

11-13 September 2023

Concept, Idea & Coordination

Dr. Harald Kümmerle and Dr. Celia Spoden
German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ Tokyo)

Prof. Dr. Jiré Emine Gözen
University of Europe for Applied Sciences Berlin/University of Bayreuth

Prof. Noriyuki Yanagawa, PhD
The University of Tokyo



Registration
here!
<https://dij.tokyo/dmd>

Discursive and Material Dimensions of the Digital Transformation

Perspectives from and on Japan

- DAY 1** MON 11 SEPTEMBER
10:00-16:00 **Robots and AI**
Webinar (registration required)
10:30-12:15 **Envisioning Future Societies:
Robots and AI in Science Fiction, the Lab, and Reality**
13:45-16:00 **Sociocultural Practices of Situating the Self and Other:
Robots with Heart, Virtual Humans, and Matter with Soul**
Venue: Sophia University, Building No. 10, Kodo Lecture Hall (public – registration required)
18:00-20:30 **KEYNOTE: Prof. Dr. Shoko Suzuki (Kyoto)**
Rediscovering “Glocal” Cultural Resources for the Digital Future
KEYNOTE: Prof. Dr. Shintaro Miyazaki (Berlin)
Counter-Dancing Digitality! Practising CommOnistic Cooperativity
- DAY 2** TUE 12 SEPTEMBER
10:00-15:00 **Data and Infrastructures**
Webinar (registration required)
10:00-11:45 **Algorithms, Data, and the In-between:
Fashion Culture and Transnational Science**
13:15-15:00 **Data Policy and Agile Governance**
Venue: Half Moon Hall, Shimokitazawa (public – registration required)
17:45-22:00 **ONE – A Performance About Artificial Intelligence by
Sabrina Strehl & Kathrin Diele (Berlin)**
- DAY 3** WED 13 SEPTEMBER
14:00-18:00 **Cross-topic Working Groups** (not public)

Discursive and Material Dimensions of the Digital Transformation: Perspectives from and on Japan

Based on perspectives from and on Japan, we deal with the discursive and material dimensions of the digital transformation. In the research literature on the digital transformation, robots and data are often discussed separately. We want to bring these topics together and consider algorithms, AI, and infrastructure as potentially connecting approaches and analytical concepts.

On the first day, we will explore visions, practices, and narratives in politics, research and development, and science fiction related to robots, artificial intelligence, and algorithms. The second day is dedicated to the use of data and the development of data infrastructures with regard to their socio-cultural, economic, and historical situation. Here, too, AI and algorithms function as constitutive elements. On both days, eurocentrisms and (self-)orientalizations will be identified and questioned.

On the third day, the results of the two thematic days are compiled and related. Based on the discussions of the previous days, we look for gaps, fractures, and the in-between of the material and discursive constructions of robots, data, AI, algorithms, and infrastructures from a transdisciplinary perspective to think about possibilities of employing them productively. We draw on approaches from media and cultural studies, anthropology, the history of science, and science and technology studies.

Concept, Idea & Coordination

Dr. Harald Kümmerle and Dr. Celia Spoden, German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ Tokyo)

Prof. Dr. Jiré Emine Gözen, University of Europe for Applied Sciences Berlin/
University of Bayreuth

Prof. Noriyuki Yanagawa, PhD, The University of Tokyo

Workshop organized by

German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) Tokyo

Nippon Institute for Research Advancement (NIRA)

German Center for Research and Innovation (DWIH) Tokyo

Sophia University, Graduate School of Global Studies

University of Europe for Applied Sciences (UE) Germany

PROGRAM

DAY 1 MON 11 SEPTEMBER

Robots and AI

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|-------------|--|-------------|--|
| 10:00-10:30 | Greetings
Jiré Emine Gözen, Harald Kümmerle, Celia Spoden | 18:00-20:30 | Keynotes & Discussion
Venue: Sophia University, Building No. 10 Kodo Lecture Hall |
| 10:30-10:45 | Introduction to the 1st session
Jiré Emine Gözen
Envisioning Future Societies: Robots and AI in Science Fiction, the Lab, and Reality | 18:00 | Doors open |
| 10:45-12:15 | Session 1 (hybrid)
Gentiane Venture (University of Tokyo)
How do autonomous robots transform our present and future societies? Reflections on societal challenges from the lab
Hiroataka Osawa (Keio University) & Yashima Yugen (Writer)
Sci-Fi prototyping and the AI alignment problem
James Wright (Queen Mary University of London)
Growing gaps between sci-fi visions and material realities of digital transformation in Japan | 18:15 | Welcome addresses |
| | | 18:30 | Shoko Suzuki (Kyoto University)
Rediscovering 'Glocal' Cultural Resources for the Digital Future |
| | | 19:15 | Shintaro Miyazaki (Humboldt University Berlin)
Counter-Dancing Digitality! Practising CommOnistic Cooperativity |
| | | 20:00 | Discussion |
| 13:45-14:00 | Introduction to the 2nd session
Celia Spoden
Sociocultural Practices on Situating the Self and the Other: Robots with Heart, Virtual Humans and Matter with Soul | | |
| 14:00-16:00 | Session 2 (hybrid)
Daniel White (University of Cambridge)
Making Emotional Connections with Robots and AI in Japan's Digital Transformation
Kerry McInerney (University College London)
From 'Japan Panic' to 'Chinese Peril': The Shifting Location of the Techno-Orient in the US
Kojiro Honda (Kanazawa Medical University)
Japanese Robot Culture and Ancient Shintoism
Chihyung Jeon (University of Tokyo)
Alive again, digitally: Turning dead persons into virtual humans in South Korea | | |

