinary Research for Fisheries Policy Evaluation	2023-2025	ISHII Atsushi
Archive and curating team on geological collections	2023-2025	TSUJIMORI Tatsuki

Joint Research

Research area	Period	Research title	Leader
Environmental issues and natural disasters	2023-2025	Field survey on the volcanic activity of a crater lake, Katanuma in Naruko Volcano	GOTO Akio
	2023-2027	Studying the Vulnerabilities of People with Disabilities in Disasters	Boret Sebastien
Nature resources, energy and international relations	2024-2024	Lawsonite-eclogite geochronology: Dating of metamorphosed slab along a cold geotherm	TSUJIMORI Tatsuki
The dynamics between immigration, logistics, and cultural exchange	2023-2024	Human Migration and Regional Adaptation in the Pan-Japan Sea from the end of the Pleistocene to the beginning of the Holocene	KANOMATA Yoshitaka
	2023-2024	Traceological studies on behavioral changes during prehistoric transitions in Northeast Asia	SANO Katsuhiko
	2021-2024	A Basic Study on Manuscripts Related to Joseon Missions to Japan in the Kokichi Kano Collection	CHENG Yongchao
	2024-2026	Trans-boundary expansions of prehistoric humans and cultures in the Ryukyu Islands	SANO Katsuhiko
	2024-2026	The Migration and Cultural Forms of Muslims -- A Study on the Muslim Minority Floating Population in Contemporary China --	Alimtohte SHIHO
Conservation and inheritance of natural and cultural heritage	2024-2024	Economic corridors and border regions in Northeast Asia: An anthropological study focus on border trades.	TERAO Moe
	2023-2024	A publicity campaign of the social, ecological, industrial environments originated from geological basement on Pacific coast, NE-most of Japan	Hirano Naoto
	2023-2025	Interaction and intelligence of the Northeast Asian in the early modern	ARATAKE Kenichiro
	2024-2025	Digital Preservation of Photographic Documents from Post-Soviet Uzbekistan	ISOGAI Masumi
	2024-2024	Species and genetic diversity of some micro terrestrial snails in Japan	KIMURA Kazutaka
	2024-2024	Metadata required for geological collections	YOSHIDA Satoshi
	2024-2026	Practice of preserving historical materials after compilation of local government history in Tendo City, Yamagata Prefecture	TAKEHARA Kazuo
History and politics surrounding conflict and coexistence	2024-2026	The formation of the local community from a history document : The case of Sukagawa City, Fukushima Prefecture	TAKEHARA Kazuo
	2024-2026	Regional Cultural Research Using Multiple Methods: The Case of Shichigahama Town, Miyagi Prefecture	DELANEY Alyne
	2023-2026	International Comparative Studies on War Memories	ISHII Yumi
	2023-2024	Study on the Autochthonous Order Restructuring of Mongolian Indigenous Society in the Qing Times	OKA Hiroki
	2023-2025	Russian exodus after the War in Ukraine and the inter-ethnic relations in Mongolia	TAKAKURA Hiroki
	2024-2025	An Anthropological study on the phase of memorial services for the war dead of the Battle of Okinawa	OCHI Ikuno

individual research projects

http://www2.cneas.tohoku.ac.jp/research/labo_ex/

