

Suma Ikeuchi, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

- 2016 Ph.D. Department of Anthropology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
2010 M.A. Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA
2007 B.A. Faculty of Letters, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Full-Time Positions

- 2022 – Present
Associate Professor
Department of East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies
University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)
- 2020 – Present
Affiliated Faculty, Department of Anthropology, UCSB
Affiliated Faculty, Department of Religious Studies, UCSB
- 2020 – 2022
Assistant Professor
Department of East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies, UCSB
- 2018 – 2020
Assistant Professor
Department of Liberal Arts, School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC)
- 2016 – 2018
Assistant Professor
Department of Religious Studies, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2019 *Jesus Loves Japan: Return Migration and Global Pentecostalism in a Brazilian Diaspora*. Stanford University Press.
Winner of the 2020 Hsu Book Prize from the Society for East Asian Anthropology
Winner of the 2020 Geertz Book Prize from the Society for the Anthropology of Religion

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2025 Fugitive Kinships: Imperial Legacies, Wayward Acts, and Queer Bonds among Filipino Migrants in Japan. *Cultural Anthropology*. Vol. 40, Issue 4, pp. 647–671.
- 2024 How Japan Grapples with Care Shortage amid Population Aging: With a Focus on Filipina Care Workers and “Care Robots” [In Japanese] (高齢化のなかケアの枯渇とどう向き合うか: 在日フィリピン人介護労働者と「介護ロボット」に着目して). *Global Concern* 6: 3-21. Tokyo: Sophia University.

- 2021 Saudade: A Story of Japanese Brazilian Diaspora. *Anthropology and Humanism*. 46(1): 161-170.
- 2019 From Slaves to Agents: Pentecostal Ethic and Precarious Labor among Brazilian Migrants in Toyota, Japan. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. 87(3): 791-823.
- 2017 Accompanied Self: Debating Pentecostal Individual and Japanese Relational Selves in Transnational Japan. *Ethos: Journal of the Society for Psychological Anthropology*. 45(1): 3-23.
- 2017 From Ethnic Religion to Generative Selves: Pentecostalism among Nikkei Brazilian Migrants in Japan. *Contemporary Japan*. 2(29): 214-229.
- 2017 Back to the Present: The 'Temporal Tandem' of Migration and Conversion among Pentecostal Nikkei Brazilians in Japan. *Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology*. 82(4): 758-783.

Book Chapters

- 2022 A Historical Materialist Approach to Transnational Japanese Studies. In Ajaya K. Sahoo (ed), *Routledge Handbook of Asian Transnationalism*, New York, NY, Routledge, pp. 44-55. [Peer-Reviewed]

Book Reviews

- 2025 Review of *Feeling Machines: Japanese Robotics and the Global Entanglements of More-Than-Human Care* (2024 Stanford University Press), Written by Shawn Bender. *The Journal of Japanese Studies* 51(2): 537-541.
- 2021 Review of *Intimate Disconnections: Divorce and the Romance of Independence in Contemporary Japan* (2020 University of Chicago Press), Written by Allison Alexy. *The Journal of Asian Studies* 80(2): 477-479.
- 2021 Review of *Japanese Brazilian Saudades: Diasporic Identities and Cultural Production* (2019 University Press of Colorado), Written by Ignacio López-Calvo. *The Hispanic Review* 89(1): 121-124.
- 2020 Review of *Living Transnationally Between Japan and Brazil: Routes Beyond Roots* (2020 Rowman & Littlefield), Written by Sarah LeBaron von Baeyer. *Contemporary Japan*. DOI: 10.1080/18692729.2020.1795793

AWARDS & HONORS

- 2020 Winner, Clifford Geertz Book Prize, The Society for the Anthropology of Religion, The American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- 2020 Winner, Francis L. K. Hsu Book Prize, The Society for East Asian Anthropology, AAA
- 2015 Winner, Richard G. Condon Prize for Outstanding Graduate Paper, The Society for Psychological Anthropology, AAA
- 2015 Honorable Mention, Outstanding Graduate Paper Prize, The Society for East Asian Anthropology, AAA

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Funding for an Ethnographic Study of Filipina Caregivers and Other Care Options in Aging Japan: Gender, Technology, and Politics of Kinship. 2017-Present.

Extramural Grants & Fellowships

- 2019 Cultural Anthropology Program Senior Research Awards, National Science Foundation (NSF) (\$75,000 awarded; disbursed in 2022 as the pandemic delayed the fieldwork)

Intramural Grants & Fellowships

- 2021 UCSB Academic Senate Faculty Research Grant (\$6,000 awarded)
- 2020 The Faculty Enrichment Program, University of California, Santa Barbara (\$25,000 approved)
- 2017 The College Academy of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (CARSCA), College of Arts and Sciences, University of Alabama (\$5,000 approved)
- 2017 The Research Grants Committee (RGC), The Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development, University of Alabama (\$6,000 awarded)

Funding for an Ethnographic Study of Ethnic, National, and Religious Identities among Japanese Brazilian Migrants in Japan. 2011-2019, Complete.