DAY 2 TUE 12 SEPTEMBER

Data and Infrastructures

10:00-10:15 **Introduction to the 3rd session**

Harald Kümmerle

Algorithms, Data, and the In-between:
Fashion Culture and Transnational Science

10:15-11:45 **Session 3 (hybrid)**

Yoko Fujishima (Ritsumeikan University)

Fashion Culture Created by Algorithmic
Recommendations: How can a systematic
understanding of fashion be formed on social
networking sites and e-commerce sites?

Rebecca Carlson (Toyo University)

Infrastructuring (trans)national bioscience: from
humans to cells to code in a Japanese laboratory

Tobias Matzner (University of Paderborn)

The co-constitution of machine learning
algorithms and training data

13:15-13:30 **Introduction to the 4th session**

Noriyuki Yanagawa

Data Policy & Agile Governance

13:30-15:00 **Session 4 (hybrid)**

Chizuru Suga (METI)

Insights

Masakazu Masujima (Mori Hamada & Matsumoto

Law Firm)

Perspective

Tatsuhiko Inatani (Kyoto University)

Analysis

17:45-20:00 **Theater & Discussion**

Venue: Half Moon Hall (Shimokitazawa)

ONE – A performance about artificial intelligence

by Sabrina Strehl & Kathrin Diele (Berlin)

17:45 **Doors open**

18:15 **Performance**

19:15 **Discussion**

20:15 -21:30 **Reception and Buffet**

DAY 3 WED 13 SEPTEMBER

Cross-topic working groups

10:00-13:00 **Excursion**

DAWN Avatar Robot Café

Cross-topic working groups (not public)

14:00-14:30 **Wrap-up of Day 1 and 2**

14:30-16:00 **Discussions in cross-topic working groups**

16:30-18:00 **Presentations of the results from the
working groups and final discussion**

Shoko Suzuki

Kyoto University, Centre for the Promotion of Interdisciplinary Education and Research, Kyoto / RIKEN Centre for Advanced Intelligence Project, Tokyo

Rediscovering “Glocal” Cultural Resources for the Digital Future

The rapid advancements in information and communication technologies, including AI, have profoundly impacted society and the essence of human existence. As we witness the dynamic evolution of man-machine collaboration and symbiosis, exploring the factors that allow humans to preserve their core identity as custodians and heirs of technological civilization becomes crucial. This presentation emphasizes the pivotal role of cultural diversity in implementing technology within society.

Envisioning a digital future where the evolution of humanity converges with the development of man-machine systems requires transcending anthropocentrism and self-orientation and instead embracing the rediscovery of “glocal” cultural resources. Overcoming the perception of other cultures as mere exotic or rare entities, akin to the rarest orchids, is essential to avoid constructing overarching universal models of culture and humans. Culture encompasses tangible heritage and intangible aspects, including customs, practices, wisdom, behaviour, values, arts, and perspectives on life and death. These intangible elements continuously shape and reshape the digital future daily.

To achieve this, we must scan local indigenous cultures from a global perspective, updating them while preserving their potential for shareability by transcending the inherent uniqueness of individual cultures. As part of this endeavour, the presentation focuses on the potential elements of Japanese culture, exploring “glocal” cultural resources for digital transformation (DX).

Shintaro Miyazaki

Humboldt-University Berlin, Media Studies

Counter-Dancing Digitality! Practising CommOnistic Cooperativity

In my keynote I will emphasize the need to playfully practice new forms of solidarity-oriented computation that prioritize human needs over profit, and I will argue for commoning, a practice to create shared resources that benefit everyone involved. Overall, I will provide a critical media theory of futuring with an emphasis on the transformative potential of agent-based modeling and counter-dancing as tools for social transformation. Modeling, especially agent-based modeling, is presented as a medium to imagine, develop, test and practice new ways of organization, non-capitalistic life, sharing resources and new ways to think about social transformation. By processing, digesting, and countering the imposition of digitality, we can struggle against it in a jointly self-determined way. This involves also historical, material and critical investigations and alternative inquiries into the operativity of digital environments and the ways we usually react to them.

