

Sociological Analyses of Japanese Society in Japan, 2005–2010

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Abstract

Japanese sociologists' work on Japanese society from 2005 through 2010 is critically examined. Articles published in the *Japanese Sociological Review* (JSR) during this period are analyzed along with books reviewed in the same journal. These publications are classified by their substantive areas and types of inquiries (quantitative, qualitative, theory, etc.). 'Culture and social consciousness' is the area where the largest numbers of articles and books have been recognized by JSR, followed by 'class, stratification, and mobility' and 'industry, labor, and organization'. Overall characteristics of sociological studies of Japanese society in Japan are summarized. The discrepancy between contemporary social phenomena and sociological research is also noted, using an example of freeters and needs, among others.

When Japanese sociologists have their articles published in journals or their books published, the focus is usually their own society. It is the case for Japanese sociologists. Therefore, 'to discuss sociological analyses of Japanese society in Japan' almost pertains 'to discuss sociological analyses in Japan'. This task, however, is much too broad and too ambitious because it would cover thousands of books and journal articles. Needless to say, it is impossible to cover all the literature by Japanese sociologists, and who those 'sociologists' are is not even clear. We need to set clear foci on this 'sociological analyses of Japanese society in Japan'.

To make this seemingly unmanageable task manageable, I need to focus this analysis upon a relatively small number of 'representative' articles by Japanese sociologists on Japanese society. A logical choice is to pick the top sociological journal in Japan, *Shakaigaku Hyoron* (*Japanese Sociological Review*, JSR hereinafter) which is published by the Japan Sociological Society. This publication is commonly regarded as the premiere outlet among Japanese sociologists. Probably not as prestigious as its American or British counterparts (*American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, or *British Journal of Sociology*), JSR is by far the most prestigious sociological journal in

Japan. In fact, JSR is the only well-known general sociological journal in that country. Other journals are either more specific, oriented toward sub-areas of sociology or circulate in a particular region in Japan. What has been published in this particular journal in recent years represents the core work of Japanese sociologists during the period. Therefore, the present paper is a critical review of papers (and books reviewed) in this publication.

Sociological analyses of Japanese society can be examined from many different angles: from macro-micro perspectives, quantitative–qualitative perspectives, contemporary–historical perspectives, and theoretical–empirical perspectives. In addition, these analyses may be categorized by the subject they deal with, such as the type of social institution. In the following section, I present how and which articles and books are chosen, how they are classified, and what we can learn from these articles and books.

Methods

The first part of this study is a review of all peer-reviewed, published articles in JSR that analyze Japanese society. This analysis has been made possible only recently, as the Japan Sociological Society did not make the full text of volumes 58 (2007) and 59 (2008) available online until April 2010. Articles from the older issues (prior to 2007) were made available online in October, 2009. Articles from volumes 60–62 (published 30 September 2009) onward have not been made available due to their one-year embargo policy; our analysis of these 12 articles is solely based on the title and three key words provided for each article.

Excluded from this analysis are articles focusing on countries other than Japan and purely theoretical articles that do not discuss Japanese society. Although book reviews are excluded in the first part of the analysis, they are later analyzed in a separate section. We covered the five most recent completed volumes (issues 56(1) through 60(4)), or 20 issues with their published dates ranging from 30 June 2005 through 31 March 2010. While we could have covered for a longer period of time, say ten years, it was determined that the past five years provide us with a broad enough coverage of articles representing Japanese sociologists' work on Japanese society.

The number of articles covered is 98. For 20 issues, this number appears small, and it is. The main reason for this is there are many purely theoretical articles that do not specifically examine Japanese society. This 'theory-driven' approach is particularly common when a special issue is published (typically three issues out of the four per year). While there are some articles specifically focusing on a non-Japanese society (Germany, Australia, the US, etc.), there are many more theoretical (i.e. non-empirical) articles in the journal not dealing with Japanese society in particular. Again, both types of articles are excluded from the present analysis.

Each article has been read and categorized by two criteria. The first is their substantive focus. The classification is based on the sections in the Japan Sociological Society. The following has been extracted from the program for their Annual Meetings

Table 1. *Classifications by substantive areas*

Lo	Local communities and local issues (6)
Cu	Culture and social consciousness (5)
Et	Ethnicity (5)
Th	Theories (4)
St	Class, stratification, and mobility (4)
La	Industry, labor, and organization (4)
Ur	Urbanity (4)
Md	Welfare, public health, and medicine (3)
Se	Sexuality and gender (3)
Me	Research methods, and survey methods (3)
Mo	Social movements (3)
Ch	Children, youth, and elderly (3)
Ac	Academic history, and academic thought (2)
De	Social pathology and deviance (2)
En	Environments (2)
Hi	History, social history, and life history (2)
Pl	Power and politics (2)
Ed	Education (1)
Ru	Rural communities (1)
Re	Religion (1)
In	International and area studies (1)
Co	Information and communication (1)
Po	Population (1)
Fa	Families (1)
Bo	Human body and handicap (0)
Cg	Cognitive, self, and attitudes (0)
Te	Technology (0)
Lw	Law (0)

Notes: Numbers in parentheses represent how many regular sessions are held for each topic in the annual meetings of the Japan Sociological Society, 2010.

in November, 2010. Table 1 represents all substantive areas classified that have regular sessions plus four areas added for the present analysis. The list itself is interesting and somewhat indicative of what sociologists in Japan are interested in studying. We will see the distribution of the 98 articles according to this classification later.

To classify each article based on these 28 categories, the choice was not always clear. Many articles covered multiple areas and identifying a single area for each was often arbitrary. The overall picture, nevertheless, represents a good summary of sociological work in Japan on Japanese society.

In addition to its substantive area of focus, each article is classified by the characteristics of its analytical nature. I tried to classify each of the 98 articles into several categories. Some articles have a theoretical (TH) focus, while others may mostly use quantitative (QN) or qualitative (QL) techniques for their investigation of a topic.

There are mostly methodological (ME) inquiries of social phenomena in Japanese society, and there are articles that mostly described (DE) a certain (usually historical) event. Finally, there was one article that was primarily a review article (RV) on a particular topic, called 'research trend'.

For each article, usually three key words are given to describe it in a concise manner. These key words are supplied by the authors in English in most cases, but I changed them in some instances to clarify the content of each article. In addition, my own notes, usually a couple of words, are added to each article to briefly describe it. They are based on my reading of each article, although I tried to make them as concise as possible to make the data manageable.

