Panel Title: The State and mobility: a historical approach (AREA: HISTORY)
Panel Organizer: Pedro Iacobelli D.
Panel Chair/Discussant: Dr. Simon Avenell.

Panel Abstract
The traditional literature on migration and mobility tend to emphasize free migration based on economic principles (Massey 1993) in an individual or family dimension as well as in a more structural approach (Portes 2007). However, this perspective can obscure the power relations at work within those collective decisions. The role of the state to facilitate or hinder migration has been emphasized in the last years (Hollifield 2000; Castles 2007). The Government of Japan’s response to the disaster in Sendai in 2011 is an adequate example of the emergence of an active State in relocating communities. Inspired by this year’s conference’s theme, this panel aims to revisit moments of mobility and displacement in contemporary Japan. In particular, this panel will deal with the problems related to the role of the State in context of mobility and the definition of ‘space’ within foreign communities.

The focus of this panel will be on the presence of the state’s apparatuses in situations of mobility. In post-war Japan, the state played a fundamental role in articulating international migratory movements outwards (Morris-Suzuki 2007; Amemiya 2002). Also, this panel will focus on the forces at work in the creation of new spaces of identity for migrants in Japanese territory. We propose the presentation of the re-emergence of the state apparatus to promote and organize international migration after the American occupation in the 1950’s, the international civilian community working at the American bases in Okinawa, and the realities of the Chinese communities in Tokyo.

Proposed Program Stream:

Paper 1 Title: The re-emergence of the migration state apparatus in post-war Japan: the Bolivian case.

Name of Author 1: Pedro Iacobelli D.
Institutional Affiliation: ANU, PhD candidate.

Paper 1 Abstract
This paper examines the dynamics in the re-emergence of Japanese state-led international migration in the post-war years; particularly, I look at the authorities discourse that supported it; the institutions and people involved; and the dynamics of planning and promoting migration used by the Japanese authorities. I exemplify the post-war migration planning process by looking at the migration to Bolivia as a case-study.

During the Taisho and early Showa period, the Government of Japan (GOJ) considered migration to the Americas as a means to cope with the overpopulation problem and to strengthen
the expanding empire. In total, over 200,000 migrants went to South America alone. Less studied than the pre-war movement, the GOJ resumed its migration policies during the early years of the American-led occupation. This time, roughly 50,000 mainland Japanese people crossed the Pacific Ocean towards South America. The post-war Japanese migration program aimed to cope once again with the overpopulation problem. However this time, the characteristics of the ‘population problem’ and the policies adopted by the state were significantly different from those adopted in the pre-war years; particularly, in terms of the role of birth control methods and the central position played by migration. Moreover, in a war devastated nation, the structure of the state and the migration agencies had to be rebuilt. Similarly, public awareness on the ‘evils of overpopulation’ and the critical demographic situation Japan was going through was raised as well. Finally, as a former enemy nation, the GOJ had to struggle to find nations willing to host its citizens. Some Latin American nations were the first ones to show interest in receiving Japanese migrants.

Building on Japanese, English and Spanish primary sources this paper illustrates the renewal of the Japanese migration to South America and contributes to the greater understanding of Japan’s migration flows in contemporary historiography.

**Paper 2 Title:** The Production and Reproduction of Hegemonic Space

**Name of Author 2:** Johanna O. Zulueta, Ph.D  
**Institutional Affiliation:** JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow - Hitotsubashi University

**Paper 2 Abstract :**
It is a well-known fact that Okinawa hosts around 75% percent of all the United States’ military installations in Japan. Beginning with the Allied Occupation of Japan, these military bases were seen with an ambivalent eye – defence and security for Japan as well as business opportunities for Japanese construction companies, and an invasion and threat to the privacy and well-being of civilians in proximity to these bases as well as to the (natural) environment. However, while the U.S. presence in Japan usually is equated with these military installations and with the U.S. military (who most often are identified with various crimes and assault), notice is rarely given to civilians working inside the bases, who are also instrumental in the functioning of these installations for the purposes they supposedly serve. Most of these base employees are Japanese nationals hired by the Japanese government as United States Forces in Japan (USFJ) Employees, with a significant number of them having both Filipino and Okinawan parentage.

This paper looks at post/colonial migrations in Okinawa, particularly at the employment of civilian base workers in Okinawa, which has been and is currently occurring within what I call the “space of occupation”. I define the “space of occupation” as the space where different (nation-state) actors, with the United States and Japan occupying important roles, interact as a plurality, and where interrelations among these actors are not necessarily equitable, amid the flow of goods, services, and human resources (i.e. migrants and migrant workers). While this “space” may be seen to be a characteristic of globalization or a global space, I argue that the military presence of the U.S. through its numerous bases in the region is what makes the conception of this “space” possible, only in part aided through and within globalization processes. I set this “space” in the Asia-Pacific region, with Okinawa at the centre, owing to the
fact that the prefecture hosts most of the U.S. bases not only within Japan, but within the region as well.

For this paper, I examine the various factors that enabled these people to work on base by looking at their migration processes and experiences, which are not only linked to macro-level factors and the role of the nation-state/s, but are also tied to notions of nationality and ethnicity. I argue that these workers can be seen to be in a position of “passive complicity”, where employment on base is related to U.S. hegemony and militarism in the guise of security provision and defence of the region, as well as Japan’s dependence on these.

Paper 3 Title: On the interstices of governance: the state’s relationship to Chinese migration to Japan.

Name of Author 3 James Coates
Institutional Affiliation: ANU.

Paper 3 Abstract
Chinese migration to Japan has historically been influenced by governmentally prescribed demand for labour. During Japan’s imperialist past, this took form as several labour flows, both forced and voluntary, from Japan’s occupied territories to its centralised manufacturing zones. Since China’s ‘opening’ reforms in the 1980s a new flow of Chinese migration has come to Japan under the auspices of study but often serving as a form of proxy labour. This flow of student-workers has grown to become the largest group of non-Japanese nationals since 2006, with a wide range of networks, settling practices and communities.

Within this paper I will contrast the historic flow of Chinese people to Japan with its current counterpart. Although stemming from markedly different historic circumstances, these two instances of migration between China and Japan demonstrate the continued role the Japanese and Chinese state play in shaping where people can go and how long they can stay. The comparison of these two periods problematize the image of a totalitarian past, and a free and mobile present, while also showing the continued link between labour, mobility and the state. I argue that the current regime, due to its emphasis on the neoliberal free flow of temporary labour, situates migrants at the interstices of the two states’ directives; positioning Chinese people in Japan as both the ‘least’ and ‘most’ desirable group of migrants today.