Gentiane Venture

The University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Engineering

How do autonomous robots transform our present and future societies? Reflections on societal challenges from the lab

Autonomous robotics is a “total social phenomenon”. By definition, such phenomena can transform in depth all aspects of a society that permeate every sector of the culture. They give rise to economical, ecological and political challenges. This presentation proposes some original lines of reflection on contemporary autonomous robotics through the presentation of our research activities and by discussing the roles of robots in our present societies and in the future, questioning our relationship with our surroundings and possibly the notion of humanity.

Hiroataka Osawa & Yashima Yugen

Faculty of Science and Technology, Keio University / Writer

Sci-Fi prototyping and the AI alignment problem

The rapid development of artificial intelligence technology has made predicting the future extremely difficult. Under such unstable circumstances, attempts at science fiction prototyping, in which science fiction is used as a means of communication to explore the shape of the future with people, rather than simply using Sci-Fi to predict the future, have been attracting attention. As a result of these attempts, this study will also present an anthology of recent years by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of Japan and discuss the activities of its authors.

One of the intriguing problems concerning AI is the AI alignment problem. In particular, the AI alignment problem arises from the disparity in goals between humans and AI. AI systems, such as ChatGPT, can appear superior to humans in terms of the quantity and quality of knowledge, as well as their response time. To ensure the protection of human users, AI may be required to adhere to a higher moral standard than humans. Additionally, AI decisions may need to override a child's reckless command. However, this does not imply that AI always makes better choices. It is impossible to establish general rules regarding which entity should have the final decision, as each case is unique. In this context, we present thought-provoking perspectives on this problem.

James Wright

Queen Mary University of London

Growing gaps between sci-fi visions and material realities of digital transformation in Japan

This talk explores the growing gap between sci-fi visions and the more mundane reality of robotic and AI material infrastructures, practices, and affordances in Japan. While science fiction and techno-utopian narratives, catalysed by anxiety about Japan's national competitiveness (White 2022), have been effective at mobilising public investment in robots and AI, they also bring heightened expectations and, arguably, a growing sense of disappointment at the perceived lack of rapid progress in these areas. At the same time, these techno-visions themselves often omit any sense of transformed social or political relations, and in their paternalistic and technologically determinist origins end up representing what Robertson terms "'retro-tech,' or advanced technology in the service of traditionalism" (2010, 28): a flattened and narrow technology-led vision of society that is increasingly out of step with the kinds of futures Japanese people actually want.

Daniel White

University of Cambridge, Department of Social Anthropology

Making Emotional Connections with Robots and AI in Japan's Digital Transformation

Although the terms AI and robots are often conflated today, their respective histories in Japan overlap only in part. Tracing the ways the concepts have been recently integrated through engineering discourses offers an opportunity to map their connections with emerging data infrastructures. One way to trace these connections is by attending to a thematic focus within Japan's growing digital marketplace on robot emotionality. For example, Softbank's humanoid robot Pepper, introduced in 2014, has been marketed as the "the world's first personal robot that can read emotions." Yukari Engineering's cat-like robot Qoobo is promoted as a "tailed cushion that heals your heart." And Groove X's furry robot on wheels named LOVOT is designed, according to the company, for just one reason: "to be loved by you." These emerging robots reflect longer histories in Japan of connecting emotionally with robots, in which a robot's sophistication was often measured by its impression of having heart (*kokoro*). This presentation discusses how emotional connections between humans and robots becomes a discursive theme in Japanese robotics that creates material consequences for the ways data, robots, and AI are codeveloping in Japan.

Kerry McInerney

University of Cambridge, The Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence

From 'Japan Panic' to 'Chinese Peril': The Shifting Location of the Techno-Orient in the US

In this paper, I examine how the locus of the 'techno-Orient' shifts across time and space, reproducing historical anti-Asian power relations while simultaneously reinventing them for specific economic and geopolitical moments. I start by examining the contemporary rhetoric of the AI arms race between the US and China. I then explore the direct parallels and the genealogical linkages between the US-China AI arms race and the 'Japan panic' of the 1980s, where Japan's economic ascendancy and world-leading manufacturing generated deep anxieties within the US. I show how this period shaped one of the most influential genres in AI narratives - cyberpunk - and interrogate how the Orientalism of cyberpunk continues to underlie contemporary narratives about Asianness and AI. I conclude by pointing towards the human cost of these Orientalist narratives and tense geopolitical relations by looking at the murder of Vincent Chin in 1982 and the US Department of Justice's 2018-2022 China Initiative.

