

Completion Report

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Subject of Research Project : 'Global Japan' and 'Uchimuki (introverted) Japan': Importing Diversity and Using Transnationality

Drawing on the concepts of diversity and transnationality in a perspective of anthropology of policy, I examine how '*globalizing Japan*' has managed the growing diversity in the society since the national campaign of Internationalization in the 1980s. In particular, I note that Japanese society has been regarded as 'going *uchimuki*' (inward-looking), while its government has actively pursued the internationalization/globalization policies at home and abroad for more than forty years. When considering the fact that the policies have raised public awareness of diversity within Japan, '*the uchimuking Japan*' phenomenon seems to paradoxically run counter to the years-long efforts for the state's globalization. I consider both 'going *uchimuki*' and the global policies in the contemporary Japanese society are ironically like two sides of the same coin of global process.

Uchimuking tendency is often used to critically mention the Japanese younger generation's introverted tendency which has decreased ratio of studying and traveling abroad since the mid-2000s. However, I think it needs to go beyond the numerical considerations in studying abroad and travel of a specific generation alone. In my field research and many conversations with foreign people on the ground of Japan, I have sensed sort of passivity and timidity from ordinary Japanese when they accept and practice different cultures through international exchanges programs, apart from the long-running official internationalization policy. Although the daily international exchange activities in a local context have definitely allowed the ordinary people to participate in face-to-face cultural exchanges with foreigners and accumulate vivid knowledge on other cultures in their everyday lives, I have found that these activities have been circulated and limitedly reproduced within a given policy frameworks.

Rather than on the ostensible and fragmentary approach, therefore, I argue it is necessary to look at it in a much broader context of Japanese society by searching for the underlying structural aspects of the phenomenon in the context of the contemporary Japan such as the way how this globalizing country has dealt with increasing diversity.

The research findings indicate that the Japanese government has directly 'invited and introduced' diversity' to the society via top-down internationalization programs such as of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) and the Japan Foundation's cultural exchange programs at the state level. In addition to, it has promoted to 'employ and manage' foreign migrants' transnationality at the local level. This overfriendly top-down policy process of inviting and delivering to any corner in the society has led the ordinary Japanese to 'consume' diversity 'at home' on a daily level. It concludes that '*uchimuking*' is a kind of spin-off of the internationalization/globalization policy that disclosed in the trajectory of Japanese globalization. Put it differently, it is in part an unexpected policy effect that has been restricted by cultural patterning, path-dependent policy processes, and overlooked local autonomy, which I call it as "a policy paradox of 'the globalizing Japan at home'."

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

<p>Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)</p> <p>- Date: 2023. 6. 23 (Sat.)</p> <p>-Venue: Zoom (Seoul)</p> <p>-Name of Conference: Seminar of Next Generation Japanese Researchers Group 2023</p> <p>-Title of Presentation: Globalizing Japan and <i>Uchimuking</i> Society: Globalizing Japan and <i>Uchimuking</i>(inward-looking) Society: Importing Diversity and Using Transnationality</p> <p>-Presenter: Kyungmin Park</p>
<p>Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)</p> <p>In process</p> <p>(I am working on a paper for publication in a Journal. And I will work on this research project after the closure of the research, because this is part of my PhD dissertation research project.)</p>
<p>Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)</p>