Table 2 lists each article's title, key words, classification/type, and notes. The titles were obtained from the English summary for each article.

Since this analysis utilizing JSR articles is based only on a collection of journal articles published in Japan examining Japanese society, it does not cover another critical medium of Japanese sociologists' analyses on Japanese society, published books. It is, however, next to impossible to analyze all sociological books on Japanese society published recently. Reading all of them is out of question, but even collecting a representative group of books is not easy. For one thing, we don't know which books are written by 'sociologists'. There are numerous books entitled, 'Sociology of ...' in Japan, but many of them have little, if anything at all, to do with academic sociology. Worse yet, most sociological books published in Japan (or in the US, for that matter) do not carry 'sociology' in their titles. Therefore, compiling a list of sociological books about Japanese society is a very difficult task.

I decided to use JSR again; this time, its Book Reviews section. Just like the *American Journal of Sociology* and the *British Journal of Sociology*, JSR publishes book reviews in many, if not all, issues. The reviewed books are mostly selected by the editorial board and therefore deemed important in the field of sociology in Japan. Since our journal article collection was from 30 June 2005 through 31 March 2010, I tried to gather book reviews from the same period. For some reason, however, JSR did not publish any book reviews from issue 55(3) (31 December 2004) until issue 58(2) (30 September 2007). Therefore, we limited our book reviews to issue 58(2) through to issue 60(4) (31 March 2010).

The selection criteria of the books were the same as those for articles; I kept only books that appear to discuss Japanese society. Excluded from our collection were purely theoretical books that do not examine Japanese society (e.g. social theory of G. H. Mead) and books dealing specifically with a society outside Japan (e.g. deafness in Africa and Buddhist monks in Northeast Thailand). In addition, we utilized three 'thematic research trends' or extended book reviews (usually dealing with two to five books) from issues 58(2), 57(4), and 56(2) (nine articles altogether). A total of 74 books were collected with this procedure (see Table 3 for the complete list). Since I tried to come up with key words in English mostly from the title of each book, these titles were not translated into English.

Table 2. *Summary of JSR articles examining Japanese society, 2005–2010*

#	Title	Key words	Class./ /type	Notes
60(4) (2010)				
1	Hiroshima memoryscape	memoryscape, Hiroshima, nation-making	Cu	
2	Place, space, and sociology	space, place, historic preservation, environmental sociology	Cu	
3	The 'spatial practice' in a mountainous village in modern Japanese society	spatial practice, preservation for traditional buildings, lived-space	Cu	
4	Interpreting 'don't know' answers in public attitude to science and technology	DK answer, biotechnology, public attitude to science and technology	Me	
5	Determinants of sense of unfairness due to factors such as evaluation of distributive justice	social class, sense of unfairness due to factors, inequality of opportunity	St	
60(3) (2009)				
6	Cultural resources for city development	local cultural policy, creative city, double standard of culture	Lo	
7	Changing dietary cultures and other impacts of globalizations in East Asia	dietary cultures, globalization, East Asia	Cu	
8	Representation of industrial heritage and the transformation of local communities	industrial heritage, representation, local community	Lo	
60(2) (2009)				
9	The impact of the merit-based wage system on morale and productivity	merit-based wage system, recognition of workers, employees, labor relations	La	
10	Christian reformism and literature in jogaku zasshi	Christian reformism, Christian literature, champ litteraire	Hi	
11	Ageing population and increase in the degree of income inequality, re-considered	income inequality, decomposition of the change in income inequality, attitude towards living conditions	St	

Table 2. *Continued*

#	Title	Key words	Class./ /type	Notes
12	The effects of social networks on job hunting	network, changing job. Safety net	La	
60(1) (2009)				
13	Visual methods and sociological imagination	collective photographic observation, crystallization of collect. image, visual narrative	Me/ME	method
14	Listening to voices and the sociological possibilities of orality	orality, act of listening, transcription of voice	Me/ME	qualitative, method
15	A pluralist tale world based on the sound recording data interpreted by the investigator	social construction of interview, reappearance possibility of the data, multivoice	Me/ME	qualitative, method
16	Possibilities of sociology in analyzing films and documentaries	categorization, everyday politics, folk sociology	Me/ME	content analysis
17	The bases of the denationalized counter-public sphere	immigrants, labor unions, identity	Mo/QL	history, case study
59(4) (2009)				
18	Inequality and fluidity of the social stratification system in contemporary Japan	social stratification, fluidity, stability	St/QN	overview
19	Intergenerational class mobility and Japanese society	class mobility, industrialization, fluidity	St/QN	mobility
20	A comparative study of social stratification in east Asian societies	East Asia, social stratification, occupation	St/QN	Japan, Korea, Taiwan
21	Socioeconomic differences in educational attainment	educational opportunity, relative risk aversion, ordered logit model	Ed/QN	
22	Occupational segregation and opportunities for career advancement over the life course	life course, occupational segregation by gender, workplace authority	Se/QN	

Table 2. *Continued*

23	Social capital in stratification research	social capital, labor market, equality of opportunity	St/QN	
24	Semantics of status identification	Kullback–Leibler info., divergence of 'upper/middle/lower'-identification, reflective stratified society	St/QN	SSM
25	Change in inequality and aggregation of subjective well-being by redistribution of income	redistribution of income, subjective well-being, inequality	St/QN	highly quantitative
26	How have Hansen's Disease sufferers constructed the reality of their everyday lives amidst social change in postwar Japan?	Hansen's disease, constructing the reality of everyday life	Hi/QL	history, case study, SI
27	Sharing and overlapping of costs with regard to the siting of waste disposal facilities	local conflict, distributive justice	Lo/TH	case study
59(3) (2008)				
28	The significance of cooperation in domestic labor by rural women	domestic labor, rural women, community	Se/QL	history, case study
29	Determinants of the perceived risk of crime	fear of crime, comparative study	De/QN	US–Japan comparison
30	The role of an ethnic network in the selection of a residential area by foreigners living in Japan	ethnic network, census, population shift	Et/QN	Census based
31	Family background and the process of ability formation	ability, family communication, social independence	Ed/QN	analysis of cov. struct.
32	Anomie of the impact by an institutional change on professionals	professionals, anomie, relative deprivation	La/QN	case study
33	A local traditional culture rooted in 'play'	traditional/local culture, cultural resource	Lo/QL	case study

