

GERMAN ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH ON JAPAN [VSJF]  
JAPANESE-GERMAN CENTER BERLIN [JDZB]

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

for the

**VSJF Annual Conference 2013**

on

**Inequality in Post-Growth Japan:  
Social Transformation During Economic and Demographic Stagnation**

from Friday, November 22 - Sunday, November 24, 2013  
at the Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB),  
Saargemuender Str. 2, 14195 Berlin

as of October 11, 2013 - Rw

**Thursday, November 21**

14.00 – 18.00 Gender Workshop

**Friday, November 22**

09.00 – 12.45 Gender Workshop

**15.00 – 15.30 Welcome, Opening Remarks and Introduction to the Conference**

Friederike BOSSE (Secretary General JDZB)  
Annette SCHAD-SEIFERT (President VSJF)  
Organizers: David CHIAVACCI (University of Zurich)  
Carola HOMMERICH (German Institute for Japanese Studies)

**15.30 – 16.15** Keynote speech  
**Institutions and Agency in the Creation of Social Inequality**  
SATŌ Yoshimichi (Tohoku University, Sendai)

16.15- 16.45 *Coffee break*

**16.45 – 18.15 Panel 1 – Urban vs. Rural**

Chair: David CHIAVACCI (University of Zurich)

**The Urban-Rural Divide in Japan: A Matter of Social Inequality?**  
Ralph LÜTZELER (University of Bonn)

**Public and Political Discourses on Spatial Inequality in Japan**  
Volker ELIS (University of Cologne)

**Understanding the Dynamics of Regional Growth and Shrinkage in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Japan**  
Peter MATANLE (University of Sheffield)

18.30 – 20.00 *Dinner*

*Saturday, November 23*

**09.00 – 10.30 Panel 2 – Welfare State**

Chair: Verena BLECHINGER-TALCOTT (FUB Free University Berlin)

**Social Inequality in Families with Children: Focusing on Income Inequality in Contemporary Japan**

SHIRAHASE Sawako (University of Tokyo)

**Social Policy Responses to the 'Gap Society': The Structural Limitations of the Japanese Welfare State and related Official Discourses since the 1990s**

Harald CONRAD (University of Sheffield)

**Political Obstacles for Welfare Reforms in Japan**

Margarita ESTÉVEZ-ABE (Collegio Carlo Alberto, Torino)

10.30 – 11.00 *Coffee break*

**11.00 – 12.30 Panel 3 – Labor Market**

Chair: Annette SCHAD-SEIFERT (Heinrich Heine University Duesseldorf)

**The 'Re-segmentation' of the Japanese Labor Market: A Structural Effect of the Increasing Heterogeneity of Firms?**

Sébastien LECHEVALIER (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris)

**Discourses about Labor Market Inequalities**

Karen SHIRE (University Duisburg-Essen)

Steffen HEINRICH (University Duisburg-Essen)

**Are Labor Union Movements Capable in Solving the Problems of the "Gap Society"?**

IMAI Jun (Hokkaido University, Sapporo)

12.30 – 14.00 *Lunch*

**14.00 – 16.00 General Meeting of the VSJF**

**16.00 – 19.00 VSJF Section Meetings (Sitzungen der Fachgruppen)**

Raum XYZ Fachgruppe "Bildung und Erziehung" (confirmed)

Raum XYZ Fachgruppe "Kultur und Medien" (confirmed)

Raum XYZ Fachgruppe "Politik" (confirmed)

Raum XYZ Fachgruppe "Soziologie und Sozialanthropologie" (confirmed)

Raum XYZ Fachgruppe "Stadt- und Regeionalforschung" (confirmed)

Raum XYZ Fachgruppe "Wirtschaft" (confirmed)

19.00 – 20.30 *Buffet Dinner*

Sunday, November 24

**09.00 – 10.30 Panel 4 – Minorities**

**Chair:** Carola HOMMERICH (DIJ German Institute for Japanese Studies)

**Paths of Inclusion and Exclusion: Ethnic Minorities and Social Structures in Contemporary Japan**

David CHIAVACCI (University of Zurich)

**The *Tabunka Kyōsei* Model in Crisis? Public Discourse on Immigrant Integration in a Gap Society**

KIBE Takashi (International Christian University, Tokyo)

**Global Opportunities, Ethnic Resources and Transnational Strategies: Newcomer Immigrants' Economic Practices in Japan**

Gracia LIU-FARRER (Waseda University, Tokyo)

10.30 – 11.00 *Coffee break*

**11.00 – 12.30 Panel 5 – Education**

**Chair:** Karsten HELMHOLZ (University of Hamburg)

**Understanding Structural Changes in Inequality in Education**

KARIYA Takehiko (Oxford University)

**Trying to Reduce Inequalities in School: The Academic Discourse and the Concept of 'Effective Schools'**

Julia CANSTEIN (University of Halle-Wittenberg)

**Recent Trends in Japan's Educational Policy**

OKADA Akito (Tokyo University for Foreign Studies)

12.30-12.45 Concluding remarks

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