

## Editor's Introduction

This issue of *The Japanese Journal of American Studies* carries “Community” as its special topic. In recent issues we tended to have few submissions that were not related to the special topic of each issue, so we are happy to also present articles of various topics this time and hope this will continue in future issues.

The first seven articles have “Community” as their theme. Put together, they demonstrate the multiple possibilities of American Studies in terms of research methods and analytical approaches. Some of them also demonstrate how studying specific communities may also lead to understanding international and/or transnational realities and research approaches. Three articles on various topics follow. Within each category, articles are arranged in roughly chronological order by topic.

First, I will briefly introduce the seven articles dedicated to this issue's topic. Izumi Ogura in “The Concord Community: Ralph Waldo Emerson and the Antislavery Movement” explores Emerson's journals and lectures, and illustrates how Emerson, who has often been perceived as distant from social issues and politics, actively participated in forming and influencing antislavery sentiment in the Northern intellectual community. Yuko Matsumoto in “Community Building in Harlem: The *New York Age* in the 1910s” examines the process of African American community building in Harlem in the 1910s, which led to the Harlem Renaissance in the 1920s, and reveals how the Harlem-based African American publication, the *New York Age*, played an important part in the process. Michiyo Kitawaki and Bruce P. Bottorff both focus on the Japanese American community in Hawaii before the World War II; Kitawaki follows the history of Western-style dress-making practices and schools within the community of Japanese immigrants and the Japanese Americans, and Bottorff discusses how the YWCA, which intended to “Americanize” multiethnic Hawaiian girls, turned out to be an influential site for gender and ethnic awareness for young Hawaiian women. Yushi Yamazaki's “Becoming

Internationalist Subjects: The Growth of Multiracial Labor Organizing among Japanese Immigrant Communities in California, 1925–1933” also deals with Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans, although its emphasis is on the importance of the internationalist, multiracial, and multiethnic characteristics of the Japanese and Japanese American labor movement in the United States. Ayako Sahara’s “Sharing the Travail of Reeducation Camps, Expelling the Betrayer: The Politics of Deportation in a Vietnamese American Community” investigates the complicated process of community building among Vietnamese in the United States by examining the deportation case of Bùi Đình Thi, a former “reeducation camp” guard in postwar Vietnam. Kumiko Noguchi’s “Keeping the Indian Tribal Community Together: Nation-Building and Cultural Sovereignty in the Indian Casino Era” is based on her interviews with Californian “gaming” tribes and includes her analysis of the function and importance of the gaming industry for Native American communities.

We have a variety of topics in the last three articles. Satomi Minowa in “‘Free Love’ in Sectional Debates over Slavery in Mid-Nineteenth-Century America” focuses on the term “free love” and closely analyzes how both political sides on the issue of slavery made use of the term’s negative gender and race connotations. Koji Ito’s “Contesting Alaskan Salmon: Fishing Rights, Scientific Knowledge, and a US-Japanese Fishery Dispute in Bristol Bay in the 1930s” examines the US-Japan relationship in the 1930s by closely following the dispute over salmon fishing and emphasizes the importance of scientific knowledge and conservation in US policymaking on this matter. Mai Isoyama bases “The Asia Foundation’s Cold War Influence on Tadao Yanaihara’s Educational Research Institute in Japan” on her archival research on the Japanese educational research group (the Institute of Student Affairs, Gakusei Mondai Kenkyusho) that was the Asia Foundation’s grantee, and the CIA’s influence on both, and analyzes how Cold War politics affected the Asia Foundation, thus shedding light on one intellectual, but also political, aspect of the post-World War II US-Japan relationship.

As always, I would like to thank Katy Meigs for her continuing assistance as copy editor for the journal and Yuriko Tsunoda for her support. The articles published in *The Japanese Journal of American Studies*, including those from back issues, are freely available online (<http://www.jaas.gr.jp>). We invite responses and criticisms from our readers and hope that the journal will continue to be an important player in the field of American Studies.

NAOKO SUGIYAMA  
Editor