

International Symposium
Border/Boundary Control in the Age of Transnationalization:
Comparing Experiences in North America, E.U., & Japan
October 27 (Sat) – 28 (Sun), 2018
Venue: Josuikai Centennial Memorial Hall, Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo
Japanese-English simultaneous translation provided

Organized by: JSPS *Kakenhi* Project “Transformation of Multilayered Structure of Selective System for Immigrants/Refugees”

Co-Organized by: Graduate School of Social Sciences, Hitotsubashi University

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Day 1		October 27 (Sat)
	10:30-10:45	Greetings by Akihiro Koido (Hitotsubashi University)
	10:45-12:00	Keynote Speech Thomas Faist (Bielefeld University)"Forced Migration in an (Im)Moral Polity and the Public Role of Migration Research"
	12:00-13:30	Lunch break
		Session 1 North America: Transnational Social Spaces v.s. Intensifying Immigration Control Regime Moderator: Fuminori Minamikawa (Ritsumeikan University)
	13:30-15:45	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Robert C. Smith (CUNY) "Long Term Effects of Legal Status / DACA Across Local Ecosystem and Through Changes in Immigration Federalism" Rafael Alarcon (COLEF) "The Mass Deportation of Mexican Migrants from the United States and the Emergence of Forced Transnational Families" Makiko Iio (Hitotsubashi Univ) "The Social Impacts of the U.S. Immigration Control Regime beyond the Border: In the Case of a Transnational Indigenous Community in Oaxaca and California" <p>Comments by Discussant: Akihiro Koido (hitotsubashi University)</p>
		Session 2 EU: Common External Border Control and Refugee/Immigrant Selection Mechanisms Moderator: Rieko Karatani (Kansai University)
	16:00-18:30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elena Sánchez-Montijano (CIDOB) "Building refugees' fortified buffer zones: The Western Balkans route" Paolo Cuttitta (VU University of Amsterdam) "The Central Mediterranean border as a humanitarian space: Migration management between inclusion and exclusion" Aiko Nishikida (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies) "Living Strategy of Transnational Families: Effects of the Border Control on Migration to the EU countries" <p>Comments by Discussant: Ruri Ito (Tsuda Univeristy)</p>
Day 2		October 28 (Sat)
		Session 3 Japan: Immigration Control without Integration Policies and Transnationalization through Diversifying Gates Moderator: Akihiro Koido (Hitotsubashi University)
	13:30-16:15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Akihiro Koido (Hitotsubashi University) "The Reluctant Transformation of Japanese ‘Immigration Policies’ and Fragmented Transnationalization: An Overview" Satomi Era (Seijo University) "Foreign Workers and Urban Redevelopment: Tokyo 2020 Olympics as a Political Tool for Building Transnational Labor Market" Yusuke Mazumi (Kanazawa University) " Incorporating International Students into the Labor Market in Japan: Are Southern and Southeastern Asians De Facto Low-Skilled or Prospective High-Skilled Workers, or Both?" Yoshikazu Shiobara (Keio University) "Is this the Mutual Permeation of Border Control and Social Integration?: Implementation of Policies for ‘Multicultural Coexistence’ in Contemporary Japan " <p>Comments by Discussant: Thomas Faist (Bielefeld University), Robert C. Smith (CUNY)</p>
	16:15-16:30	Coffee Break
		Concluding Session Comparison of Findings and A Cross Regional Dialogue Moderator: Chikako Mori (Hitotsubashi University)
	16:30-18:40	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Comparison of Findings Three Regions Transforming Japanese “Immigrant” Policies: Prospects and Proposals <p>Concluding remark</p>

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

In recent years we have witnessed the deepening of contradictions between the on-going transnationalization of social relations and intensifying border controls between states. Recent events exemplify this growing tension: the policies of the Trump Administration to build “the wall” on the U.S. –Mexican border, popular support for Brexit, and the rejection of refugees by member states of the EU on its external border.

Nevertheless, these policies of “rebordering” that are directed against global human mobility will not simply lead to the reaffirmation of national borders or the nation-state as a unit. Despite assertions of populist propaganda, new efforts for building walls or ubiquitous surveillance cannot completely sever well-established transnational social relations that extend beyond borders. However, this does not mean that these new regulatory practices have only limited effects. They can transform the way that border control or regulatory mechanisms interfere with and complicate transnational social relations. This symposium will focus on these interactions and the changes observed in recent years.

This symposium aims to go beyond the narrowly-focused analysis of physical border control. Indeed, there is a need to understand a new series of policy initiatives encompassing multilayered spatial boundaries that include: border enforcement on land or at sea; transnational integration of multiple borders; and the “remote control” of borders of neighboring countries by regional powers. At the same time, we have seen the development of new systems of regulation and enforcement within nations which interfere with transnational lives in multiple ways. These include: apprehension and arrest of undocumented migrants; detainment; pressure to leave the country “voluntarily”; and deportation; along with the development and application of new identification and surveillance technologies. These new policy approaches have transformed multiple aspects of transnational relations and brought new issues into our research agenda that can be grouped under the following five themes. 1) Border politics as a social process involving multiple actors, including diverse non-state actors 2) Mass deportation as “forced transnationalism” by the state, generating continuing transnational relationships among separated families and communities. 3) Proliferation of ambivalent legal statuses and populations, i.e. DACA, TPS, (in the U.S) or Duldung (in Germany), and Zaitoku (in Japan) to name a few. 4) Post-deportation processes and their impacts on individual immigrant families and on home communities. 5) Development of transnational human trafficking/smuggler industries working against and undermining state control.

Under the strong influence of the political processes in the U.S. and the E.U., Japanese “immigration policies” have become increasingly ambiguous. While Japan has not officially admitted “unskilled labor immigrant” up until this year and it has rejected the very concept of having an “immigration policy”, it has created a sizable transnational labor pool of foreign workers through different legal categories or “gates” (e.g. ethnic return migration, “technical interns”, and foreign students, etc.). This gap between officially stated policy and actual labor performed by migrants has created a peculiar pattern of transnational networks. This divergent tendency inevitably deepens the contradictions between evolving transnational flows and tightening regulations. On top of this situation, this summer, the Japanese government finally determined that it will start to admit officially an “unskilled foreign workers” this coming April up to 500,000 workers in five years. This sudden change of policy will certainly exacerbate existing policy contradictions further by accelerating the development of transnational relations.

Indeed, North American and European experiences of interactions between transnationalism and border control have been quite different from what Japanese society has been undergoing. Yet the increasing tension generated by the dynamic interplay between social relations beyond borders and the regulation of human mobility have common elements that can be analyzed across different regions.

This symposium intends to facilitate a dialogue between scholars specializing in three distinct regions of the world, and to examine this important issue comparatively. For that purpose, we have invited five distinguished researchers from Europe and North America, as well as leading experts on migration studies from Japan to present their findings and analysis. Through these presentations and discussion sessions, we aim to facilitate the elucidation of common trends and factors that differentiate nations/regions based on empirical analysis. Finally, we hope to contribute to an accurate understanding of recent experiences in two continents within the Japanese public, as well as disseminating the latest analysis regarding the on-going changes to Japanese immigration policies to the world.

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For event details:

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