

NOVEMBER 15 17:30-19:45 (JAPAN TIME)
9:30-11:45 (CET TIME)
16 17:00-19:00 (JAPAN TIME)
9:00-11:00 (CET TIME)

2024

DISTANCES ③

**THE MULTIDIMENSIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF DISTANCING: RETHINKING
AND RESHAPING SPACES IN A MULTIDISCIPLINARY FRAMEWORK**

Both online and on site in Kyoto

P R O G R A M

FOR DETAILS AND THE MEETINGS LINK:
[HTTPS://ISEAS-KYOTO.ORG/EVENTI/WORKSHOPS](https://iseas-kyoto.org/eventi/workshops)

NOVEMBER 15

OPENING ADDRESS

17:30-17:40 (JST)

Gianluigi Benedetti

Ambassador of Italy in Japan

Silvana De Maio

Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Tokyo, Japan

Giorgio Amitrano

University of Naples "L' Orientale" , ITALY
and ISEAS Scientific Committee, ITALY

GREETINGS AND OPENING REMARKS

17:40-17:50 (JST)

Andrea De Antoni

Kyoto University, JAPAN

and ISEAS Research Coordinator, JAPAN

Stefania Bandini

Università di Milano-Bicocca, ITALY and School of
Engineering, The University of Tokyo, JAPAN

PRESENTATIONS

17:50-18:05 (JST)

Sociology/Urban Studies

Matteo Colleoni

Department of Sociology and Social Research, University
of Milano-Bicocca, ITALY

DISTANCE, PROXIMITY AND SPATIO-TEMPORAL ACCESSIBILITY

18:05-20:00 (Japan time)

Economics/Marketing Management and Consumer Psychology

Nadia Olivero

Department of Business and Law, University of
Milano-Bicocca, ITALY

MERGING DISTANCES IN THE NAME OF SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY: BUT WHAT ABOUT THE ELDERLY?

18:20-18:35 (Japan time)

Japanese Literature/Translation

Giorgio Amitrano

University of Naples "L' Orientale" , ITALY
and ISEAS Scientific Committee, ITALY

THE PROXEMICS OF WORDS. NOTIONS OF SPACE AND DISTANCE IN LITERARY TRANSLATION

18:50-19:05 (JST)

Aesthetics

Lorenzo Marinucci

Faculty of Arts and Letters, Tohoku University, JAPAN

A REMOTE PRESENCE: INCENSE, DISTANCE AND TRANSCENDENCE IN A BUDDHIST CONTEXT

18:35-18:50 (JST)

Podcasting

Stefania Brucini

Simple Tiny Shift, ITALY

REDUCING THE DISTANCE BETWEEN INTENTION AND ACTION WITH SIMPLE TINY SHIFTS

GENERAL DISCUSSION

19:05-19:45 (JST)

Marta Fanasca (Discussant)

Alma Mater Università di Bologna, ITALY and Hosei
University, JAPAN

NOVEMBER 16

OPENING ADDRESS

17:00-17:05 (JaST)

Stefania Bandini

Università di Milano-Bicocca, ITALY and School of Engineering,
The University of Tokyo, JAPAN

PRESENTATIONS

17:05-17:20 (JST)

Urban Engineering/Architecture

Sae Kondo

Department of Architecture, MIE University and Research Center
for Advanced Science and Technology, The University of Tokyo, JAPAN

DOES DIGITALIZING COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES REDUCE THE PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTANCE TO LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT?

17:20-17:35 (JST)

Engineering/Systems Innovation/Computer sciences

Yukio Ohsawa

Department of Systems Innovation and Research Center for
Advanced Science and Technology, The University of Tokyo, JAPAN

SENSE OF THINGS EVOLVE IN THE SPACE OF CONTEXTUAL AND PHYSICAL DISTANCES

17:35-17:50 (JST)

Economics/Demography

Carlo Lallo

Department of Economics, University of Molise, ITALY

HOW DEMOGRAPHICS CURVE SPACE BEYOND FLAT DISTANCES: TOWARDS THE MUNICIPAL POTENTIAL FRAILTY INDICES

17:50-18:05 (JST)

