Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung

Ministerium für Schule und Bildung des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen

EBERHARD KARLS UNIVERSITÄT TÜBINGEN

UNIVERSITÄT BONN — RHEINISCHE FRIEDRICH-WILHELMS-UNIVERSITÄT BONN — IOA INSTITUT FÜR ORIENT- UND ASIEN-WISSENSCHAFTEN

East Asia in the Digital Age – Digital Transformation in Technological, Economic and Social Perspective

Friday, 24th of September 2021 (8:30 AM Germany / 14:30 China; Mongolia / 15:30 Japan; South Korea)

8:30–8:35 Germany 14:30–14:35 China/Mongolia 15:30–15:35 Japan/South Korea	**Opening**
8:35–8:45 14:35–14:45 15:35–15:45	**Prof. Dr. Harald MEYER (Director of the Institute of Orient and Asian Studies, University of Bonn)** **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
8:45–9:00 14:45–15:00 15:45–16:00	**Dr. Takahiro NISHIYAMA (University of Bonn)** **Introduction of the Main Project:** **"The Digital Transformation and the Changing Nature of Work in East Asia"**

Section 1 Moderator: Bulgan Erdenechuluun, MA

09:00–09:45 Germany 15:00–15:45 China/Mongolia 16:00–16:45 Japan/South Korea	**Bulgan ERDENECHULUUN (University of Bonn)** **"Digital Transformation and Economy in Contemporary Mongolia"**
09:45–10:30 15:45–16:30 16:45–17:30	**Alexandra STEFANOV (China Impulse)** **"The Impact of Digitalization and Automation on China's Workforce: What does the Future Look Like?"**
10:30–11:00 16:30–17:00 17:30–18:00	**Coffee Break**

Section 2 Moderator: Dr. Alexander Witzke

11:00–11:45 Germany 17:00–17:45 China/Mongolia 18:00–18:45 Japan/South Korea	**Dr. Peter-Jörg ALEXANDER (Osnabrück University)** **"Vocational Training in Japan" (Working Title)**
11:45–12:30 17:45–18:30 18:45–19:30	**Dr. Alexander WITZKE (University of Bonn)** **"Gig-Economy and Qualification: Implications and Questions Marks"**
12:30–13:30 18:30–19:30 19:30–20:30	**Lunch (Dinner) Break**
13:30–14:15 19:30–20:15 20:30–21:15	**N.N.**

Section 3 Moderator: Vanessa Tkotzyk, MA

14:15–15:00 Germany 20:15–21:00 China/Mongolia 21:15–22:00 Japan/South Korea	**Prof. Kaori SASAKI (Sapporo Medical University)** **"Japanese Elaboration of the Official Program for Secondary Use of Electronic Health Records"**
15:00–15:30 21:00–21:30 22:00–22:30	**Coffee Break**
15:30–16:30 21:30–22:30 22:30–23:30	**Assoc. Prof. Naonori KODATE (University College Dublin)** **Prof. David PRENDERGAST (Maynooth University)** **Screening & Discussion: "Circuits of Care: Ageing and Japan's Robot Revolution"**
16:30–17:00 22:30–23:00 23:30–00:00	**Final Discussion**

Saturday, 25th of September 2021 (10:30 AM Germany / 16:30 China; Mongolia / 17:30 Japan; South Korea)

10:30–10:35 Germany **16:30–16:35 China/Mongolia** **17:30–17:35 Japan/South Korea**	**Opening**
10:35-10:45 **16:35-16:45** **17:35-17:45**	**Prof. Dr. Robert HORRES** **(Director of the Department of Japanese Studies, University of Tübingen)** **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Section 4 Moderator: Dr. Felix Spremberg

10:45–11:30 Germany **16:45–17:30 China/Mongolia** **17:45–18:30 Japan/South Korea**	**Dr. Takahiro NISHIYAMA (University of Bonn)** **"A Historical Overview on Dynamics of Institutional Change and Digital Infrastructure of the Assembly Industry in Germany and Japan"**
11:30–12:15 **17:30–18:15** **18:30–19:15**	**Dr. Felix SPREMBERG (University of Tübingen)** **"The Digital Transformation of Work in the Political Discourse on Digitalization in Japan"**
12:15-12:45 **18:15-18:45** **19:15-19:45**	**Coffee Break**
12:45–13:30 **18:45–19:30** **19:45–20:30**	**Dr. Volker ELIS (University of Tübingen)** **"Japanese Discourse on the Digital Transformation and the Risks of AI in Job Screenings and at the Workplace"**
13:30–14:15 **19:30–20:15** **20:30–21:15**	**Prof. Dr. Ayaka LÖSCHKE (University of Erlangen–Nuremberg)** **"Working Customers against Online Hate Speech: Driven by High Perceptions of Personal Abilities and Benefits"**
14:15–14:45 **20:15–20:45** **21:15–21:45**	**Final Discussion**

Abstracts Workshop "East Asia in the Digital Age – Digital Transformation in Technological, Economic and Social Perspective"

Section 1: Digital Transformation and Economy

Digital Transformation and Economy in Contemporary Mongolia
Bulgan ERDENECHULUUN, University of Bonn

For emerging markets, the digitalization of data, communication and commercial exchange embodies tools of economic productivity and efficiency. In this respect, the Government of Mongolia declared information and communications technology (ICT) one of its key economic sectors, and proceeds to expand and intensify its initiative "Digital Nation" on a political and economic level. Using Mongolia as an example, this presentation examines how ongoing digitalization processes affect socio-economic developments in developing countries and discusses its associated challenges and opportunities.