Table 2. *Continued*

#	Title	Key words	Class./ /type	Notes
59(2) (2008)				
34	Doyo songs in media studies	orality and literacy, media	Cu/QL	case study, theory
35	Institutional rigidity on the 'circle of legitimation'	environment, expertise	En/TH	case study, theory
36	Social area analysis reconsidered	social area, cluster analysis, cities	Ur/QN	
37	Communal life practices in a national sanatorium for Hansen's Disease	Hansen's Disease, small group, enrichment of life	Lo/QL	case study
38	What does the development/conservation of urban spaces involve in local community politics?	urban space, social strata, local politics	PI/DE	case study
39	Empirical assessment of 'Japanese' cognition toward various nations	cognitions of nations, generations, media	Cg/QN	survey data
40	Research trends	class, stratification	St/RV	research trend
59(1) (2008)				
41	From 'civil society theories' to Kurihara Akira's sociology	civil society, identity, programmed society	Th/TH	
42	Industrialism and the postwar Japanese society	industrial society, worsening of industrialism, social policy	La/TH	review
43	From 'gap-widening society discourse' to 'class-stratification studies'	social class, social stratification, Japanese sociology	St/TH	review
44	Work and 'post-industrialized society'	financialization, markets and hierarchies, individualization	La/TH	review
45	Who is the justifiable party?	justifiable party, gender identity disorder, membership category	Se/QL	theory/QL

Table 2. *Continued*

46	Forming a residents' movement to combat an environmental risk	environmental risk, local community, residents' movement	Mo/TH	case study
47	Consumer society and self-identity	consumption, self-identity, flexibility	Th/TH	purely theoretical
48	The origin of self-oriented job decision making	job decision making, freedom of occupational choice, trust	La/QL	historical, content an.
49	Factors behind the change in the consciousness harbored toward foreign residents by Japanese residents	Japanese–Brazilian, exclusive consciousness, group threat theory	Et/QN	well-balanced
58(4) (2008)				
50	Recovered people's explanations of eating disorders in recovery stories	eating disorders, recovery story, problem solving	Bo/QL	theory
51	Emotional labor and burnout	emotional labor/work, burnout	Cg/QL	$N = 5$
52	A sociological investigation on 'group suicides through the internet' in Japan	suicide through the internet, anomie, sociology of death	Co/TH	no data
53	A model of advancement rate and intergenerational social mobility	inequality of educational opportunities, intergenerational social mobility, advancement rate	St/QN	highly mathematical
58(3) (2007)				
54	Commodified 'adventure'	backpacking, commodification, self-identity	Cu/QL	
55	Change in the Japanese language and the development of an autopoietic educational system	language, inner world, autopoiesis of the educational system	Ed/TH	history
56	Power mechanism in the process of decision-making with regard to wives' employment	invisible power, employment of married women, gender arrangement	Se/QL	$N = 23$, interview
57	Blood glucose levels as an index	surveillance medicine, blood glucose level, self-monitoring	Md/QL	theory/QL
58	The sociology of the pink-collar man	pink-collar job care work, gender	Se/TH	

Table 2. *Continued*

#	Title	Key words	Class./ /type	Notes
58(2) (2007)				
59	The Japanese government's political problem of improving consciousness toward foreigners	consciousness, foreigners, governmental policy	PI/TH	case study
60	Autonomy and duality of the Japanese legal system	tort liability, punitive solatium, installment damages	Lw/TH	sociology of law
61	Cultural policy and publicness	cultural policy, experimental arts, publicness	Cu/TH	case study, policy
58(1) (2007)				
62	Interaction rituals and self-identities	social withdrawal, self-identity, interaction rituals	Cg/QL	participant observation
63	The ethnography of the boxing subculture in Japan	boxing subculture, social change, identity	Cu/QL	ethnography
64	Body techniques in a train	urban traffic, body techniques, publicness	Hi/QL	historical, content an.
65	From emphasis on the determination of the causes of birth defects to emphasis on the daily life of parents and children	disability, family, social movements	Fa/QL	historical, case study
57(4) (2007) None				
57(3) (2006)				
66	The self-determination of disabled persons	care, self-determination of disabled, independent living	Bo/QL	
67	Changes in employment relations	job autonomy, employment relations, supervision closeness	La/QN	path analysis
68	Solitude of younger street homeless people	homelessness, underclass, individualization	De/QL	timely issue
69	Care for children and freedom from adults	child–adult relationships, freedom, adventure playground	Ch/QL	theory/qual

Table 2. *Continued*

70	The economic sociology of forest devastation in Japan	forestry, forest devastation, new economic sociology	En/DE	case study, descriptive
71	Comradeship within communities of homeless people	homeless people, comrade, independence	De/QL	observation, survey
57(2) (2006)				
72	Towards a historical reassessment of 'citizens' movements' and 'residents' movements' in 1960s–1970s era	stage-theoretical understanding of social movements, critics of publicness, local egoism	Mo/TH	history, descriptive
73	Reinterpreting the 'second wave'	second-wave feminism, women's liberation	Se/TH	history, descriptive
74	New social problems and social movements	individualization, self-identity, meta life politics	Mo/QL	history, descriptive
75	Possibility of democratic community broadcasting and digital society	community, public access, nonprofit organization	Co/DE	descriptive
76	Study of a social movement from the viewpoint of a local community	local community, social movement, referendum	Lo/QL	case study, history
57(1) (2006)				
77	Structure of self-reliance in the lives of modern people	modern people, structure of self-reliance in life, life ethics	Cu/QL	history, content an.
56(4) (2006)				
78	Difference in the motivation between participants and non-participants in a social movement	meaning construction, self-denial, double motives	Mo/QL	case study, descriptive
79	The differences between full-time employees and 'core part-time employees'	part-time employees, equitable treatment	La/QN	descriptive, N > 3000
80	The sovereign law and border transgression of the autonomous life world	exceptional law, nation empire, demarginalizing	Hi/DE	history, case study
81	Reconsidering resistance and subjectivity approaches to studying homelessness	homeless, resistance, subjectivity	De/QL	descriptive

