

# Language and Healthcare Work: Focusing on Trade, Migration, and Policy Discourse (ft. Dr. OTOMO Ruriko)

🇯🇵 日本語 (Japanese) 🇬🇧 English



## Zoom Webinar

Date(s)	Wednesday, 21 June 2023, 9:00 am - 10:00 am (JST)
Venue	Zoom Webinar ( <a href="#">Register</a> )
Registration	Pre-registration required
Language	English (with Japanese simultaneous interpretation)
Abstract	<p>In Japan and elsewhere, the major focus of language policy research has been language-in-education policies primarily because (language) education is one of the main vehicles for reproduction, be it social, economic, political, or symbolic. Recently, however, researchers have called for a renewed approach to language policing and for more attention to other forms of policies in which language, human communication and sociocultural issues get represented in the policy discourses. Resonating with these important calls in the field, my talk focuses on a free-trade policy as a form of language policy that requires serious scholarly attention.</p> <p>The free-trade policy in question is the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) signed between Japan and Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam respectively since 2008. It enables the Japanese side to manage the workforce mobility of migrant nurses and caregivers mainly by means of pre-employment (language) training and the Japanese-medium licensure examinations.</p> <p>By presenting part of her analysis of the language management devices and that of policy discourses surrounding the EPA, Dr. OTOMO Ruriko argues the EPA is expected to bring little fundamental change to Japan's language policy in the near-term future. While the social ageing and the pressing need for (workforce) migration spell an abundance of opportunities for multilingual human encounters as well as ideological negotiation and shifts, the EPA is found to reinforce or capitalise on the existing "old" ideologies rather than to enhance multilingualism as well as social justice for the benefit of the migrant population.</p>

Program	<p>Lecture: OTOMO Ruriko Associate Professor, Research Faculty of Media and Communication, Hokkaido University</p> <p>Q&amp;A Moderator Hannah DAHLBERG-DODD Project Assistant Professor, Tokyo College, The University of Tokyo</p>
Speaker Profile	<p>Ruriko Otomo is associate professor of Research Faculty of Media and Communication at Hokkaido University. She is a sociolinguist whose work has focused on language policy and planning in a larger context of Japan, but extends to issues that concern impacts of social transformations on language (both ideology and practice). Some of her recent contributions have appeared in <i>Multilingua</i> (Otomo, 2020) and <i>Asian Studies Review</i> (Otomo, 2022). She is currently completing a book for Springer about Japan's language policy with regards to free-trade policy and transnational migration of healthcare workers.</p>
Organized by	Tokyo College, the University of Tokyo
Contact	tokyo.college.event@tc.u-tokyo.ac.jp

## Upcoming Events



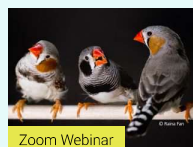
### The Global Deal on Taxing Multinationals (Lecture by Michael KEEN, Ushioda Fellow)

Zoom Webinar

講演会/Lecture

Thursday, 29 June 2023, 4:00-5:30 pm

The world is on the brink of genuinely fundamental reform of the century-old arrangements for taxing multinationals. The aims are to reduce the scope for tax avoidance by companies and put a brake on international tax competition between governments. But what exactly will change? And will the proposed reforms achieve their objectives?



### Uncovering the Neural Circuits for Social Bonding in Songbird (Lecture by Prof. Sarah WOOLLEY)

Zoom Webinar

講演会/Lecture

Monday, 3 July 2023, 3:00-4:30 pm

Songbirds use learned vocal signals to communicate information about their species, their identity, and even their emotional state. We study how the songbird brain decodes this information to allow songbirds to use song for recognition, mate selection, and forming long-lasting social bonds. By doing so, we gain broad insight into the neural basis of vocal communication across animal species, including in humans.



### The Global Environmental Catastrophe: Limits of Scientific Knowledge (Lecture by Prof. John LIE)

Zoom Webinar

講演会/Lecture

Tuesday, 11 July 2023, 3:00-4:30 pm

That we face a massive environmental crisis is widely accepted, but most people will agree that little has been done to avert it. To the extent that a solution is mooted, it is almost always techno-scientific in nature. In this lecture I suggest



### The Relation Between Language, Culture, and Thought (ft. Prof. IMAI Mutsumi)

Zoom Webinar

ワークショップ/Workshop 講演会/Lecture

Tuesday, 18 July 2023, 4:00-5:00 pm

In this talk, I discuss how language, culture, perception, and cognition interact with one another across different domains. At the end, I will speculate how cultural identity might emerge through this process.

limitations of techno-scientific knowledge: first, in offering a belated understanding of the crisis; and, second, in vitiating non-scientific discussions and solutions.



