

Collective Creativity Workshop Kyoto 2025

—Collective Creativity from the Front Lines—

Date: 13 14 December, 2025

Venue: Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Lecture Room

List of Speakers

Greeting address: Motoji MATSUDA (Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, JAPAN)

Speakers:

Marilena Frisone (University College Cork, IRELAND)

Misa HIRANO-NOMOTO (Kyoto University JAPAN)

Makito KAWATA (Seijo University JAPAN)

Motoji MATSUDA

Kanako NAKAGAWA (Otemon Gakuin University JAPAN)

Antoine SOCPA (Department of Anthropology The University of Yaounde, CAMEROON)

Meyu YAMAMOTO (Ritsumeikan University JAPAN)

Commentators:

Akira FURUKAWA (Kwansei Gakuin University, JAPAN)

Yasuto NAKANO (Kwansei Gakuin University, JAPAN)

Secretariats:

Kazuko MATSUI

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Global Environmental Culture Program, The Research Institute for Humanity and Nature

Program Timetable

14 December, 2025

11:00-11:10 Motoji Matsuda

Greeting Address and Opening Remarks

11:10-11:40 Antoine SOCPA

Material poverty and the invention of “new survival means” among internal migrants, young people and underpaid civil servants in Cameroon

11:40-12:10 Misa Hirano-Nomoto

Economy against the Organization: Mutual Aid, Self-Reliance, and Continuity in Yaoundé’s Informal Sector

12:10-13:10 Lunch Break

13:10-13:40 Meyu Yamamoto

Solidarity Through Distance: Collective Creativity in Japan’s “Flower Demo” Movement

13:40-14:10 Marilena Frisone

“Schismogenic creativity: bricoleur and engineer approaches to the making of Newar festivals in the diaspora”

14:10-14:40 Kanako Nakagawa

Crafting 'My Shop' Outside Home: Collective Activities by the Meat Seller Caste Women in Nepal

14:40-15:00 Coffee Break

15:00-15:20 Makito Kawata joining via video

The spontaneous development and collective creativity of amateur performing arts (comedy entertainment) in Amami

15:20-16:50 Motoji Matsuda

Collective Creativity in Decision-Making: Insights from Traditional Japanese Villages and Contemporary African Modes of Consensus

16:50-17:00 Break

17:00-17:40 General Comments: Akira Furukawa

How Have Small Communities Navigated the Crises of War and Floods? : A Reading of “The Village Diary”

General Discussion Convener: Yasuto Nakano

BIO

Marilena FRISONE is a social anthropologist who is currently working as assistant lecturer in the Study of Religions Department, University College Cork. She has taught at UCC in modules on Indigenous Religions, Hinduism and Indian Religions, Introduction to Asian Studies, and within the MA programme in Anthropology. She has conducted fieldwork in Nepal, researching on Nepalese followers of Japanese New Religions and focusing on religious conversion, ritual, and medical pluralism. Since 2015 she has been conducting fieldwork among Newar communities in London, researching on language revitalisation, heritage, and food practices in the diaspora. Among her publications: “Eight Dusts: Healing Rituals and Metaphysics of Dust among Nepalese Followers of a Japanese New Religion” (E/C, Journal of the Italian Association for Semiotic Studies 17, 39, 2023); “The Fame of Chhoyela and Yomari: Reverberations of Newar Foodways in London and in a Transnational Context” (Irish Journal of Asian Studies 7, 2021).

Akira FURUKAWA is Professor Emeritus, Kwansei Gakuin University, Japan. His research fields are Japanese Villages and Urban areas in Nepal. His research topics are relationships between people and nature, artifacts, landscapes, etc.. His major works include: Village Life in Modern Japan (Trans Pacific Press in Melbourne, 2007), Jaraun Hiti: traditional Water Use in Nepal (co-edited with A. Vajracharya, K. Nakagawa: Vajra Publications in Kathmandu, 2012), “How a Small Community Responds to MultipleDisasters” in Gendai Fukushi Kenkyu 23 (Co-authored with R. Nakamura and A.Bajracharya, 2023).

Misa HIRANO-NOMOTO is Professor of the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, and Center for African Area Studies at Kyoto University, Japan. She has extensively researched urban communities in Cameroon and Okinawa, Japan. Her research topics are the urban informal economy, mutual assistance, and rotating saving and credit association(ROSCA). Her major works include ‘Urban voluntary associations as “African potentials”: The case of Yaoundé, Cameroon’ (*African Studies Monographs Supplementary Issues*, Vol. 50, 2014, pp. 123-136) and *People, Predicaments and Potentials in Africa* (co-edited with Takehiko Ochiai and Daniel E. Agbiboa, Bamenda: Langaa RPCIG, 2021).

