

Yoshinori Kasai

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Summary Statement

Associate professor specialising in sociology, with a focus on qualitative research and community studies. My academic interests centre on how communities create, interpret, and engage with historical narratives through collaborative methodologies. I have conducted fieldwork in Japan, examining how local communities preserve and reinterpret historical knowledge. In addition to my academic work, I have worked with museums and local organisations on projects that promote community engagement with history.

Education

- 2009 – 2012 Ph.D., Media and Governance Keio University, Japan
Thesis title: “Methodology Based on Storytelling in Process of Problem-Finding and Problem-Solving”
Thesis supervisor: Prof. Junichi Yamamoto
- 2007 – 2009 Master of Media and Governance Keio University, Japan
Thesis title: “Participatory Governance and Publicness: Case of Quezon City in the Philippines”
Thesis supervisor: Prof. Junichi Yamamoto
- 2003 – 2007 Bachelor of Arts, Policy Management Keio University, Japan

Work Experience

The University of Edinburgh

April 2025 – Current Visiting Scholar
Will be joining the community of the School of Social and Political Science and the Centre for Research on Families and Relationships (CRFR).

National Chengchi University, Taiwan (Program in Japan Studies)

September 2024 – November 2024 Guest Professor (Sociology)
Taught sociology to postgraduate students undertaking Japanese studies.

Keio University, Japan (Department of Political Science, Faculty of Law)

April 2021 – Current Associate Professor (Sociology)
April 2019 – March 2021 Assistant Professor (Sociology)
Taught three undergraduate and two postgraduate courses focused mainly on qualitative social research and community studies. Supervising three MA theses.

Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) (Faculty of Translation and Interpreting)

February 2018 – March 2018 Visiting Researcher
August 2017 – September 2018 Visiting Researcher
Conducted fieldwork on social solidarity, and gave a lecture, “Comunidades Locales en Japón: Personas, Memoria e Identidad”, as part of UAB's events commemorating the 150th anniversary of Spain's relationship with Japan.

Ryukoku University, Japan (Department of Community Management, Faculty of Sociology)

April 2017 – March 2019 Associate Professor (Sociology)
April 2012 – March 2017 Assistant Professor (Sociology)
Taught 19 undergraduate courses, including *Community Studies* and *Japanese Culture and Society*.
Was involved in university administration, including serving as assistant dean.

Yokosuka City, Japan (Urban Policy Institute)

April 2011 – March 2012 Researcher
Conducted a wide-ranging study on the organisation of intra-city authorities, as a research specialist city official.

Research Experience

April 2023 – March 2025

Project: A Sociological Study on the Community Contribution Activities of the Elderly: Through the Analysis of Local and Life Histories, as a project of *Lifelong Sciences: Reconceptualization of Development and Aging in the Super Aging Society*.

Fund: Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI), Grant-in-Aid for Transformative Research Areas (A), Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), 7,800,000 JPY.

April 2023 – Mar 2024

Project: Methodological Exploration to Ensure a System for Comprehensive Community Surveys.

Fund: Program for the Advancement of Next Generation Research Projects (C), Keio University, 2,300,000 JPY.

September 2021 – March 2023

Project: A Qualitative Study of the Life Experiences of the Elderly to Contribute to Resilience in a Shrinking and Aging Society, as a project of *Lifelong Sciences: Reconceptualization of Development and Aging in the Super Aging Society*.

Fund: KAKENHI, Grant-in-Aid for Transformative Research Areas (A), JSPS, 6,890,000 JPY.

April 2020 – March 2023

Project: Construction of a Methodology for Surveying the History of Life Surrounding Houses: An Empirical Study for Succession Practice

Fund: KAKENHI, Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C), JSPS, 4,290,000 JPY.

