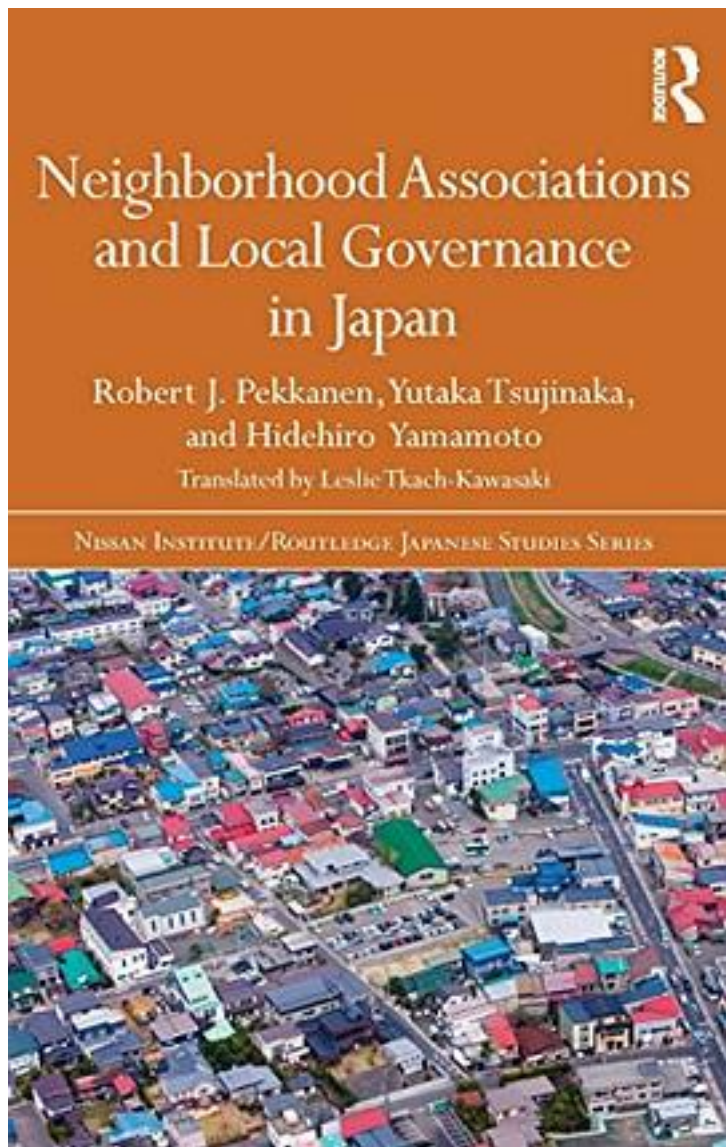


Neighborhood Associations and Local Governance in Japan



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Although local neighborhood associations are found in many countries, Japan's are distinguished by their ubiquity, scope of activities, and very high participation rates, making them important for the study of society and politics. Most Japanese belong to one local neighborhood association or another, making them Japan's most numerous civil society organization, and one that powerfully shapes governance outcomes in the country. And, they also often blur the state-society boundary, making them theoretically intriguing.

Neighborhood Associations and Local Governance in Japan draws on a unique and novel body of empirical data derived from the first national survey of neighborhood associations carried out in 2007 and provides a multifaceted empirical portrait of Japan's neighborhood associations. It examines how local associational structures affect the quality of local governance, and thus the quality of life for Japan's citizens and residents, and illuminates the way in which these ambiguous associations can help us refine civil society theory and show how they contribute to governance. As well as outlining the key features of neighbourhood associations, the book goes on to examine in detail the way in which neighbourhood associations contribute to governance, in terms of social capital, networks with other community organizations, social service provision, cooperation with local governments and political participation.

This book will be welcomed by students and scholars of Japanese politics, Japanese society, anthropology, urban studies as well as those interested in social capital and civil society.

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评论

人们通常说，日本学者写著作，通常是非常枯燥无聊的。部分来说这部作品完全适合这一点。此书似乎是原版的译作，进而无论从内容还是结构来说，都近乎完整的保留了原书的风貌：没有什么特别的问题意识，通过搜集的数据，进行描述和最为一般的分析。进而试图给读者“留下深刻的印象”。当然Tsujioka教授的作品一贯的风格就是如此。除去此书我还找到的一些似乎原文是表肯定，到了译本就成了否定的句子。但是，除去这些不必要的纠结之外。仅从完整地勾勒除了日本町内会的“原貌”来看，这部作品所做的工作也是居功至伟的。当然，有一点可惜的是，大概许多学者关心的并非当下的日本市民社会的状态。而是高度成长时代和80年代转型中的日本。换言之，没有时间序列的数据，大概是永远的一个遗憾。到后面的话，古数据的整理和挖掘也很重要吧~

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