

**Title:** Multicultural Question Encounters Liberal Multiculturalism

**Keywords:** Japan, “multicultural question”, liberal multiculturalism, “conviviality[共生]”

**Abstract:**

Contrasted against liberal multicultural non-disturbing discourses which tend to conceal conflicts among heterogeneous members of a society under celebration of “diversity”, Stuart Hall’s idea of “multicultural question” suggests that we have to think on multicultural cohabitation starting from facing conflicting power relationships.

This paper tries to discover how ideas originated from local multicultural questions came to be absorbed by Western (neo-)liberal multicultural ideas, focusing on Japanese case. In Japan, a peculiar synthetic word “multicultural conviviality [多文化共生]” has been used in governmental/administrative discourses from 1990s onward. I explore a process how it was coined and popularized in given historical-social situations, and recall that the concept of “conviviality [共生]” has its origin in grassroots movements and ideas in 1970s. This work enables us to bring back a deeper and critical implications of the concept, avoiding too simplified arguments of pros/cons on Japanese multiculturalism.