

# Introduction

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This booklet is based on the proceedings of a webinar conducted on 11 December 2020. The webinar was the 3rd Public Lecture of the Anthropological Institute, Nanzan University 2020, and the Disability and Japan in the Digital Age Series Inaugural Event. A recording of the webinar can be viewed via the link below:

<https://vimeo.com/529545847>

The presenter was Frank Mondelli, the respondent Mark Bookman, and Benjamin Dorman the host.

People with disabilities are one of the most excluded groups globally and the crisis of COVID-19 is exposing preexisting inequalities that are deepening. Work that highlights disability inclusion is vital at this time and it was with this intention that the Anthropological Institute began this series and research program.

The Disability in Japan in the Digital Age research program investigates core issues surrounding the study of disability in Japan. It has three main units: First, disability studies. Second, deaf studies. And third, margins and intersections. Collectively those units will identify how stakeholders construct notions of disability in Japan by harnessing domestic developments and international innovations, including, but not limited to, those connected to law, policy, education, employment, media, technology, gender, and sex. Mark Bookman is leading this program which, in additions to lectures and publications such as this one, also includes podcast episodes through Asian Ethnology Podcast. The first two podcast episodes featured Mark Bookman and Frank Mondelli.

As for the introductions of the presenters, Frank Mondelli is a PhD candidate at Stanford University. He is currently working on his doctoral dissertation on the social, technical and political history of assistive technologies for deafness and hearing impairment in 20th century Japan.

Mark Bookman, who was, at the time of the webinar, a PhD candidate at the University of Pennsylvania and is now a Postdoctoral Fellow, Tokyo College, at the University of Tokyo, is working on the history of disability policy and connected social movements in Japanese and transnational contexts over the last 150 years. He also works as an accessibility consultant and has collaborated with government agencies and corporate entities in various countries on projects related to inclusive education, equitable transportation, and disaster risk management for diverse populations of disabled people. Thank you for your interest in this publication, the Disability and Japan in the Digital Age Series, and the activities of the Anthropological Institute, Nanzan University.\*

1 March 2022

Benjamin Dorman

Nanzan University, Professor

Nanzan University Anthropological Institute, Senior Research Fellow

\*Note: In this booklet, we follow the naming convention for the English rendering of Japanese names of family name first, given name last (e.g. Satō Koji).



(From left) Frank Mondelli, Benjamin Dorman, Mark Bookman. Screenshot from webinar; 11 December 2020