Table 2. *Continued*

#	Title	Key words	Class./ /type	Notes
82	An investigation of the changing social consciousness with regard to <i>ishikikaii</i> (breach of etiquette) in early Meiji Japan	publicness, passing-off, early Meiji era	Cu/QL	history, content analysis
83	Scientific commission for environmental problems	scientific commission, academic motives, disclosure of research results	Te/DE	case study, secondary an.
56(3) (2005)				
84	'Shin no shinshi' (true gentleman) and 'ese shinshi' (pseudo-gentleman)	shinshi, civilization, orientalism	Cu/DE	history
85	Post-industrialization of Japan and the fluidity of youth employment	post-industrialization, fluid employment, company-centricism	La/DE	theory
56(2) (2005)				
86	Globalization and popular culture	globalization, popular culture, multi-layered moral conflict	Cu/TH	history, description
87	The norm of voice	cultural friction, disability, stigma	Bo/QL	
88	'Don't know' responses in surveys on political attitudes and political behavior	political attitude, DK response, political behavior	Me/ME	response pattern
56(1) (2005)				
89	Freedom of choice and fair share of burden in a depopulated society	decrease in the birthrate, gender equality, child care support	Fa/QN	descriptive
90	The family and below-replacement fertility in Japan	below-replacement fertility, sexual division of labor, gender	Fa/QN	descriptive
91	Retirees' views on work	senior age population, retirement, active aging	La/QN	logit
92	Socio-economic inequality in the aging society	income inequality, household structure, support network	St/QN	logit

Table 2. *Continued*

93	Some sociological comments on 'an aged society with a declining birthrate'	decrease in the birthrate, community, social cohesion	Cu/DE	
94	The dilemma of skill reproduction in pursuit of flexibility	flexibility, skill reproduction, sub-contracting system	La/DE	case study
95	Women's intimate relationships as romantic love	intimacy, friendship, romantic love	Se/QL	hist/descri, content an.
96	Urbanism and friendship	urbanism, friendship, social networks	Co/QN	
97	Meaning of paid work	sexual division of labor, provider role, dual-earning	Fa/QL	
98	Ready-made clothes and bodies	clothes, body, size standards	Bo/QL	content an. descriptive

Table 3. Summary of JSR book reviews examining Japanese society, 2005–2010

ID/Cl	Title	Key words
60(4) (2010)		
1. En	三上直之著『地域環境の再生と円卓会議：東京湾三番瀬を事例として』	resurrection of global environment, Tokyo Bay
2. Ed	小針誠著『<お受験>の社会史：都市新中間層と私立小学校』	entrance exam, new urban middle class, private elementary school
60(3) (2009)		
3. Th	田中義久著『社会関係の理論』	theory, social relations
4. Cu	藤村正之著『<生>の社会学』	sociology of life
5. St.	白波瀬佐和子著『日本の不平等を考える：少子高齢社会の国際比較』	inequality, cross-cultural comparison, aging society
6. Et	三浦耕吉郎著『環境と差別のクリティーク：屠場・「不法占拠」・部落差別』	slaughterhouse, buraku discrimination, environment
60(2) (2009)		
7. Cu	阿部潔著『スポーツの魅惑とメディアの誘惑：身体/国家のカルチュラル・スタディーズ』	sports, body, nation, cultural studies
8. Cu	間々田孝夫著『第三の消費文化論：モダンでもポストモダンでもなく』	consumer culture, post-modernism
9. Md	武川正吾著『連帯と承認：グローバル化と個人化のなかの福祉国家』	welfare state, globalization, individualization
10. Fa	下夷美幸著『養育費政策にみる国家と家族：母子世帯の社会学』	single mothers, child support policy
11. Cu	今津孝次郎著『人生時間割の社会学』	life time schedule
12. Md	副田義也著『福祉社会学宣言』	welfare sociology
13. Ch	片桐新自著『不安定社会の中の若者たち：大学生調査から見るこの20年』	college students, unstable society
14. Ch	小倉康嗣著『高齢化社会と日本人の生き方：岐路に立つ現代中年のライフストーリー』	aging society, life story of middle-aged people
15. Md	金成垣著『後発福祉国家論：比較のなかの韓国と東アジア』	welfare state, Korea, East Asia, comparative
16. St	吉原直樹著『モビリティと場所：21世紀都市空間の転回』	mobility, place, city space
17. Se	大和礼子著『生涯ケアラの誕生：再構築された世代間関係/再構築されないジェンダー関係』	gender, life-long career, intergenerational relations
18. Cu	数土直紀著『階層意識のダイナミクス：なぜ、それは現実からずれるのか』	class consciousness, discrepancies from reality
60(1) (2009)		
19. Se	岩間暁子著『女性の就業と家族のゆくえ：格差社会のなかの変容』	women's employment, family, stratified society

Table 3. *Continued*

20. Se	飯野由里子著『レズビアンである<わたしたち>のストーリー』	lesbianism, life story
21. Et	工藤正子著『越境の人類学：在日パキスタン人ムスリム移民の妻たち』	wives of Pakistani immigrants in Japan
22. Mo	梶潟俊子著『有機農業運動と<提携>のネットワーク』	organic farming, network
23. Cu	黄順姫著『同窓会の社会学：学校的身体文化・信頼・ネットワーク』	reunion, body culture in school, trust, network
	59(4) (2009)	
24. Hi	恩田守雄著『互助社会論—ユイ, モヤイ, テツダイの民俗社会学』	folklore, mutually-helping society
25. Cu	渡部周子著『〈少女〉像の誕生—近代日本における「少女」規範の形成』	norms of “young girls”
26. Cu	田中秀隆著『近代茶道の歴史社会学』	history of tea ceremony
27. St	浜田宏著『格差のメカニズム—数理社会的アプローチ』	inequality, mathematical sociology
28. Se	青山薫著『「セックスワーカー」とは誰か—移住・性労働・人身取引の構造と経験』	sex workers, immigration, gender
29. Co	石井和平著『社会情報学—情報技術と社会の共変』	social informatics, IT
30. La	丹野清人著『越境する雇用システムと外国人労働者』	employment across border, foreign workers
	59(3) (2008)	
31. Te	小島剛著『科学技術とリスクの社会学』	technology, risk
32. Cu	倉石一郎著『差別と日常の経験社会学——解読する〈私〉の研究誌』	discrimination, everyday experience
33. Fa	筒井淳也著『親密性の社会学—縮小する家族のゆくえ』	intimacy, small families
	59(2) (2008)	
34. Re	渡辺雅子著『現代日本新宗教論—入信過程と自己形成の視点から』	religion in Japan, recruitment, identity
35. Se	今田絵里香著『「少女」の社会史』	social history of “young girls”
36. Se	靄理恵子著『農家女性の社会学—農の元気は女から』	women in farming
37. Hi	永谷健著『富豪の時代—実業エリートと近代日本』	wealthy elites, modern Japan
38. Hi	石原俊著『近代日本と小笠原諸島—移動民の島々と帝国』	Ogasawara Islands, nomadic people, modern Japan
	59(1) (2008)	
39. Hi	副田義也著『内務省の社会史』	social history of Internal Department
40. Se	船橋恵子著『育児のジェンダーポリティクス』	gender politics, childcare
41. La	辻勝次著『キャリアの社会学—職業能力と職業経歴からのアプローチ』	careers, occupation skills
42. Co	遠藤薫著『問メディア社会と〈世論〉形成—TV・ネット・劇場社会』	inter-media society, public opinion