Kojiro Honda

Kanazawa Medical University, General Education Department

Japanese Robot Culture and Ancient Shintoism

Based on the theological theory of ancient Shintoism, I would like to discuss where the normative consciousness related to the relationship between things and people is derived in Japanese society, where the use of robot technology is progressing. In ancient Shintoism, all things are a combination of four kinds of souls and matter. According to this way of thinking, it is natural that souls dwell in materials. The ancient Japanese believed that all antique items had souls and called them "Tsukumo-gami". Because of such a cultural background, for the Japanese, there are no significant barriers to anthropomorphizing robots and creating social relationships with them. But when it comes to body modification, it's a different story. According to ancient Shintoism, human beings who have "Nabitanama (the balancer spirit)", the branch spirit of "Amanominakanushi (the spirit of the universe)", can activate it only by purifying their bodies. That is to say, transforming the human body through technological modification contradicts this idea of body purification.

Chihyung Jeon

Institute for Future Initiatives, University of Tokyo, and
Graduate School of Science and Technology Policy, KAIST

Alive again, digitally: Turning dead persons into virtual humans in South Korea

This presentation explores the technocultural practice of creating and interacting with virtual humans in South Korea. Virtual humans, by definition, exist in virtual spaces and are not bound by physical or biological constraints of the real world. The creation and use of virtual humans, however, is a social and cultural practice shaped by the motivation and desire of their creators and users. In this presentation, I focus on some recent examples in Korean popular culture of recreating or reviving dead persons with VR or other digital technologies for the purpose of memory, mourning, or entertainment. I point out that reviving actual persons who are dead is different from creating virtual characters from scratch in terms of cultural tolerance, ethical concerns, and social implications. Often produced as part of television programs (documentary or entertainment), these virtual versions of dead people raise questions about human identity and relationships as well as the contemporary meaning of death. What traits of a person are considered essential for digital revival? What social or cultural work are the virtual humans expected to perform for their family, producers, or viewers?

Tobias Matzner

Paderborn University, Media Studies

The co-constitution of machine learning algorithms and training data

Training data is discussed as one major inroad for biases (mostly Eurocentric) into algorithms. Many studies have shown the result in discriminatory algorithmic output. While such discussions are very important, many of them implicitly reduce the algorithm to a kind of neutral carrier or channel that transports whichever bias is fed into them – as computer scientists say: bullshit in, bullshit out. The presentation will show how training data indeed constitutes important parts of machine learning algorithms, yet at the same time these algorithms also performatively turn the data into a part of their operation. Since machine learning algorithms can only be assessed by their output, data are only judged through their application in algorithms. Data, one could say, are not only biased regarding the which they represent, but also biased towards specific algorithms. In sum, I will argue that data should not be considered as a (more or less biased) representation but rather an algorithmic performative that can be criticized with recourse to performative theories of meaning and normativity.

Yoko Fujishima

Ritsumeikan University, College of Social Sciences

Fashion Culture Created by Algorithmic Recommendations: How can a systematic understanding of fashion be formed on social networking sites and e-commerce sites?

Shopping on e-commerce sites has become an indispensable part of our lives. Although there has been a resistance to purchasing fashion items on e-commerce sites due to the high demand for trying on and checking actual items, the expansion of the market for inexpensive apparel items and the development of various innovations to make shopping on e-commerce sites more convenient have led to the widespread use of fashion e-commerce sites. However, in the realm of fashion, it is difficult to search by word. There are no specific product names, the number of products is enormous, and it is impossible to clearly define colors and shapes in words. Traditionally, systematic understanding of fashion has been formed in fashion media such as magazines and shopping malls. It is also said that with the proliferation of fast fashion and commodity items, fashion genres are becoming increasingly difficult to recognize. In this context, how do users form their perception of “fashion”? One point of focus is that algorithmic recommendations on platforms such as e-commerce sites and social networking services have a significant effect on user recognition. In this presentation, I will attempt to analyze the systematization of fashion via SNS and e-commerce sites, especially for young Japanese women’s fashion, from the perspective of the platform’s structure and

users' usage practices. From this analysis, I will clarify the differences from the situation when "fashion" was perceived in magazines and urban culture, and discuss the experience of fashion and consumer culture in the digital media age.

