



1. Title:

Network Studies 2019

2. Contact Person

Bettina Gramlich-Oka (*4065; gramlich-oka@sophia.ac.jp)

3. Other members:

Faculty members: **Mathew Thompson**, **Christian Hess**, **David Slater**,
David Wank.

Further members of this research group include scholars from Tokyo and vicinity, such as **Linda Grove**, **Thomas Harper**, **Kate Wildman Nakai**,

Gaye G. Rowley, **Fumiko Umezawa**, **Yamamoto Yoshitaka**, **Hashimoto Yuta**. In addition, our group includes post-docs, PhD students from the Tokyo area, and visiting scholars from foreign universities who join on a regular basis.

4. Goal and Purpose:

The ICC unit, which was initiated in 2010 (please see [Network studies HP](#)), analyzes cross-cultural networks. What began as a small project around the network of an individual living around 1800 has now become a far-flung web of 8000 persons.

In 2018, the project made great progress in terms of improvement of the database and user-friendliness. Since April 2018 the database is open access that allows to search and visualize the results. We also have students use and add to the database various sets of data for their own research. In the next few

years, the aim is to make this available to a larger group of researchers and students interested in biographical data of Japan.

Currently, three projects are joining ours:

- SU Archives (making use of the DB)
- Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (making use of the DB)
- ARC Ritsumeikan

5. Activities in Past and Future:

In 2019–2020 the research unit has been and is active in various forms: (Please refer to our HP, see link above, for details)

5.1. The team members meet regularly to discuss modifications and additions

5.2. Edited volume on *Women's Networks in Nineteenth Century Japan* is about to be under contract with Michigan University Press. Final manuscript is in preparation. Deadline 1.1.2020 to be sent to Michigan University Press.

5.3. With the help of research assistants, the relational database is integrating data sets from other research projects.

5.4. The database undergoes constant improvement including the visualization with the help of programmers. New feature will be portraits of historical figures, family trees, GIS maps.

5.5. Moving towards crowd-sourcing for the database.

5.6. Working on text mining software for data purposes.

5.7. Many meetings occurred and are planned to occur with other DH projects to being collaboration, since our DB is still the only one for Japan.

5.8. Participation at DH Conference (Utrecht, NL), 18–19 July 2020.

6. Presentations of the Project in Past and Future:

The project was and will be represented in 2019–2020 at the following venues:

6.1. Gramlich-Oka: Presentation of JBDB, AAS Digital Technologies Expo (Denver, CO); 23.03.2019

6.2. Gramlich-Oka: Presentation of JBDB, *Kamigata Salon Culture Project* (Ritsumeikan, Kyoto); 31.07.2019

6.3. Gramlich-Oka: Presentation, "New Research Infrastructures," *The Digital*

Transformation: Implications for the Social Sciences and the Humanities (DIJ, Tokyo); 24.09. 2019

6.4. Gramlich-Oka: Panelist, “Localization in the Context of Japan of a Large-Scale Relational Biographical Database on the Model of the China Biographical Database,” JADH 2019, Osaka; 31.08.2019.

7. Plans and goals:

7.1. the research unit leader is part of a new JSPS Research Grant:

基盤研究C: 18世紀後半における「儒者」の総合的研究——頼春水とその周辺 (2019–2021) as a participant (分担者).

The available funds are used for the programmer, extra help in feeding the database and purchase of materials.

7.2. Current discussion for another JSPS Research Grant for 2020.

7.4. Current discussions with Japan-based digital humanities projects to collaborate

7.5. Current discussions with US-based digital database projects to collaborate

7.6. DH in the classroom will be continued. (教育イノベーションプログラム: 2018–2020)



8. Publication Plans and External Funding

8.1. Publications

As shown in 5.2. the edited volume which is the result of two symposia funded by the ICC project is planned to be out during the academic year of 2020. Translation fees for six articles from Japanese into English has been provided from outside funding. Deadline 1 January 2020.

8.2. External Funding

As shown in 7.1. and 7.6. external funding has been secured for the next couple of years which will assist with feeding the database, and for some payments to the programmer. Together with the ICC fund, the current status of the database can be upheld. However, since the database is supposed to become open access with continuous expansion and modification as the Japan Biographical Database, the digital project itself will never be a terminated project and needs further financial support.

For this reason, we have the plan to apply for further JSPS Research grants, as the springboard to become a university funded continuous project, in which digital humanities and Japanese studies come together.