Table 3. *Continued*

ID/Cl	Title	Key words
43. Fa	井上眞理子著『リスク・ファミリー—家事調停の現場から見た現代家族』	settlement of family conflicts, modern family
44. Hi	福岡良明著『殉国と反逆—「特攻」の語りの戦後史』	air suicide attacks, history of orality
45. Cu	新原道信著『境界領域への旅—岬からの社会学的探求』	marginal areas, capes
46. Ch	井出草平著『ひきこもりの社会学』	social withdrawal at home
47. Hi	河西宏祐著『電産の興亡(1946~1956)—電産型賃金と産業別組合』 58(4) (2008)	electric industry, union by industry
48. Cg	山田陽子著『「心」をめぐる知のグローバル化と自律的個人像—「心」の聖化とマネジメント』	globalization of knowledge on mind, autonomous self
49. La	太郎丸博編『フリーターとニートの社会学』	neets, temporary workers
50. Hi	樽川典子編『喪失と生存の社会学—大震災のライフ・ヒストリー』	life history on earthquake, loss, survival
51. Mo	西山志保著『[改定版]ボランティア活動の論理—ボランティアリズムとサブシステム』	volunteer activities, voluntarism, sub-system
52. Hi	富江直子著『救貧のなかの日本近代—生存の義務』	obligation of survival, helping the poor in modern Japan
53. Fa	田間泰子著『「近代家族」とボディ・ポリティクス』 58(3) (2007)	modern family, body politics
54. Fa	吉原千賀著『長寿社会における高齢期きょうだい関係の家族社会学的研究』	older siblings, family
55. Co	串田秀也著『相互行為秩序と会話分析—「話し手」と「共-成員性」をめぐる参加の組織化』	interaction order, conversational analysis, organized participation
56. Ur	二階堂裕子著『民族関係と地域福祉の都市社会学』	regional welfare, ethnicity, urban sociology
57. Ch	野邊政雄著『高齢女性のパーソナル・ネットワーク』	personal networks, older women
58. Ch	小泉恭子著『音楽をまとう若者』	music, youth
59. Fa	野々山久也著『現代家族のパラダイム革新—直系制家族・夫婦制家族から合意制家族へ』 58(2) (2007)	stem, conjugal, and consent families
60. Se	倉本智明編著『セクシュアリティの障害学』	sexuality, handicap
61. Bo	立岩真也著『ALS 不動の身体と息する機械』	ALS, human body
62. Bo	石川准著『見えないものと見えるもの—社交とアシストの障害学』	social life, handicap, assistance
63. Hi	秋元律郎著『近代日本と社会学—戦前・戦後の思想と経験』	pre-/post-war thought and experience

Table 3. *Continued*

64. Cg	片桐雅隆著『認知社会学の構想—カテゴリー・自己・社会』	cognition, category, self
65. Ch	前田信彦著『アクティブ・エイジングの社会学—高齢者・仕事・ネットワーク』	active aging, work, social network, elderly
66. Mo	劉文静著『農産物販売組織の形成と展開—農家の結合と分離による市場への対応』	crop-sales organization, union and separation of farmers
67. Hi	渡邊洋之著『捕鯨問題の歴史社会学—近現代日本におけるクジラと人間』	whaling in modern Japan, history
68. La	浅海典子著『女性事務職のキャリア拡大と職場組織』	women office workers, career advancement
57(4) (2007)		
69. Co	遠藤薫編著『インターネットと<世論>形成—間メディア的言説の連鎖と抗争』	Internet, public opinion, inter-media discourse
70. Co	川暗賢一・李妍飯・池田緑編著『NPOの電子ネットワーク戦略』	NPO, electronic network
71. Co	橋元良明・吉井博明責任編集『叢書現代のメディアとジャーナリズム2 ネットワーク社会』	media, journalism, network society
56(2) (2005)		
72. Et	奥田道大著『都市コミュニティの磁場—越境するエスニシティと21世紀都市社会学』	urban community, ethnicity across border
73. Et	奥田道大著『新版池袋のアジア系外国人—回路を閉じた日本型都市でなく』	Asians in Japan, closed city
74. Et	奥田道大・鈴木久美子編著『エスノポリス・新宿/池袋—来日10年目のアジア系外国人調査記録』	Asians in Japan, ethnic community

For the books reviewed in JSR, the only information shown in the table is classification (area of interest) and key words (mostly from the title) because these books are not all available. For that matter, the analysis based on books cited is not as strong/thorough as that based on articles.

Based on Tables 2 and 3, an extensive review is conducted to describe what and how sociologists in Japan analyze Japanese society. For each area of investigation and type of analysis, we will discuss some articles to represent a general trend in sociological analyses of Japanese society.

Findings

From Table 2, we can classify the 98 articles based on their foci, sub-areas, and types of investigation. As stated earlier, the three most recent issues (60(2), (3), and (4) are not yet available online; therefore, I excluded the first 12 articles from some of my analyses. From Table 3, we can classify the 74 books based on their foci and sub-areas. The findings on the sub-areas are presented in Table 4. Below, I will discuss observations on some major interest areas in sociological studies of Japanese society.

The area called ‘culture and social consciousness’ has the largest number of articles and books. One of the examples, Article 54 (A-54, Ohno, 2007), ‘Commodified “adventure”’ discusses how young Japanese ‘backpackers’ traveling in foreign countries became more ‘commodified’ or ‘packaged’ with the disguise of these travelers making their own individualized trips. This is an excellent article to describe ‘controlled freedom’, a type of deviant culture, enjoyed by youth in Japan in a larger context of capitalism. The same framework has been adopted in music, fashion, and youth culture in general. In fact, this recent boom of ‘backpacking’ itself was facilitated by a popular TV program in 1996 so that this ‘youth culture’ was a result of the main stream culture to begin with. Moreover, this commodification of ‘adventure’ involves not only Japanese travel industries (e.g. guidebooks) but also tour operators in such host countries as Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam, according to Ohno. The author also interviewed Japanese backpackers (citing five in the article), and this allows the readers to see the same phenomenon from the two opposite sides.