Rebecca Carlson

Toyo University, Faculty of Information Sciences and Arts

Infrastructuring (trans)national bioscience: from humans to cells to code in a Japanese laboratory

When scientists transform cells into quantifiable information such as DNA sequence data and then compute those in code, these materials, their attendant practices and even researchers themselves, operate within, and are acted on by, various infrastructures. These include government ministries, national institutes, networks of individual research labs and even ideologies which define the cross-border transmissibility of scientific materials. In this presentation, I focus on the way infrastructures are fundamentally composed, and also constitutive, of circulation and transformative exchange. Brian Larkin has described infrastructures as both the ground, a field upon which "objects operate", and "the relation between things" (2013, 329). These fields are activated when people, objects, and substances flow through them, forming and un-forming relations, in ongoing activities of infrastructuring (Karasti & Blomberg, 2018; Bossen & Markussen 2010). Yet, practices of infrastructuring are not defined by unfettered flow, but by regulation—a slowing down, diverting and prohibiting just as much as they contribute to a moving about or a spreading around. For example, when laboratory bioscientists in Japan need materials, new techniques and tools for their research experiments, they often encounter structural resistance to transnational routes of exchange. In these contexts then, how do practices of infrastructuring both reconfirm and rewrite such borders? Drawing on ethnographic data from a bioscience research laboratory, I argue that when infrastructures at various scales meet, they transform—even as they may limit—the materials and "data" which seek to move through and across them. These transformations are always trans-border although they are not irreducible to national boundaries.

Data policy and Agile Governance

As digitalization increasingly permeates every facet of our lives, the interplay between vast streams of data and an evolving societal fabric are transforming the world as we know it. How do we ensure that amidst the rapid advancements in AI and big data that are reshaping our societies, we are able to navigate a path forward that preserves our core values and interests of privacy, equity, and economic dynamism? The answer might lie in the emerging concept of agile governance, which could offer a framework for responsible and adaptive data management. This session delivers a comprehensive exploration of the Japanese government's efforts to build an agile governance regime, bringing together a diverse set of panelists for an in-depth discussion on the real-world implications of this shift.

In a world awash with data, understanding its influence and flow becomes pivotal. Through Professor **Noriyuki Yanagawa**'s opening statement, attendees will become acquainted with the seismic shifts in the technological landscape and their broader implications. As the line between the tangible, physical world we live in, and the intangible cyberspace we increasingly inhabit continues to blur, Yanagawa draws our attention to the need for the creation of innovative governance mechanisms that will empower policy makers to guide society in managing risk and capturing opportunities. He posits agile governance not merely as a strategy, but a necessary paradigm shift as society lurches toward a new normal.

From policy to execution, Director **Chizuru Suga** of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, sheds light on the Japanese government's approach to agile governance. Balancing the promise of governance reform with the need to safeguard against new kinds of vulnerabilities, she emphasizes agile governance's centrality in shaping the nation's future, expounding on current strategies, challenges, and the roadmap for the implementation of agile governance in Japan.

Stepping from governance into the judicial domain, Attorney **Masakazu Masujima** takes a legal lens to the idea of agile governance. Every transformation demands structural overhauls and regulatory recalibrations, perhaps none more so than the ongoing digital transformation. Through his perspective, attendees will discern the pressure points that exist, the potential roadblocks to be circumvented, and the areas that demand the most immediate action.

Lastly, Professor **Tatsuhiko Inatani** critically analyzes the broader implications of agile governance on existing legal systems. A transition of this magnitude, wherein the very meaning of rights and responsibilities is evolving to meet a new normal, demands introspection of existing laws, their efficacy, and areas needing renovation. Inatani demystifies the legal intricacies and implications of agile governance, charting a path forward with actionable insights.

ONE – A performance about artificial intelligence

by **Sabrina Strehl & Kathrin Diele** (Berlin)

Berlin in the near future. Actress Zelda has her daily routine naturally organized by an artificial intelligence called Kate. Despite having no physical presence, Kate embodies her manager, acting partner, and even best friend. By processing huge amounts of Zelda's personal data, the AI slowly becomes an equal counterpart to the actress – or might even surpass her.

Rebecca Carlson

Rebecca Carlson is a visual and medical anthropologist studying laboratory research in the medical sciences and bioinformatics in Japan. Her research is focused broadly on the production of subjectivities, knowledge and power in the transnational circulation of technology and digital media. Previously, she focused on boundary maintenance in the development and circulation of videogames, including the migration of American fans of Japanese popular culture to Tokyo. She is associate professor at Toyo University in the faculty of Information Sciences and Arts.

Yoko Fujishima

Yoko Fujishima is Associate Professor in the College of Social Sciences, Ritsumeikan University. Her research focuses on the history of the Japanese fashion industry, specifically discussing the use of fashion media in the development of the industry. In recent years, her main interest has been in the architecture of digital fashion media and their relationship to consumption. She is also involved in research on industries related to appearance such as cosmetic surgery and dieting. She is also visiting researcher at the Center for Advanced Intelligence Project, RIKEN, and the Chief Operating Officer of Synflux Corporation, which conducts projects using advanced technology in the fashion domain.