Publications

Books

- Kasai, Y. and E. Tajima eds., *Doing Public History – Weaving Alternative and Polyphonic Histories*. Keio University Press, Tokyo, 2025 [in Japanese].
- Kasai, Y. and Y. Kudo eds., *The Philosophy and Manners of Conviviality – To Continue to Live Better Together*. Horitsu Bunka Sha, Kyoto, 2020 [in Japanese].
- Kasai, Y., *Describing Local Communities from a Case Study of a Folk Event in Ritto City, Japan*. Sunrise Publishing, Shiga, 2019 [in Japanese].
- Kudo, Y., S. Oyama and Y. Kasai eds., *Basic Sociology*. Sekaishisoshia Co., Ltd., 2017 [in Japanese].

Peer-reviewed Paper

- Kasai, Y., “Discovering the Meaning of Social Groups and Events through Collaborative Research with Local Communities: Case Studies of Folklores as Repertoires of Symbiosis”, *The KeMCo Review*, No. 2, pp. 10–28, 2024.
- Kasai, Y., “Visualization and Analysis of Small Place Names in Japan Using Data from Official Surveys and Cadastral Maps from the Meiji Era: A Case Study of Koaza Names in Ritto City, Shiga Prefecture, Japan”, *Art Research*, Vol. 24, No. 1, pp. 3–18, 2023.
- Kasai, Y., “A Villager Group as Fundamental Association: Case Study of Isekoh Account Books from Megawa, Ritto City, Shiga Prefecture, Japan”, *Journal of Lifology*, No. 41, pp. 15–29, 2022 [in Japanese].
- Kasai, Y., “A Study of Detached Housing Complex: Depicting the History of a Neighborhood Association Using Its Newsletters”, *Hogaku Kenkyu: Journal of Law, Politics, and Sociology*, Vol. 93, No. 12, pp. 53–77, 2020 [in Japanese].
- Kasai, Y., “Findings Roots and Routes: A Case Study of The Namikawa Family”, *Hogaku Kenkyu: Journal of Law, Politics, and Sociology*, Vol. 93, No. 11, pp. 41–72, 2020 [in Japanese].

Conferences

- Kasai, Y., “Half a Century in ‘New’ Town: Focusing on Biographies of Residents and Neighborhood Associations”, Research Committee 38, International Sociological Association, Budapest, Hungary, September 2024.
- Kasai, Y., “Voluntary Association as a Predecessor of Resident Self-Governing Bodies in Japan”, XX World Congress of Sociology, International Sociological Association, Melbourne, Australia, July 2023.
- Kasai, Y., “Older Adults' Civic Engagement in Various Ways: Based on Their Life Histories and Local Newsletters”, XX World Congress of Sociology, International Sociological Association, Melbourne, Australia, June 2023.
- Kasai, Y., S. Kimura and K. Takeyama, “Research on History of Memories of Housing and its Methodology for Community Development (3) – Housing and Public History”, 50th Annual Meeting of the Japan Society of Lifology, Tokyo, Japan, 2023 [in Japanese].
- Kasai, Y., “An Analysis of the Distribution of Small Place Names: The Case of Ritto City, Shiga Prefecture, Japan”, Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Colorado, USA, March 2023.
- Kasai, Y. et al., “A Study on Local Distortions of the *Chicken-torishirabe-soezu* (cadastral map in Meiji era) in the Collection of the Ritto History Museum”, Annual Meeting of the Geographic Information Systems Association, Okinawa, Japan, October 2022 [in Japanese].

Professional Affiliations and Membership

- International Sociological Association (ISA)
- International Council of Museums (ICOM)
- The Japan Sociological Society (JSS)
- Japan Association of Regional and Community Studies (JARCS)
- Japan Society of Lifology (JSL)
 - Board Member
- The Folklore Society of Japan (FSJ)

Certifications and Licenses

- English Medium Instruction Certificate, Oxford EMI Certificate for University Lecturers Course
 - Oxford EMI, 2025
- Applied Public History: Places, People, Stories
 - University of London, 2023
- *Kanji* (Chinese Character) Educator Qualification Certification
 - The Shirakawa Shizuka Institute of East Asian Characters and Culture, Ritsumeikan University, 2022
- Associate Digital Archivist
 - Japan Digital Archivist Association, 2021
- Advanced Social Researcher
 - Japanese Association for Social Research, 2012