The article by Ikemoto (A-63, 2007), ‘The ethnography of the boxing subculture in Japan’ is another good example of an article on the area of ‘culture and social consciousness’. Through an ethnographical investigation, Ikemoto describes not only those who were interested in boxing, but also how teenagers are placed into different tracks and how they come to terms with these decisions. Boxing is used as a medium to describe a stifling reality in schools. These two articles are considered to be typical in Japanese sociology in two aspects: methods and subject areas. As stated above, the area of ‘culture and social consciousness’ boasts the largest number of articles published and books reviewed in JSR. As will be stated later, a large number of JSR articles are of qualitative in nature. For these two reasons, the two articles cited here are considered to be mainstream and typical articles. There are, however, other types of articles in JSR:

Table 4. *The distribution of articles and books reviewed by their substantive areas*

Classification	No. of articles	QN/QL/Other/UN ¹	No. of books	Total
Cu: Culture and social consciousness	13	0/5/4/4	10	23
St: Class, stratification, and mobility	12	8/0/2/2	3	15
La: Industry, labor, and organization	11	3/2/4/2	4	15
Se: Sexuality and gender	7	1/4/2/0	8	15
Hi: History, social history, and life history	4	0/2/1/1	10	14
Fa: Families	4	2/2/0/0	6	10
Co: Information and communication	3	1/0/2/0	6	9
Mo: Social movements	5	0/3/2/0	3	8
Et: Ethnicity	2	2/0/0/0	5	7
Ch: Children, youth, and elderly	1	0/1/0/0	6	7
Lo: Local communities and local issues	6	0/3/1/2	0	6
Me: Research methods, and survey methods	6	0/0/5/1	0	6
Bo: Human body and handicap	4	0/4/0/0	2	6
Cg: Cognitive, self, and attitudes	3	1/2/0/0	2	5
De: Social pathology and deviance	4	1/3/0/0	0	4
Ed: Education	3	2/0/1/0	1	4
Md: Welfare, public health, and medicine	1	0/1/0/0	3	4
Th: Theories	2	0/0/2/0	1	3
En: Environments	2	0/0/2/0	1	3
Pl: Power and politics	2	0/0/2/0	0	2
Ur: Urbanity	1	1/0/0/0	1	2
Te: Technology	1	0/0/1/0	1	2
Lw: Law	1	0/0/1/0	0	1
Re: Religion	0	0/0/0/0	1	1
Ac: Academic history, and academic thought	0	0/0/0/0	0	0
Ru: Rural communities	0	0/0/0/0	0	0
In: International and area studies	0	0/0/0/0	0	0
Po: Population	0	0/0/0/0	0	0
Total	98	22/32/32/12	74	172

Note: 1. For the articles only, I counted the numbers of quantitative research article (QN), qualitative research articles (QL), other articles including purely theoretical, descriptive, methodological, and review articles (Other), and unknown (UN) for the 12 new articles embargoed online.

descriptive/historical, theoretical, and quantitative articles. We will discuss these types of articles as we encounter them in the following sections.

Culture and social consciousness is a broad area that is central to sociology in Japan. No other discipline deals with them as well as sociology. These articles cover various subjects, including the analyses of collaboration between an art-related nonprofit organization (NPO) and Osaka City (A-61), how the idea of self-reliance was cultivated in pre-war Japan (A-77), and how the idea of ‘gentlemanship’ in modern Japan reflects

the struggle to create a national identity (A-84). They represent another major type of sociological article on Japanese society in Japan. These studies are all historical or descriptive studies, and therefore, they are based on inductive, rather than deductive, reasoning. Instead of testing hypotheses or even generating them, they are concerned with particular cases of current or historical incidents.

The area of culture and social consciousness is the most common topic among the reviewed books also. Sociologists in Japan examine to only a somewhat small extent broader topics in their books, such as class reunion and social network (book review 23 (B-23)), the relationship between sports and media (B-7), the discrepancy between class consciousness and objective class position (B-18), and social history of the modern tea ceremony (B-26).

One potential issue of the subject matter (culture and social consciousness) is a lack of scientific rigor. For example, out of nine Cu articles for which the full text is available, none is a quantitative analysis, five are qualitative (including A-54 and A-63), two descriptive, and two others purely theoretical (see Tables 2 and 4). If we use a mixed method for this particular subject area, it may be possible to involve more sociologists and other scholars. Nevertheless, the fact remains that ‘culture and social consciousness’ is a bread-and-butter area in sociology of Japanese society in Japan.

‘Industry, labor, and organization’ has been a stronghold among sociologists in Japan, coined as ‘industrial sociology’, ‘sociology of labor’, or ‘sociology of organization’. This is an area somewhat intersecting with the field of economics, along with the next subject area in Table 4, ‘Class, stratification, and mobility’. Emile Durkheim examined the sociological consequences of an inherently economical concept of ‘division of labor’ for the first time in the history of social science (A-42, Tominaga, 2007), and, therefore, the affinity between sociology and economics is only expected. Recent examinations in this subject include such contemporary issues as effects of social networks on job hunting (A-12), fluidity and instability of youth labor (A-85, B-49), foreign workers in the employment system (B-30), consequences of the merit-based wage system (A-9), impacts of institutional changes on professionals (A-32), differences among types of employees (full- vs. part-time employees in A-79 and career- vs. non-career jobs in B-68), and retirees’ views of work (A-91), among others.

While Durkheim utilized the concept of ‘division of labor’, which originated in economics, for his sociological analysis of social cohesion and solidarity, Karl Marx tackled another fundamental issue of economics: redistribution of wealth. Many sociologists in Japan and elsewhere have been interested in this issue of the redistribution of wealth, usually labeled as research on social class and/or social stratification. Social mobility derived from these concepts focus upon changes in the social strata either across or within generation. Even though Japanese society is known to be less stratified than most other countries, this notion of social stratification/social class has been one of the core issues among sociologists in Japan. The analyses in this area are naturally quantitative in nature and Japan is no exception. The Social Stratification and Social Mobility (SSM) project has been collecting large-scale data on this subject every ten

years since 1955 (Tanaka, 2010). This data set has played a decisive role in the analysis of stratification and mobility in Japan. Many stratification specialists have been trained using this data set in Japan, though they may have ‘graduated’ from this data set in the later courses of their academic careers.