Makito KAWADA, Professor of Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Arts & Literature, Seijo University, JAPAN. His research fields are Bisayas, Philippines, and Southeast Islands of Japan. His research topics are magic and rituals, folk religion, performance and entertainment. His major works include: Everyday knowledge of prayer and worship: Ethnography of Bantayan Island, Visayas, Philippines. (Fukuoka: Kyushu Daigaku Shuppankai, 2008, in Japanese) , Visayas and Beyond: Continuing Studies on Subsistence and Belief in the Islands. (Co-edited with Cynthia Neri Zayas and Lilian de la Peña, Diliman: Cener for International Studies Publications, University of the Philippines, 2014), Gendai Sekai no Jujutsu (Magic in Contemporary world). (co-edited with Chihiro Shirakawa and Taku Iida, Yokohama: Shumpu sha, 2020 in Japanese).

Motoji MATSUDA is a socio-cultural anthropologist and a program director at the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Japan. Educated in University of Nairobi (MA) and Kyoto University (PhD), He had been a Professor of Sociology at the Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University until 2021. He served as the president of JASCA (Japanese Society of Cultural Anthropology 2016-2018 and currently the president of JAAS (Japanese Association for African Studies). He has organized 10-year joint research project between African and Japanese scholars

in the pursuit of Alternative Humanities, producing an eight volume series of African Potentials: Convivial Perspectives for the Future of Humanity in 2022. He has worked on ethnic/racial conflict, life-strategy of urban informal settlement, and dialogue between science and culture, authoring or co-authoring over 140 articles, and editing or co-editing 25 books.

Kanako NAKAGAWA is a researcher involved in anthropology teaching as an associate professor at the Department of Sociology, Otemon Gakuin University, Japan. She received PhD (Sociology) in 2014 from Kwansei Gakuin University which examines the re-interpretation of caste mediated by the market economy through a case study of meat sellers in Kathmandu. Prior to this, she worked for several years at Embassy of Japan in Nepal as a researcher. She published a book of *Neparu de kasuto wo ikinuku (Live through the 'Caste' in Contemporary Nepal: Ethnography on the People Engage in Animal Sacrifice and Meat Selling)* in 2016.

Yasuto NAKANO is a Professor of Sociology and Social Statistics, School of Sociology & Digital Habitus Research Center, Kwansei Gakuin University, Japan. His research interests are 'social norms and order of society', e.g. 'proenvironmental consciousness and behavior', 'subjective landscape and living environment'. His research fields are Netherlands, Nepal, and cyber space. Quantitative text analysis and data standard are his methodological research fields. His major works include: 'Evaluation of Landscape and Regional Mobility: Analysis on Azumino Life Environment Survey,'(CHIIKI BRAND KENKYU, 2012, 7:19-31), 'Integrated Environment for Social Research Data Analysis: DDIR,'(Annual Conference of International Association for Social Science Information Services & Technology, 2016, Bergen).

Antoine SOCPA is affiliated with the Department of Anthropology at the University of Yaoundé. He holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Leiden (The Netherlands) and a Doctorate in Medical Anthropology from the University of Yaoundé (Cameroon). His research and publications are in the fields of cultural, political, social and medical anthropology.

He is a senior researcher at the Center for Research and Training in Applied Social Sciences (CASS-RT), a consulting laboratory. He is the Secretary General of the Pan-African Association of Anthropologists (PAAA).

He is currently staying in Japan, as a visiting researcher at ASAFA, Kyoto University, thanks to a grant from the Canon Foundation in Europe.

Meyu YAMAMOTO is Associate Professor, the College of Letters, Ritsumeikan University, Japan. Her research interests include racism, South Africa, Africa-Asia relations, and wartime sexual violence. One of her research projects focuses on 'honorary whites', a title reportedly bestowed upon Japanese residents during the apartheid era. Her recent publications include Ethnoracial Politics of Honorary Whiteness in Twentieth-Century South Africa, Shinyosha, 2022 (in Japanese), "Honorary Whiteness as a Relational Construct: Ethnoracial Formations of Japanese and Chinese in Apartheid South Africa", Social Theory and Dynamics (3), 2022: 15-122, and "The Othering of Sex Workers in the Collective Memory, the Media, and Research on Repatriation: Insights from the Recollections of the Kurokawa Settler Community", Journal of Japanese History (734), 2023: 18-35 (in Japanese).

13 December,2025

Visit The Utoro Peace Memorial Museum

The Story of Utoro that Carries Beyond Utoro

The Town of Zainichi Koreans - Utoro

In this town lies the sad history of Zainichi Koreans, but also the power of “small reunification” to overcome it.

Through Utoro, we shall ponder the past, present, and future, from the perspective of universal human rights and peace.

Together, we will create the story of Utoro that carries beyond Utoro.



Utoro District and The Museum

51 Utoro, Iseda-Cho, Uji City, Kyoto. This address belongs to all households of a small district of ethnic Koreans, called Utoro. Utoro began as the living quarters for ethnic Koreans, or Zainichi Chosenjin, mobilized for the “Kyoto Military Airport Construction Project” promoted by the Japanese Government beginning in 1940. Over the years, the Utoro district has overcome numerous hardships.

The Utoro Peace Memorial Museum serves as a place to convey the importance of human rights and peace, and the meaning of living together, through the stories of those who have protected Utoro. We aims to be an open community space for people in Japan and the Korean Peninsula and beyond, to meet, mingle and deepen mutual understandings, for the future generations.