Jiré Emine Gözen

Jiré Emine Gözen is Professor of Media and Cultural Theory at the University of Europe for Applied Sciences Berlin in the faculty for art & design. After working for several years in Japan (3331 Arts Chiyoda, Mori Art Museum), her current research is devoted to narratives, discourses and speculations on the future, posthumanism and technology in literature, art, and film; visual cultures and the construction of masculinity; mimicry in popular culture, politics, and academia; and artistic practices of cultural memory. Her monograph *Cyberpunk Science Fiction. Literary Fictions and Media Theory* was published by Transcript Verlag in 2012. Recent publications include “Chambers of the past and future. The simulated worlds of Baudrillard, Cyberpunk and the Metaverse” (2023), “MATRIX | マトリックス | 母型 : Rei Naito and William Gibson hallucinating the Posthuman” (2023) and “X|Kein Lagebericht” (edition on media studies and racism, 2022). Since 2021 she has been elected Chair of the German Society for Media Studies (GfM) and host of GAAAP_ The Blog of the Journal for Media Studies (ZfM).

Kojiro Honda

Kojiro Honda is Associate Professor at Kanazawa Medical University, Department of Medical Humanities. He began exploring the ethical issues related to robot engineering and AI technology in 2011. His interest in these topics has led him to examine the intersection of these fields with medicine. Currently, he is working on developing an idea that challenges the “Transhumanism Thought”, which advocates for human body remodeling. As robot engineering, AI, and BMIs advance, humans can potentially obtain machine-like bodies. He has introduced the concept of “body-conservatism” to express his opposition to body remodeling. Suppose the human body, which serves as the foundation of joint subjectivity and knowledge acquisition, is easily modified. In that case, the “community” of humanity, which is built on the premise of imitation ability, may be jeopardized. He is currently conducting research on this topic with the support of the JSPS KAKENHI Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C), No. 22K00044, “A Study of Governmentality and Trends in the Transhumanist Movement under the Neoliberal Regime” (2022-2027).

Tatsuhiko Inatani

Tatsuhiko Inatani is a Professor at Kyoto University's Graduate School of Law where he specializes in Criminology, Criminal Law, and Procedure. His research delves deep into Corporate Crime and the interplay between A.I. and Law, adopting an interdisciplinary approach that spans philosophy, economics, and cognitive sciences. Key areas of Inatani's research encompass the intersection of science, technology, and law, as well as strategies for countering corporate crime. He has penned several notable publications, including "Privacy Protection in Criminal Procedure" (2017) and co-authored works like "Architecture and Law" (2017) and "Law and Society Changing with AI" (2020).

Inatani holds a J.D. in Law from Kyoto University. His academic career has included roles as a guest researcher at institutions like RIKEN Center for Advanced Integrated Intelligence Research and international stints at the University of Chicago and Sciences Po in Paris.

Chihyung Jeon

Chihyung Jeon is an associate professor of science and technology policy at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST). In 2023, he is also a visiting researcher at the Institute for Future Initiatives of The University of Tokyo. His academic training is in the history of technology and STS (science, technology & society), and his research interests include the historical and social relationship between humans and machines and the cultures of AI, robotics, and simulation in South Korea. Jeon's current project focuses on virtual humans, examining how engineers, entrepreneurs, artists, and users produce digital versions of human beings and pose new questions about identity, memory, and relationship.

Harald Kümmerle

Harald Kümmerle is senior research fellow at the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) in Tokyo. He studied mathematics and computer science at the Technical University of Munich (TUM), Japanese Studies at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU), and Japanese as a Foreign Language at Keio University in Tokyo. His doctoral thesis (Japanese Studies; defended in 2019) concerned the institutionalization of mathematics as a science in Meiji- and Taishō-era Japan. During the time as a doctoral researcher, he was junior visiting research fellow at Keio University, visiting research fellow at the Centre for Science Studies at the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and research fellow at the MLU Halle-Wittenberg. He has also been a visiting researcher at the Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI. His interests include the history of mathematics, digital humanities, new materialism, and critical data studies.

Masakazu Masujima

Masakazu “Masa” Masujima is a distinguished attorney and partner at Mori Hamada & Matsumoto, an international law firm. Recognizing the transformative impact of information technology on traditional businesses, Masa specializes in assisting companies with innovative business model creation. He predominantly focuses on the M&A of financial institutions, governance consulting, and navigating financial regulation. Masa is deeply involved in advancing ecosystem-centric business models by supporting startups in risk capital provision and fostering open innovation.