Accordingly, of the ten articles on ‘class, stratification, and mobility’ for which the full text is available, as many as eight are quantitative inquiries, leaving a theoretical piece (A-43) and a review (A-40). This heavy dependence on quantitative analyses is a unique characteristic of this area of research. Of all other areas listed in Table 4, only three more areas, ethnicity, education, and urban sociology have majorities of their articles utilizing quantitative analyses. SSM is the most popular data set in JSR articles, and all but one (A-92) quantitative analyses in the area of ‘class, stratification, and mobility’ reported their findings from this data set. While this is partly due to a special issue on stratification (issue 59(4)), with a collection of six quantitative articles which all used SSM data, the fundamental feature of this research area (dependence on quantitative inquiries) should remain the same if these articles are removed from our analysis and/or more issues are added to the present analysis.

Then, what type of research has been conducted in class, stratification, and mobility? Sato (A-18, 2008) provides a concise and superb overview of stratification in contemporary Japan. According to him, stratification of initial job types by educational achievement has been strengthened; college graduates are much more likely to obtain regular, full-time jobs and tend to keep them longer than those without college degrees. Among those with only high school degrees, high-school-based recruitment has become much less prominent in the past couple of decades, pushing more high school graduates to irregular, often part-time jobs. In other words, he argues that while the systematic job stratification by education has been stable, the mechanism to provide jobs to high school graduates has become less stable. The weakening high school-based recruitment system results in emergence of ‘freeter’ and ‘neet’, which will be examined later.

Sato also shows that the effect of stratification on job changes has worsened in the last couple of decades. The mean decrease in earnings percentage upon job changes was larger among the well educated earlier, but it is now larger among the less educated. Moreover, the proportion of job changes due to positive reasons is getting smaller, indicating that many people are forced out of their jobs rather than have left for greener pastures. Finally, Sato shows that the intergenerational associations regarding income became a little stronger between 1995 and 2005 among both the top and bottom quarters in income strata. Overall, his argument indicates that there is a dualism in stratification in Japan; employment and income structure has been quite stable among the upper strata, while it has shown many signs of deterioration among the lower strata. It, therefore, could lead us to a wrong conclusion if we try to describe ‘the’ social stratification and/or mobility in Japan. This excellent article can be considered to be a ‘typical’ one for its combination between a popular subject area (stratification) and its quantitative nature (which is common in this particular area).

In the meantime, as one of the leading scholars on stratification research in Japan, Hashimoto (A-43, 2008) admits that, upon facing an apparently sudden widening inequality, conventional stratification research in Japan has not met public demand for sociology. Particularly imminent is the recent phenomena of ‘freeter’ (usually part-time workers in unstable jobs) and ‘neet’ (not in education, employment or training), which many agree are two of the most serious social issues in contemporary Japan. While they are separate issues, they share something in common: unproductive potential labor force among young people. These issues are often discussed in the context of not only stratification but also economic downturn, family, and even crimes. Sadly, no article tackling this issue was found in JSR. A review, however, was published in 2008 for a book appropriately called, ‘Sociology of Freeters and Neets’ (B-49, reviewed by Miyamoto, 2008). This is one of the few sociological books from the viewpoint of social stratification, edited by Hiroshi Taromaru, a well-known stratification specialist. Given how critical the issues of freeters and neets are for Japanese society in general this topic should be explored by Japanese sociologists specializing in stratification to a much greater extent.

While inequality has been the key concept of sociology from the onset of the discipline, socio-economic status is not the only source of inequality. Gender and ethnicity are two well-known additional sources of stratification, and, as such, these concepts have been extensively studied by sociologists in Japan regarding Japanese society. Japan has not been known to treat women on an equal footing as men. Women, particularly married women with jobs, have had hard times to juggle their domestic and work-related responsibilities. A couple of articles and some books examine this issue: A-22, A-56, B-17, B-19, and B-40. Here, I will discuss the two articles for which the full text is available.

Nakai (A-22, 2009) examined gender segregations in continuous labor force participation and career advancement over the life course. She showed that unlike many other countries, the positive effect of women’s educational attainment on continuous full-time employment was not found in Japan. If women stay in full-time employment (not necessarily the same job), they are more likely to be in blue-collar or expert job sectors. Women in blue-collar or expert-job sectors, however, are less likely to be promoted to managerial or supervisory positions. While the educational achievement and the length of tenure in the same organization are the most critical factors for promotion among men, none of these factors is related to women’s promotion to managerial/supervisory positions. Rather, for women, type of job (white-collar, male-dominated, or female-dominated jobs) is critical for whether they are promoted or not. While individualistic characteristics should determine workers’ promotion possibilities, for women organizational characteristics determine their promotion possibilities.

Sangu (A-56, 2007), on the other hand, focused on the decision of young married women who were expecting their first children on their employment. Of the 23 couples she interviewed, none disagreed on the decision between the spouses, negating the notion of ‘manifest power’ conceptualized by Komter (1989). Many couples did not even

discuss the wife's employment plan between the spouses, and, for some couples, even discussing issues like this was out of question. Rather, some spouses (both husbands and wives) reconciled themselves to the wives quitting their jobs due to the lack of child-care facilities and/or working conditions, supporting Komter's idea of 'latent power'. It is interesting to note here that the sources of this latent power are in the macro structure, contrary to the assumption made by Komter (belonging to one of the spouses or to the interpersonal relationship). Sangu also found that the idea of Komter's 'invisible power' was well represented in the decision of new mothers' exit from the labor force. In addition to Komter's assumed source of invisible power (gender ideology), however, many wives decided to exit the labor force due to rational calculation involving gender differences in income and poor housework skills by husbands. While Sangu's findings generally support Komter's conceptualization of marital power, two modifications have to be made: macro-structural sources of latent power and rational calculation regarding invisible power.

The other thing I would like to add is what's *not* included (or underrepresented) in this table. For example, we have no articles or books dealing with the Japanese economy or economic sociology. Though we have a large number of articles and/or books related to stratification/mobility or labor/industry, we have no counterparts regarding the Japanese economy per se. While we can certainly imagine the sociological and/or social structural mechanism which led to the economic downturn in Japan in the past decade, we failed to find this type of ambitious analysis either in articles or books reviewed in JSR.