Clyodinamics

Georg Orlandi

Independent Researcher

SOCIAL DISTANCE AND SOCIOPOLITICAL CRISES: A STRUCTURAL-DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF JAPAN'S PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

18:05-18:20 (JST)

Music

Fabio Mittino

Musician, ITALY

BRIDGING DISTANCES. MUSIC AS A CONNECTION ACROSS SPACE, EMOTION AND TIME

GENERAL DISCUSSION

18:20-19:00 (JST)

Luciana Cardi (Discussant)

Faculty of Literature, Kansai University, JAPAN

CLOSURE

Andrea De Antoni

Kyoto University, JAPAN

and ISEAS Research Coordinator, JAPAN



ITALIAN SCHOOL OF
EAST ASIAN STUDIES



THE MULTIDIMENSIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF DISTANCING: RETHINKING AND RESHAPING SPACES IN A MULTIDISCIPLINARY FRAMEWORK

The concept of distance has evolved to encompass far more than mere physical separation. Today, distance represents a complex interplay of social, economic, logistical, psychological, and demographic dimensions, each influencing and reshaping the spaces we inhabit, whether physical, virtual, or abstract. This event (in its third edition) aims to explore the multidisciplinary implications of various forms of distancing, highlighting how these concepts have spurred innovative theoretical and practical developments across different research fields. The dynamic interaction between different types of distances, as aimed throughout this Workshop, is fostering new perspectives and research paradigms that are crucial for addressing contemporary challenges in a multidimensional mode.

SOCIAL DISTANCING: REDEFINING SOCIAL INTERACTIONS AND SPACES

The notion of social distance extends beyond physical proximity to include cultural, emotional, and relational separations between individuals and groups. As society becomes increasingly interconnected through digital technologies, traditional forms of social interaction are being redefined. Social scientists are examining how virtual platforms are reshaping community structures, altering the dynamics of social cohesion, and impacting identity formation. This reconfiguration of social spaces has significant implications for public policy, urban and mobility planning, and the design of communal environments, where fostering connections without compromising individual autonomy is a key challenge.

ECONOMIC DISTANCING: THE SPATIAL AND FINANCIAL IMPACTS

Economic distance refers to the disparities in economic opportunities and resources that exist across different geographic and social spaces. These disparities are particularly pronounced in remote and underserved areas, where access to education, employment, and healthcare is often limited. Economists and geographers are increasingly focused on understanding how these economic distances impact the spatial distribution of wealth and well-being. The study of economic distance involves developing strategies to reduce these gaps, such as promoting local economic development, improving infrastructure, and enhancing access to technology. Addressing economic distancing is critical for fostering equitable growth and ensuring that all communities, regardless of location, can participate in and benefit from the global economy.

LOGISTICAL DISTANCING: CHALLENGES AND INNOVATIONS IN MOBILITY AND SUPPLY CHAINS

Logistical distance refers to the physical and operational separation between points in a supply chain, transportation network, or communication system. The challenges posed by logistical distancing are particularly acute in remote and rural areas, where infrastructure limitations can hinder access to essential goods and services. Researchers in transportation, logistics, and environmental sciences are exploring innovative solutions to reduce logistical distances, such as developing more efficient transportation networks, utilizing local resources, and integrating sustainable practices. These efforts aim to enhance the resilience of supply chains, improve access to care services in remote areas, and minimize the environmental impact of transportation.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTANCING: MENTAL HEALTH AND PERCEPTIONS OF SPACE

Psychological distance refers to the perceived gap between an individual and an event, object, or person, which can be influenced by factors such as time, space, social connections, and hypothetical scenarios. This concept plays a critical role in shaping how people perceive and interact with their environment. For instance, individuals living in remote areas may experience a heightened sense of isolation due to both physical and psychological distancing from urban centers and social networks. Mental health professionals are increasingly aware of the importance of addressing psychological distance in their work, particularly in ensuring that care services are accessible to those in geographically or socially isolated locations. The study of psychological distancing also extends to the design of spaces, where the aim is to create environments that promote well-being by reducing feelings of isolation and enhancing social connectivity.