Extramural Grants & Fellowships

- 2018 Engaged Anthropology Grant, The Wenner-Gren Foundation (\$5,000 awarded)
- 2017 Global Summer Semester Residential Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (SSRC) InterAsia Program and the University of Göttingen's Transregional and Global Studies Initiative (€8,500 awarded)
- 2013 Dissertation Research Grant, The Wenner-Gren Foundation (\$18,060 awarded)
- 2011 Kathryn Davis Fellowship for Peace, Intensive Summer Language School, Middlebury College (\$9,240 awarded)

INVITED TALKS

- 2025 *Migrants vs. Robots?: Filipino Caregivers and Care Technologies in Aging Japan.* Department of Anthropology, University of South Florida, January 23.
- 2024 *Technology-Mediated 'Productive Care' in the Age of Surveillance Capitalism.* The History and Future of Care Robots Symposium, Pomona College, Claremont, CA, March 29-30.
- 2023 *Between Emotional Labor and Productive Care: Analyzing the Value of Care through Filipino Caregivers and Care Technologies* [In Japanese]. Public Lecture, Center for Global Studies, Graduate School of International Relations, University of Shizuoka, February 23, 2023 [Online].
- 2021 Interpretive Methods Panel. Minnesota International Relations Colloquium, Department of Political Science, The University of Minnesota, Oct 18 [Online].
- 2021 *Morality of Mobility: Through the Case Study of Nikkei Brazilian Christians in Japan.* Keynote Lecture at the Conference "Mobility: Moral Affordances and Social

- Change.” Max Planck-Cambridge Centre for Ethics, Economy and Social Change, March 5 [Online due to the COVID-19 pandemic].
- 2021 *Taking Religion Seriously: Nikkei Pentecostal Christians and Their Quest for New Origin Stories*. Workshop on Nikkei Brazilians in Japan. Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan, January 27. [Online due to the COVID-19 pandemic].
- 2020 *Transnational Kinship in the Margins of Citizenship: The Case of Nikkei Brazilians in Japan*. Webinar Series for the Europe-Japan Research Center, Oxford Brookes University, October 14 [Online due to the COVID-19 pandemic].
- 2020 *How to Study Global Boundaries: A View from Transnational Japanese Studies*. Plenary Talk at the Symposium “Boundaries, Crossings, and Creative Spaces in the Contemporary World.” The Graduate Program on Global Society, The University of Tokyo, Japan, February 23.
- 2019 *Pentecostalism among the Brazilian Migrants in Japan* [In Portuguese]. Colloquium of the International Migrations Observatory/DATAMIGRA, The University of Brasília, Brazil, August 22.
- 2019 *Jesus Loves Japan: Global Pentecostalism in the Dekassegui Phenomenon among Nikkeis* [In Portuguese]. The Federal University of São Carlos, Brazil, August 21.
- 2019 *Pentecostal Christianity among Nikkei Brazilian Migrants in Japan* [In Portuguese]. The Federal University of São Paulo, Guarulhos, Brazil, August 20.
- 2019 *Pilgrims in the Strange Homeland: Brazilian Pentecostalism in the Dekassegui Phenomenon* [In Portuguese]. The University of São Paulo, Brazil, August 19.
- 2019 *Writing, Creating, and Teaching at the Intersection of Art and Anthropology* [In Japanese]. Panel Discussion with Commentators Dr. Itsushi Kawase and Dr. Tomohisa Satō. Kyoto City University of Arts, Japan, July 9.
- 2019 *Brazilian Birth, Japanese Blood, and Transnational God: Race and Religion in the Transpacific Diasporic Circuits*. Global Christianity Conference, The University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago, IL, May 2.
- 2019 *Jesus Loves Japan: Precarious Labor and Pentecostal Ethic among Japanese Brazilian “Return Migrants” in Toyota, Japan*. The Center for East Asian Studies, The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, January 17.
- 2018 *Jesus Loves Japan: Pentecostal Christianity among Nikkei “Return Migrants” from Brazil*. The Center for Japanese Studies (CJS), The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, November 1.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Panels Organized

- 2026 From Fingerprint Identification to Avatar Robots: Past and Present of Technology in Japan’s Engineering of the Future. The Association of Asian Studies, Vancouver, Canada, March 12-15.
- 2023 Global Japans: Probing the National, Digital, and Transnational Movements in the World. American Anthropological Association, Toronto, Canada, November 15-19.

