



discussion. networking. bentos.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2024
3:00 PM - 4:15 PM HST



Richard Barnes
Ph.D. Candidate
UHM History Department

Richard Barnes is a Ph.D. student in the History Department at UH Mānoa. Having also earned his M.A. at UHM, Richard received his B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Chicago. Richard previously lived in Japan for three years, but is now in Hawai'i full-time preparing for his comprehensive exams. His research focus is on the nexus of Japanese colonialism, labor, migration, and ideology; examining the history of Japanese expansion and settlement from the late Edo period onward. He will be giving an extended version of this presentation at the 2024 AAS Conference in Seattle.

J.D. Parker
Ph.D. Candidate
Educational Foundations Department

JD Parker is a Ph.D. student in the Global & International Education track within the Department of Educational Foundations at UH Mānoa. Prior to arriving at UHM, JD received his B.A. in History and M.Ed. in Educational Leadership and Administration from West Texas A&M University. He also earned an M.A. in East Asian Languages and Cultures from the University of Kansas where he researched educational policy reform in post-war occupied Japan. Currently, he is a visiting student researcher at Kyoto University where he investigates human rights education (HRE) as a global educational trend in the context of teacher education in Japan. JD explores how international frameworks and discourses of human rights are integrated or contested in local constructions of human rights in Japan.



Bones in the Earth

"Bones in the Earth" explores how Koreans in the prewar Japanese empire were targeted and coerced into performing nominally "free wage labor" in Hokkaido's coal-mining industry. Though consisting of less than one percent of Hokkaido's population at even the highest data point from 1910 to 1937, Koreans served as five percent of the coal-mining workforce in 1920 and reached fifteen percent by the end of the period. Though often faced with misleading recruitment, exploitative conditions, and the inability to freely exit their employment, prewar coal mining by Koreans is not typically included under the umbrella of "forced labor." However, in identifying the various social and legal recourses available to these workers, it is also impossible to call their work "free." Drawing from various drafts of the Hokkaido Colliery & Steamship Company's (Hokutan) Fifty Year History (Gojūnenshikō), along with additional Hokutan documents and information from postwar fact-finding commissions, "Bones in the Earth" analyzes the manner in which coercive labor practices were applied to Korean laborers and how these practices provided a blueprint for wartime forced labor.

The Development of Human Rights Education in Japan: A Comparative Case Study of Local Implementation of Global Educational Policy

For many leaders, politicians and thinkers, the pathway to peace is understood to be best promoted through a human rights framework. Nations across the globe have embraced human rights discourse, simultaneously enshrining 'education as a human right' while also using schools to teach about human rights in the classroom. In the early 2000s, Japan became one of the first nations in the world to propose and implement human rights education (HRE) in public schools. Despite this, Japanese cultural perspectives present significant challenges to the cultural assumptions embedded in human rights theory. Scholars acknowledge the problematic nature and difficulty of understanding the concept of human rights in Japan without considering the varying historical and social developments, cultures, and traditions. This includes the primacy of the individual to the underlying foundation of human rights frameworks, as opposed to the significance of an interdependent self found in relational societies. However, few studies have examined the domestication of international human rights frameworks locally in Japan. This study attempts to do this through an investigation of how the global education trend of HRE is interpreted, enacted, and contested by key stakeholders in Japan.