The Impact of Digitalization and Automation on China's Workforce: What does the Future Look Like?
Alexandra STEFANOV, China Impulse

QR codes are replacing waiters in restaurants and autonomous vehicles are taking over for taxi drivers, while robots work in hotels and manless supermarkets pop up on street corners. China's rapid technological advances also have an impact on its workforce. But what does all of this have to do with the country's aging population, rising wages and the consequences of Covid? What are the advantages and disadvantages of the digital transformation? How is the world's largest workforce changing and what are the challenges it faces? This presentation explores the current developments in the areas of digitalization and automation in China and takes a closer look at the questions which arise for the future.

Section 2: Vocational Qualification and the Digital Age in Japan: Institutions, Structures, Policies

Vocational Training in Japan (Working Title)
Dr. Peter-Jörg Alexander, Osnabrück University

N.N.

Gig-Economy and Qualification: Implications and Questions Marks
Alexander WITZKE, University of Bonn

Platform/gig economy is showing growing momentum, representing an accelerating speed of digital transformation. Hence, while debates about the economic, political and social impact of platform/gig-economy are on its way, numerous questions marks yet remain. As such, this lecture embraces the still limited research about vocational training among gig-workers on global scale. Are there any apparent implications in regard to the specific circumstances of education and vocational training in Japan?

Section 3: Digitalization in the Japanese Health Sector

Japanese Elaboration of the Official Program for Secondary Use of Electronic Health Records

SASAKI Kaori, Sapporo Medical University

This presentation discusses the socio-political surrounding of the Japanese development for the (secondary) usage of electronic health records (EHR). Recently, a few authorized agencies can collect almost all EHR data across Japan for research – notably BigData analysis – owing much to enacting the Act on Anonymously Processed Medical Information to Contribute to Medical Research and Development 2019. Its code of practice has arguably being elaborated alongside with how the Japanese authority articulated not only hopeful prospects of the healthcare research and service but also fears for unexpected (harmful) socio-cultural impacts. This study hence sketches out how the use of EHR reflects the Japanese medical professionals and policy makers' hope and fear.

Circuits of Care: Aging and Japan's Robot Revolution

David PRENDERGAST, Maynooth University
KODATE Naonori, University College Dublin

By 2036, one in three people in Japan will be over the age of 65. While the nation wrestles with a shrinking labor force, the Robot Revolution Initiative was launched to expand robotics into every corner of Japanese economy and society. Circuits of Care follows anthropologist David PRENDERGAST as he meets researchers developing and testing assistive technologies for older adults. From cybernetic walking supports to companion robots and automated sensor networks in nursing homes, older adults and care professionals share their experiences of the practical benefits these technologies bring, the problems they create and the unexpected relationships that can blossom.

Section 4: The Digital Transformation of Work in Japan

A Historical Overview on Dynamics of Institutional Change and Digital Infrastructure of the Assembly Industry in Germany and Japan

NISHIYAMA Takahiro, University of Bonn

Digitalization is clearly not a linear and pre-programmed transformation. Rather, it is driven by economic and industrial policies. This is why this intentionally driven change has significant consequences for the social structures of the respective society. The goal of this presentation is the identification of the path-dependent preconditions for digitalization by identifying changing institutional complementarities in four historical periods from the 1950s to the 2020s. This research project investigates socio-technological change in Germany and Japan from a comparative and critical institutional perspective with a focus on production models since the 1950s.

The Digital Transformation of Work in the Political Discourse on Digitalization in Japan

Felix SPREMBERG, University of Tübingen

Dr. SPREMBERG presents initial findings of his research on the political discourse about the digital transformation of work in Japan. By critical discourse analysis, he examines documents of political parties, organized labor, and the employer's organization Keidanren. His findings suggest that the conservative elites push the "Society 5.0" as a digital utopia while downplaying the risks of the digitalization of work. By combining this utopia with a narrative of national progress, critical discourse positions are delegitimized as unpatriotic. Organized labor and the associated political parties, on the other hand, are in a state of division. While the centrist pro-business faction supports the "Society 5.0," the left-wing has so far failed to articulate any clear discourse position on the digitalization of work.

Japanese Discourse on the Digital Transformation and the Risks of AI in Job Screenings and at the Workplace

Volker ELIS, University of Tübingen

What is remarkable about Japanese discourse on the implications of the Digital Transformation is that it is rather underdeveloped with regard to its labor impact. However, some critical undertones can be found in the newspaper coverage on the risks of the enhanced application of Artificial Intelligence (AI). This paper focuses on three topics which received a certain level of media attention despite the apparent lack of critical voices in academia and the general public: 1) job loss due to AI, 2) AI-based software in job screenings, and 3) new AI-based surveillance techniques at the workplace.

Working Customers against Online Hate Speech: Driven by High Perceptions of Personal Abilities and Benefits

Ayaka LÖSCHKE, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg

Social media platforms are available free of charge almost only in exchange for users' free labor such as watching advertisements. While such users' free labor has increased recently, some social media users even started to report systematically online hate speech to internet service providers in democratic countries. What drove the Twitter users to carry out and maintain their engagement? Using a theoretical framework offered by a German case study, this research conducts a Japanese case study and shows results of an inductive qualitative analysis of classifying 1,038 participants in the #Internet Rightists Ban Festival launched in 2018 and their 3,821 tweets. It is argued that the Japanese user engagement has been driven especially by the perception of personal abilities, such as gaming and comment-writing skills, and the perception of personal benefits, especially from gamification and irony.