

Historical Geography and Culture

KEYWORDS: Landscape, Environmental History, Immigration History, Disaster Management, Urban Spatial Structure, Castle Town, Port Town, Cultural Landscape, Coexistence, Immigration Policy, Race and Ethnicity, Intergroup Relations



Prof. Aki YAMAMURA
(Historical Geography)



Prof. Yu TOKUNAGA
(History)

This laboratory will help students to approach the causes and structure of contemporary culture and socioenvironmental issues from the perspectives of history and geography. Students will learn the historical-geographical methods to deal with local problems and to find environmental values or potential attractions within the local spaces.

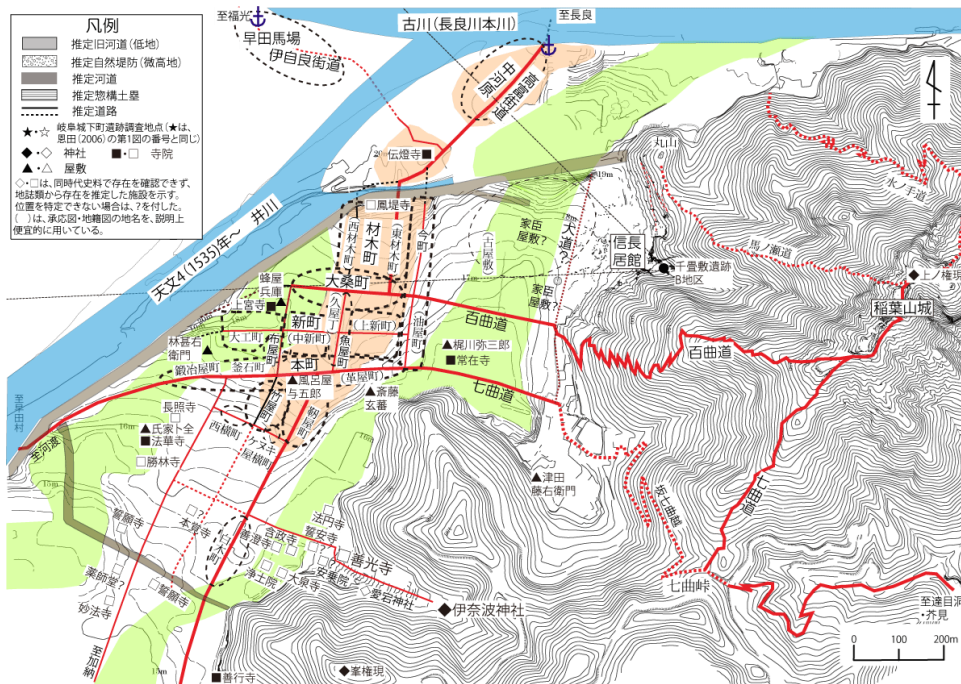
On the one hand, many people have come to abandon those traditional lifestyles and means of livelihood that had roots in local natural environment. On the other hand, they increasingly connect with others residing in distant places, including different countries. As this global transaction of items and people accelerates for each country to become interconnected, it appears that each region loses its individuality and culture and society get more and more uniform. However, the cultural landscapes, exchanges, ideas, social relationships which constructed through the interaction between human and nature in the long history functions strongly even in the contemporary local spaces. We have to learn the 'cross' regional structure as well as the vertical spatial-social structure which include the local historical geography and culture to understand the contemporary culture and socioenvironmental issues.

This laboratory will explore the local spatial-social structure analyzing the historical documents, old maps, heritages, and consider the perspectives and methods approaching to the contemporary issues.

Aki YAMAMURA (Historical Geography)

The study on the urban spatial structures in the medieval and early modern Japan

My research aims to clarify the spatial structure of the various types of the pre-modern Japanese towns, such as castle towns, port towns, religious towns, post towns, mining towns in the local natural-social environment. My study contributes to the contemporary cultural property administration and town renewal projects. Applicants are expected to have studied the historical geography in undergraduate years.



The Reconstructing Map of Gifu in the late 16th century



Field work on the Hikone castle



Yu Tokunaga (History)

Immigration History in the Transpacific World

I am conducting historical research on immigration particularly in the United States from a transpacific perspective. My research aims to understand how local interethnic relations and international relations intersect and cause racial discrimination and economic inequality as well as how people with different ethnoracial backgrounds can nurture mutual understanding in an immigrant society. Applicants are expected to have studied U.S. history in undergraduate years.



The Bon Matsuri in the ethnic Japanese community in Los Angeles



Bulgogi Tacos
(a fusion dish of Korean and Mexican food)