## Book Launch “Plural Entanglements: Philippine Studies”

講演会/Lecture

Thursday, 20 July 2023, 4:00-5:30 pm

## Previous Events

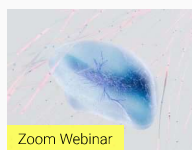


## Language and Healthcare Work: Focusing on Trade, Migration, and Policy Discourse (ft. Dr. OTOMO Ruriko)

ワークショップ/Workshop 講演会/Lecture

Wednesday, 21 June 2023, 9:00 am - 10:00 am (JST)

By framing the Economic Partnership Agreement as a form of language policy, Dr. OTOMO Ruriko demonstrates that the trade policy represents contemporary language issues that have important consequences for language (education) policies and for discourses about the state, language, migration, and healthcare.



## Rewiring Neural Circuits through Language (Lecture by Prof. Alexandre POUGET)

講演会/Lecture

Friday, 16 June 2023, 4:00 pm -5:30 pm

This lecture will present a neural model of two of humans' most fundamental cognitive feats, i.e., the ability to interpret linguistic instructions in order to perform novel tasks with no training, and the ability to describe solutions to new tasks with full sentences.

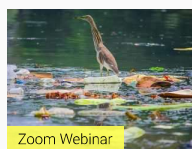


## Increasing Freshwater Supply through Desalination Driven by Renewable Energy (Lecture by Prof. Alberto TIRAFERRI)

講演会/Lecture

Tuesday, 13 June 2023, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Climate change, industrial development, and population growth continuously increase the need for freshwater worldwide. Unconventional wastewater and saline sources must be tapped to reduce the stress on natural resources. However, producing freshwater from unconventional streams requires significantly more energy than traditional ways. While energy needs will always be high, innovative methods will rely on renewable energy, reduce the process complexity, and increase the socio-economic feasibility of desalination. This lecture discusses challenges and opportunities of these methods and the water-energy nexus.



## World Environment Day “The Lives, Deaths and Afterlives of Plastic: Global Perspectives”

シンポジウム/Symposium

Monday, 5 June 2023, 5:00 - 7:00pm JST

Plastic is essential for so many of the things we value in today's world. But excessive and unplanned use of plastic worsens the conditions driving climate change and threatens the land, the seas and the lives of animals and humans.

Speakers on this panel will highlight issues including the chemical challenges plastic poses for the environment; the lives of waste-pickers who minimize the harm caused by discarded plastic; the science and economics confronting small-scale, local reuse of plastic; government mechanisms to coordinate the containment of plastic; and the dangers to animals and humans of micro-plastics in diverse forms.



Zoom Webinar

## For a Technodiversity in the Anthropocene (Lecture by Prof. Yuk HUI)

講演会/Lecture

Friday, 2 June 2023, 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm JST

The Anthropocene—the geological era dominated by human activities—is often associated with the climate change, ecological crisis, the sixth extinction, etc., or in brief, with an apocalyptic end. The recent acceleration of digital technology added more strength to the eschatological imagination which underlines the philosophy of history in the past centuries. In this sense, the Anthropocene is posed as a problem of modernity and it consequently calls for a new movement of overcoming modernity, which we can identify with the recent efforts of anthropologists such as Philippe Descola, Eduardo Vivieros de Castro, Bruno Latour among others, who want to undo the modern concept of nature. This talk will address this impasse of modernity and introduce what I call technodiversity as a response.



Zoom Webinar

## Foreign Elements: Identity and Hybridity in Japanese Writing Practices (ft. Prof. Peter BACKHAUS)

ワークショップ/Workshop 講演会/Lecture

Monday, 29 May 2023, 3:00 - 4:00 pm (JST)

This talk deals with two interrelated phenomena in Japanese writing practices: (1) the integration of loanwords and (2) the romanization of Japanese vocabulary. I will argue that the two phenomena are in fact complementary, resulting in a high degree of hybridity between what is native and what is foreign.

[All Previous Events](#)