Masa received a degree from Columbia Law School and has previously worked at the California-based law firm Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati as well as the Financial Services Agency of Japan. He also served as an external advisor for the IMF's Financial Stability Assessment Program in 2015. Among his notable publications are the co-authored “Startup M&As” (Nikkei Shimbun Publishing, 2023), “Cryptocurrency Law” (Chuo Keizai Publishing, 2020) and “Cyber Security Case Studies” (Keidanren Publishing, 2020).

Tobias Matzner

Tobias Matzner is professor for Digital Cultures at Paderborn University, Germany. He has studied computer science and philosophy in Karlsruhe, Rome, and Berlin and holds a PhD in philosophy from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. Before coming to Paderborn, he conducted research at the International Centre for Ethics in the Sciences and Humanities in Tübingen and the New School for Social Research in New York. His work combines theories of digital media and technologies with approaches from political philosophy, cultural studies, and social theory. His most recent publication is “Algorithms: Theory, Culture, Politics”, forthcoming from Routledge in winter 2023.

Kerry McInerney

Dr Kerry McInerney (née Mackereth) is a Research Fellow at the Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence, where she researches anti-Asian racism and AI and Asian diasporic approaches to AI ethics. Kerry is an AHRC/BBC Radio 3 New Generation Thinker, where she brings complex conversations about gender, race and artificial intelligence to wide audiences. Her scholarship on this topic has appeared in journals such as *Feminist Review*, *Public Understanding of Science* and *Philosophy and Technology*. She is the co-editor of the upcoming collection *Feminist AI: Critical Perspectives on Data, Algorithms and Intelligent Machines* (September 2023, OUP) and the upcoming collection *The Good Robot: Feminist Voices on the Future of Technology* (February 2024, Bloomsbury Academic). She has been offered a contract by Princeton University Press for a monograph called *Reprogram: Why Big Tech is Broken and How Feminism Can Transform It*, co-authored with Dr Eleanor Drage.

Shintaro Miyazaki

Shintaro Miyazaki is since October 2020 a (junior)-professor in “Digital Media and Computation” (tenure track) at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Musicology and Media Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Shintaro was born in 1980 in then West-Berlin to Japanese classical music percussionists and raised in Basel, Switzerland, where he studied Media Studies, Musicology and Philosophy during the 2000s. Later in 2012 he received his PhD supervised by Wolfgang Ernst (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin). From 2014–2021 he has been a senior researcher at Institute of Experimental Design and Media Cultures of the Academy of Art and Design in his home town. Since 2017, he lives with his family in Berlin-Kreuzberg.

Hiroataka Osawa

Dr Hiroataka Osawa is an associate professor at Keio University and visiting associate professor at the University of Tsukuba. His research field is in human-agent interaction, including development of anthropomorphic devices, simulations for social agents using social games, and humanity studies using science fiction. His own research focuses on how human-like appearance and attitude improves interaction between a user and machines. He also focuses on how social intelligence would improve our society. Dr. Osawa received his PhD in Engineering, MS and BS in Computer Science from Keio University.

Celia Spoden

Celia Spoden is a senior research fellow at the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) in Tokyo. Her research focuses on bioethical issues and the social impacts of digital transformation. In her current project, she explores what opportunities and risks new technologies – especially telepresence and avatar technologies – mean for social participation, and interaction between humans and humans, and/or humans and machines. Before joining the DIJ, Celia worked as a research associate at the Institute for Ethics, History and Philosophy of Medicine at Hannover Medical School (2018-2021) and the Modern Japanese Studies Department of Dusseldorf University (2008-2018) in Germany. Celia's previous projects have included research on life-sustaining treatments, end-of-life decision-making, social participation, and well-being.

Sabrina Strehl

Berlin resident Sabrina Strehl works as a freelance actor in the movie and theatre industry. After graduating from the Academy for Music and Theatre Munich in 2004 she had several engagements at German theaters. Since 2011 Sabrina mostly realizes her own projects. Her first work as a writer, producer and actor was the solo show „Missing Alice“, in which she combined different styles of expression such as video, puppeteering and acting. Her next show „Blanche“, a co-production with Israeli director Shlomo Lieberman, was not only performed in Germany, but in Israel and Australia. In 2018 the Senate for Culture and Europe funded Sabrina to produce a futuristic and dystopian piece about artificial intelligence. „EINS“ (ONE) premiered in December 2018 in Berlin, and is adapted to English for the performance in Tokyo.