Just as sociologists in Japan are not much concerned about the economy, they rarely study politics. These disciplines outside sociology have their own methods, theory, and history, and I failed to see any trace of collaboration between sociologists and scholars in adjacent disciplines in Japan. Related to this point, there is little, if any, trace of interdisciplinary research involving Japanese sociologists. The only possible exception is history. Articles or books labeled 'Hi' in Tables 2 to 4 are often a cross between sociology and history. This observation is quite different from the sociological scene in the United States and many other countries. As a matter of fact, even co-authorships among two or more sociologists are extremely rare in Japan. Given an emphasis on group work in that country, this may be an interesting research topic to study by itself.

Sociologists and other social science scholars have been often criticized as having lost touch with social reality. We discussed how sociologists in Japan have (not) been dealing with the issue of freeters and neets, but it is just one example of a social phenomenon which needs to be analyzed within a sociological framework. After all, the discipline has a vast accumulation of sociological knowledge obtained over the past several decades, if not longer. We find some JSR articles in which the author tries to shed light on a contemporary issue. For example, there are three articles (A-68, A-71, A-81) examining homeless people, which is a growing concern in Japan as the employment structure for those with little human capital became less stable. This issue of homeless population is closely related to the issue of freeters and neets.

In A-68, Hayashi (2006) follows the paths of three young homeless people focusing upon how they move back and forth between the state of homelessness and attempts to become independent, and how they come to terms with their identity of 'the homeless'. In A-81, Maruyama's (2006) interests are on homeless women and how they try to maintain their autonomy by resisting violence and other threats, clearly showing an interaction between economic and gender stratifications. Yamakita's (A-71, 2006) analysis focuses on group dynamics among homeless people in a certain park. He pays attention to their use of the term, 'comrade' and the conflicts among these comrades. Many homeless leave the park due to conflicts (e.g. who prepares foods for others), but eventually come back to their 'comrades'. As the author writes, homeless people in this park assured themselves that they 'were embedded in social relationships with others, maintain social norms, and above all practice social life' (p. 596).

Another gloomy phenomenon over the past decade in Japan is 'mass suicide'. Several unrelated people meet each other through the Internet, get together usually in an automobile or a small room, light charcoal briquettes, and commit suicide through carbon monoxide poisoning. According to Sadakane (A-52, 2008), 204 people committed/tried suicide in 69 incidents between February 2003 and the end of 2005. Sadakane claimed that these incidents were not a result of random acts and rather shared 'an identical form'. Those who killed themselves were usually in their twenties or thirties, they almost always used charcoal briquettes, and the incidents occurred in two peak periods (around June 2003 and April 2005). Sadakane argued that this type of mass suicide could not be explained by any typology of suicides by Durkheim. Though they committed suicide together, they did so only because it was more effective, not because they looked for comrades in the last activity of their lives. Mass suicides were seen as a very private and even positive endeavor to the victims, somewhat similar to playing games. This analysis provides an excellent example to incorporate the sociological theories of Durkheim, Foucault, and Baudrillard to the contemporary issue of mass suicide in Japan.

Also not shown in this table are a large number of articles deemed purely theoretical without even mentioning Japanese society. Since the present review focuses on Japanese sociologists' analyses of Japanese society, we excluded articles/books in which the authors did not mention Japanese society as their target. Many of these 'theoretical' pieces have little, if anything, to do with the social reality we face in contemporary society. Another problem of Japanese sociologists' studies of Japanese society is their specificity or lack of generalizability. Many articles are detailed accounts of a specific case, including some historical accounts. These 'case studies', particularly non-generalizable ones, draw the attention of a small circle of scholars but may not appeal to a general audience, particularly those outside Japan. While the fact that all of JSR articles are printed in Japanese limits its attraction among foreign scholars, many abstracts written in English may not have appeal to scholars or other readers outside Japan.

It might be added that the articles examined in this analysis are likely to be highly theoretical or quantitative rather than being combinations of theoretical, qualitative,

and/or quantitative analyses. One of the reasons is the restriction on their length. Probably for an editorial reason, all articles are restricted to around twenty published pages. This limit in JSR prohibits any hybrid articles of quantitative and qualitative analyses and/or empirical and theoretical examinations from being published there. Without other appropriate outlets for sociological articles to a general audience, it has been very difficult for Japanese sociologists to publish middle-length articles (say, those between 20 and 50 pages) on Japanese society.

In the United States, on the other hand, the *American Journal of Sociology* has been known to publish middle-length articles, oftentimes around 50 to 60 pages long. Though the leading sociological journal in the United States, *American Sociological Review*, rarely publishes articles over 30 pages long, the leading American sociologists can often choose other outlets for their articles. In other words, the leeway for writing sociological articles of length (and complication) seems to be limited in Japan. Books are often the only medium for long analyses, and at least one book reviewed here was originally an MA thesis (B-46), which is rarely published as a book in other countries.

Closing remarks

Needless to say, this is not a complete collection of sociological studies of Japanese society since 2005, but it is not too far-fetched to state that this collection of articles on Japanese society represents a core of the sociological examination by Japanese sociologists of Japanese society. While it may be difficult to underline key characteristics of sociological studies of Japanese society in Japan, several can be identified here. First of all, the majority of articles are either qualitative, theoretical, historical, or descriptive, rather than quantitative in nature. This is in stark contrast to sociological articles in the United States. Related to this characteristic, many sociological articles on Japanese society deal with abstract concepts instead of the more concrete, measurable aspects of society. In the present article, emphasized are articles on more concrete issues. Omitted are many articles full of jargon, which would attract few specialists in the subject. At the same time, however, there are quite a few articles dealing with such journalistic issues as needs, backpacking, youth culture, childcare, etc. This wide range of coverage can be considered as one of the characteristics of the sociological studies of Japanese society in Japan.

Going through JSR, however, we cover only about 170 sociologists (authors of the articles and books reviewed) for this period. The Japan Sociological Society boasts of more than 3,000 members as of this writing (October 2010). Therefore, we need to expand the scope of this analysis. One way to do so is to go back to, say, 2001. Another way to expand our focus is to include other journals (e.g. *International Journal of Japanese Sociology*, sponsored by the Japan Sociological Society). We may look into this possibility in the future.

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