



# Post-Olympics Japan: Renewal or Failure?

Online Workshop | October 7–8, 2021

**GIGA**

German Institute for Global and Area Studies  
Leibniz-Institut für Globale und Regionale Studien



**Universität  
Zürich**<sup>UZH</sup>

VSJF





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## Post-Olympics Japan: Renewal or Failure?

Online Workshop | October 7–8, 2021

Envisaged as an event to remind the world of Japan's leadership aspirations and innovation power and to fully establish it as a tourism magnet, the Tokyo Olympics 2020 have turned out to be a completely different story. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the games had to be postponed to 2021 and eventually took place from July 23 until August 8 during a declared state of emergency banning fans from the venues. As Japan had been facing a fifth COVID-19 wave ahead of the Olympic Games, a large majority of Japan's population preferred to delay it for another year or even to cancel it altogether. What was meant to be a showcase of the abilities of the current government and a culmination of its achievements, caused another plunge of Prime Minister Suga's approval ratings and thus became an important factor for his decision to step down in view of the upcoming elections this fall.

Two months after the Olympic Games 2021, we would like to hold an online workshop on 7–8 October about the impact of the Games and the gap between original aspirations and concrete results. Therefore, we will have sessions on the following topics: the political economy of Olympics, political communication, historic perspectives, diversity, social movements and voluntarism, technology and innovation, mass media and public discourse. Our panel discussion at the end of the Workshop tackles the question: "What remains?"

The online workshop is held in cooperation of the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), the University of Zurich (UZH) and the German Association for Social Science Research on Japan (VSJF).

### Organizers

Prof. Dr. David Chiavacci  
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GIGA Institute for Asian Studies  
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# Post-Olympics Japan: Program Draft

October 7 | 9:00 – 12:30 CET (16:00 – 19:30 JST)

## Session 1

9:00 – 9:50

### Political Economy of Olympics

#### Test Positive Olympics

Yasushi Aoyama (Meiji University, Tokyo)

#### The 2020 Tokyo Olympics as a 'Turning Point' for the Olympic Movement: Creative Reconstruction, Bio-Politics and Capitalist Realism

Ichii Yoshifusa (Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto)

## Session 2

9:50 – 10:30

### Political Communication

#### The 2020/2021 Tokyo Olympics: Does Japan Get the Gold Medal or the Wooden Spoon?

Sebastian Maslow (Sendai Shirayuri Women's University)

Paul O'Shea (Lund University)

#### Online Political Communication about the Tokyo Olympics

Jonathan Lewis (Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo)

10:30 – 10:50

### Break

## Session 3

10:50 – 11:30

### Historic Perspectives

#### Akira between 1964, (1988) and 2020/21

Christian Tagsold (Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf)

#### Post-Olympics Japan: Renewal AND Failure "Once again that Dream?"

Steffi Richter (Leipzig University)



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October 7 | 9:00 – 12:30 CET (16:00 – 19:30 JST)



**Session 4**  
11:30 – 12:20

### **Diversity**

**Tokyo 2020 Unity in Diversity: From a Mega-Event Motto to Social Change to (Super-)Diversity**

Sakura Yamamura (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen)

**Policy Change in the Shadow of the Olympics: Disability Activism and Accessibility Reforms in Japan**

Celeste L. Arrington (George Washington University, Washington DC)  
Mark R. Bookman (The University of Tokyo)

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October 8 | 9:00 – 12:30 CET (16:00 – 19:30 JST)

**Session 5**  
9:00 – 9:50

### **Social Movements & Voluntarism**

**From “No Olympics 2020“ to “NOlympics Anywhere“:  
Reflecting on the Anti-Olympic Movements in Japan  
before and after Tokyo 2020/1**

Sonja Ganseforth (German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo)

**Tainted Love: Volunteering for the Pandemic Olympics**

Barbara Holthus (German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo)

**Session 6**  
9:50 – 10:30

### **Technology & Innovation**

**Tokyo 2020: The Implementation of an Event-oriented  
Urban Function in the Bay Area**

Alexandre Faure (Fondation France-Japon de l'EHESS, Paris)

**Tokyo 2020 as the Most Innovative Olympic Games in  
History?**

Iris Wiczorek (GIGA Institute for Asian Studies, Hamburg)

10:30 – 10:50 **Break**

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October 8 | 9:00 – 12:30 CET (16:00 – 19:30 JST)

**Session 7**

10:30 – 11:20

**Mass Media & Public Discourse**

**The Olympic Logo Scandal and the Case of Sano Kenjiro**  
Igor Prusa (Metropolitan University Prague & Ambis College Prague)

**“Recovery Flame”: The Tokyo 202/21 Olympic Torch Relay as Media Event**

Andreas Niehaus (Ghent University)

**Panel Discussion “What Remains?”**

11:30 – 12:30

**Moderator**

David Chiavacci (University of Zurich)

**Panelists**

Yasushi Aoyama (Meiji University, Tokyo)

Barbara Holthus (German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo)

John Horne (Waseda University Tokyo)

Wolfram Manzenreiter (University of Vienna)

Andrew Zimbalist (Smith College, Northampton)



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Please register here:



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