

## Local Self-organization and Civic Engagement in Regional Japan

Date: Tuesday, March 7th, 2023

Location: DIJ Tokyo

- 9:00 **Greetings**
- 9:15 **Panel 1: Introductory overviews**  
Franz Waldenberger (DIJ Tokyo): *Japanese Municipalities – A Quantitative Overview.*  
Tomoo Matsuda (MRI): *Local Communities in Japan – Challenges and Coping Strategies.*
- 10:30 Coffee Break
- 11:00 **Panel 2: Civic Engagement and the Demographic Challenges of Regional Japan**  
Sebastian Polak-Rottmann (DIJ Tokyo): *Linking Agents in Social Welfare Provision in Rural Japan: Building up Resilient Communities.*  
Isaac Gagné (DIJ Tokyo): *Social Welfare of and for the Community: Neighborhoods, Networks, and Volunteerism in Iida and Natori.*  
Barbara Geilhorn (DIJ Tokyo): *Japanese Regional Theatre Tackling the Challenges of Old Age and Elderly Care.*  
Ken Hijino (Kyoto University): *'Populationism' and the politics of depopulation in Japanese municipalities.*
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:30 **Panel 3: Ambiguities of Decentralization, Peripheralization, and Local Self-Organization**  
Sonja Ganseforth (Leipzig University): *Local Self-Organization in Natural Resource Management – Fishery Cooperatives Under Pressure.*  
Norio Okada (Kwansei Gakuin University, Nishinomiya): *SMART Governance for Japan's Creative "Machizukuri" Challenges: From Problem-oriented Approach to Sense-making/Value Creation Approach.*  
Hanno Jentsch (Leiden University): *Governing Decline – Shifting State-Society Relations in Regional Japan.*
- 16:00 Coffee break
- 16:30 **Panel 4: What is the Local in Japanese Regions?**  
Sonja Ganseforth & Hanno Jentsch  
  
Comment by Hiroko Kudo (Chuo University)
- 17:15 **Final discussion and outlook**
- 18:00 **Book Break *Rethinking Locality in Japan* (Routledge 2022)**