Chizuru Suga

Chizuru Suga is the Director of Digital Economy Division of Commerce and Information Policy Bureau at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, as well as a director of its Study Group on New Governance Models in Society 5.0. Between 2018 and 2021 she also served concurrently as the inaugural Director at the World Economic Forum's Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Japan. Since joining METI in 2003, Suga has been involved in a wide range of sectors, including climate change policy, FinTech innovation, “Cool Japan,” and corporate governance reform. She has served in numerous roles of increasing responsibility throughout the organization, including in its Agency for Natural Resources and Energy, and its Economic and Industrial Policy Bureau. Suga holds an undergraduate degree from The University of Tokyo's Faculty of Law and an MBA from the prestigious Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Shoko Suzuki

Shoko Suzuki studied Philosophy of Science and Educational Studies at Sophia University, Tokyo, and the University of Cologne (Germany). She was a professor at Kyoto University from 2003-2022, a member of the Science Council of Japan from 2005-2020, a Visiting Professor at the Free University of Berlin, Germany in 2009/10. Furthermore, she was the team leader of the AI Ethics and Society Team, AIP, RIKEN, Japan from 2016-2022, and since 2016 she is secretary of the AI Network Society Promotion Council, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. In 2018 she received a Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Award for Distinguished Contributions to Local Administration. Her recent publications include "Pandemien im Anthropozän. *Paragrana - Internationale Zeitschrift für Historische Anthropologie*, Vol. 30, De Gruyter Verlag; Berlin 2022; 'Redefining Humanity in the Era of AI Technological Civilization', (*Paragrana*, Vol. 29, 2020); 'Harmonizing AI for Social Good', (*Philosophy & Technology*, 2020).

Gentiane Venture

Gentiane Venture is a Professor of Robotics at The University of Tokyo and a cross-appointed fellow with the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science & Technology, Japan. Her research focuses on the dynamics of humans, robots, and the environment. Her group and her work are transdisciplinary in their approach to see robotics not as a field with applications in certain areas but rather as an art of living together.

Daniel White

Daniel White is a Senior Research Affiliate in the Department of Social Anthropology and an Associate Fellow with the Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence, both at the University of Cambridge. He researches the emotional impacts of human-technology relations, with a regional focus on Japan. Currently he is co-organizing an ethnographic research project called Model Emotion, where he works across disciplines with anthropologists, psychologists, computer scientists, and robotics engineers to document the role of cultural diversity in building machines with artificial emotional intelligence and capacities for care. He is also the author of *Administering Affect: Pop-Culture Japan and the Politics of Anxiety* (Stanford University Press, 2022). Other publications can be found in the journals *Cultural Anthropology*, *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, and on his online project page at modelemotion.org.

James Wright

Dr James Wright is a Programme Specialist at UNESCO's Bioethics and Ethics of Science and Technology Section, and Visiting Lecturer at Queen Mary University of London. He received his Ph.D. in anthropology and science and technology studies from the University of Hong Kong in 2018. His current work focuses on the ethics and governance of AI, and his research interests also include the development and use of robots, AI, and other digital technologies for elder care. His first book, entitled *Robots Won't Save Japan: An Ethnography of Eldercare Automation*, was published in 2023 by Cornell University Press.

Noriyuki Yanagawa

Noriyuki Yanagawa is a professor at The University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Economics, a board member at the Nippon Institute for Research Advancement, and the chairperson of the Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry's Study Group on New Governance Models in Society 5.0. His research focuses on the impact of laws and systems on economic activity. His seminal work "Economic Analysis of Law and Corporate Behavior" (2006) (in Japanese) received the Nikkei Economic Book Culture Award in 2007. Later works include "Asset bubbles and bailout," *Journal of Monetary Economics*, 2015 (with Tomohiro Hirano and Masaru Inaba), "Asset Bubbles, Endogenous Growth, and Financial Frictions," *The Review of Economic Studies*, 2017 (with Tomohiro Hirano), "Dark Sides of Patent Pools with Independent Licensing," *International Journal of Industrial Organization*, 2018 (with Akifumi Ishihara). Yanagawa earned his Ph.D. in Economics from The University of Tokyo. He has previously lectured at Keio University and has been an Associate Professor at The University of Tokyo. An influential voice in public policy, he has served in numerous capacities including on the Japanese government's Council for Economic and Fiscal Policy.

Yashima Yugen

Yashima Yugen writes stories of science fiction, fantasy, horror, mystery, and fusions of these genres. He was born and raised in Japan. He received his MA from the University of Chicago after studying comparative culture at Tsukuba University. In 2018, he won the ninth Sogen SF Short Story Prize for *Tenkuseyo Hosshoji* [Hosshoji the Rocket Temple]. This is a work of Buddhist science fiction and, more specifically, Buddhpunk. In the same year, he also won the fifth Nikkei Hoshi Awards Grand Prix for *Final Anchors* and a merit award for *Hasukuibito* [Lotus Eaters]. His stories have also been translated and published in China.