- 2023 The Formations of Historical Transnationality across the Borders of Japan, Okinawa, the U.S., Mainland China, and the Philippines. The Association of Asian Studies, Boston, MA, March 16-19.
- 2019 Edges of Transnational Citizenship: Gender, Kinship, and Moral Registers of Mobility in and from Asia. American Anthropological Association, Vancouver, Canada, November 20-24.
- 2018 Morality of Mobility: Situating Ethics and Freedom in the Politics of Transnational Migration (with Sarah LeBaron von Baeyer). American Anthropological Association, San Jose, CA, November 14-18.
- 2018 The Boundaries of Global Asia: Transnational Approach to China, Japan, Korea, and Beyond. The Association of Asian Studies, Washington D.C., March 22-25.

Papers

- 2026 Life at Work: Vital Labor of Elderly Bodies through Care Robotic Devices. The Association of Asian Studies, Vancouver, Canada, March 12-15.
- 2025 Fugitive Kinships: Wayward Lives and Queer Bonds of Filipina Migrants in Japan. American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, LA, November 19-23.
- 2023 Between Emotional Labor and Productive Care: Migrant Caregivers and Care “Robots” in Aging Japan. American Anthropological Association, Toronto, Canada, November 15-19.
- 2023 Jus Familia: Filipino Migrants, Ambivalent Intimacy, and Murmurs of Imperialism in Contemporary Japan. The Association of Asian Studies, Boston, MA, March 16-19.
- 2019 Jesus Loves Japan: Global Pentecostalism and Brazilian Diaspora in the Transpacific Contact Zones. American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November 23-26.
- 2019 Blood, Citizenship, and Moral Economy of Care: Filipinos and Brazilians in Japan. American Anthropological Association, Vancouver, Canada, November 20-24.
- 2018 Weber in Toyota? Ethnographic Inquiry into the Pentecostal Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism among Brazilian Migrant Workers in Japan. American Anthropological Association, San Jose, CA, November 14-18.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)

Death, Love, & Money in Modern Japan (Winter 2022, Winter 2023, Winter 2026)
Global East Asia (Fall 2020, Winter 2022, Fall 2023, Winter 2026)
Critical Theory Through Anime and Manga (Fall 2025)
Anthropology of Japan (Fall 2023, Fall 2025)
Ethnic and Social Diversity in Japan (Winter 2023, Spring 2025)
East Asian Traditions: Modern (Winter 2025)
Japanese Diasporas (Winter 2021, Fall 2021, Winter 2025)
Anthropology of Japan (Spring 2023, graduate course)
Transnational Japanese Studies (Winter 2021, graduate course)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Public Lecture

2024 – 2027

Speaker, Distinguished Speakers Bureau, The Northeast Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies (NEAC)

Manuscript Workshop

2022 Advisor, Postdoctoral Fellow Manuscript Workshop, Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, January 22 [Online]

Committee Work

2023 Selection Committee Member, Clifford Geertz Book Prize, The Society for the Anthropology of Religion

2021 Selection Committee Member, Francis L. K. Hsu Book Prize, The Society for East Asian Anthropology

2019 Selection Committee Member, Outstanding Graduate Paper, The Society for East Asian Anthropology

Peer Review

2025 *Oxford University Press, Transnational Asia: An Online Interdisciplinary Journal, Current Anthropology*

2023 *Journal of Japanese Studies, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Journal of the American Academy of Religion*

2022 *Contemporary Japan, Current Anthropology, National Science Foundation*

2021 *Luso-Brazilian Review, African and Black Diaspora: An International Journal*

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Campus-wide, UCSB

2024 – 2027

Member, The Council on Planning and Budget

2022 – 2025

Member, UCSB Faculty Association Executive Board

2021 – 2022

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Officer (Undergraduate)

2020 – 2022

Faculty Legislature Representative

Departmental Service, University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)

2024 – 2026

Chair, Language Program Committee

2023 – 2024

Chair, Japanese Studies Committee

Advisor, Undergraduate Studies

STUDENT ADVISING

Ph.D. Students

In Progress; Committee Chair

Natalya Rodriguez, EALCS, UCSB, Craft in Okinawa, Anthropology of Japan.

In Progress; Committee Member

Sabra Harris, EALCS, UCSB, Ainu, Music, Indigeneity, Anthropology of Japan.

In Progress; Committee Member

Rachel Serena Levine, EALCS, UCSB, Gender and Violence, Cultural Studies.

LANGUAGES

Japanese: native

English: professional proficiency

Brazilian Portuguese: fluent in reading and speaking, good in writing

Tagalog: Advanced (Certified by ACTFL as “Advanced Low” in August 2021)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Anthropological Association

Association for Asian Studies

Society for East Asian Anthropology

Society for Humanistic Anthropology

Society for Psychological Anthropology

Society for the Anthropology of Religion

Society for Urban, National, and Transnational/Global Anthropology

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