DEMOGRAPHIC STUDIES: THE ROLE OF DISTANCE IN POPULATION DYNAMICS AND ACCESS TO SERVICES

Demographic studies have long recognized the impact of distance on population distribution, migration patterns, and access to essential services. In remote areas, where populations are often sparse and scattered, distance poses significant challenges to the provision of healthcare, education, and other critical services. Demographers are examining how spatial separation affects demographic trends, such as aging populations, migration flows, and fertility rates. By understanding these patterns, researchers can develop targeted interventions to improve access to care services, reduce inequalities, and support sustainable development in remote regions. The intersection of demographic studies with other fields, such as public health and urban planning, is crucial for designing policies and practices that address the unique needs of remote and underserved populations.

ARTISTIC PERSPECTIVES: REIMAGINING DISTANCE IN CREATIVE EXPRESSION

The arts offer a unique lens through which to explore and express the multifaceted nature of distance. Artists across various mediums—visual arts, literature, performance—have long grappled with the concept of distance, using it as a metaphor for emotional separation, social alienation, and existential inquiry. In contemporary practice, artists are increasingly engaging with the digital realm to overcome physical distances, creating works that blur the boundaries between presence and absence, proximity and remoteness. This creative exploration not only challenges conventional notions of space and interaction but also provides a critical commentary on the broader societal implications of distancing. By reimagining distance, the arts contribute to a deeper understanding of how we navigate the complexities of our interconnected world.

MATTEO COLLEONI

Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milano-Bicocca, ITALY

DISTANCE, PROXIMITY AND SPATIO-TEMPORAL ACCESSIBILITY

In recent decades, the level of mobility has steadily increased. In a more mobile world, the ability to cover greater distances and access places and services are increasingly important for social inclusion. However different factors related to individual characteristics, public transport services and land use can hinder access to essentials opportunities and lead to transport disadvantage and social exclusion. The focus on the issue of transportation-related disadvantages suggests a shift from an approach relied on mobility-oriented analysis to another focused on accessibility-based analysis, where accessibility focuses on the ease of reaching goods, services, but also social networks which can be crucial for social inclusion and wellbeing.

Transport system is one of the main mediators between people and opportunities enabling the mobility of some groups while contributing to the immobility of others. Like mobility, immobility has a multidimensional nature and can be the consequence of social exclusion and, in turn, contribute to its reproduction. Moreover, the distinction between being socially included or excluded is not only related to the extent, frequency and distance of movement, but also to the degree of voluntariness. Access to opportunities should not only be achieved through high mobility, but also through forms of immobility, as long as they are unconstrained. These forms may depend on the movements of others but may also result from situations of proximity and the possibility of physical and virtual access to opportunities and networks.

It seems possible in this case to speak of reversible immobility, where the reference to reversibility refers on the one hand to traditional studies on the search for physical proximity and on the other hand to contemporary studies on the so-called "immobility of proximity." Several theories refer to the principle of immobility of proximity. The first is that based on the "plan more to travel less" manifesto, according to which voluntary forms of limiting one's daily mobility could be the result of implementing integrated land-use-transportation policies focused on improving physical and virtual accessibility through proximity to spatial and social opportunities. The same principle of ensuring proximity no longer with high mobility but with the combination of accessibility, virtuality and livability of urban space is present in the concept of chrono urbanism and in planning for proximity. Finally, for some scholars is necessary to explore the positive implications of a shift from the development paradigm based on globalism and high mobility to models centred on the principle of "local society" inspired by slowness and localism. Based on the results of several empirical studies, the talk proposes a reflection on the issue of distance, proximity and spatio-temporal accessibility.



Matteo Colleoni is Full Professor of Urban Studies at the University of Milan-Bicocca, where he is also the Rector's Delegate on sustainability and mobility management, Coordinator of the Doctorate Urbeur- Urban Studies and Director of the Research centre on mobility, tourism and territory (CEMTET). At the national level, he is Chairman of the Technical Table on Mobility Management of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport and National Coordinator of the Sustainable Mobility sub-area (Climate and Energy Area) of the Ministerial Commission for the National Research Plan (PNR) 2021-2027. He is currently PI (Principal Investigator) and Coordinator of the research project SUTABLE (Sustainable mobility and Accessibility in periurban environments) of the Projects of Significant National Interest (PRIN 2022), member of the Scientific Council of the Italian Order of Architects, Planners, Landscapers and Conservators (CNAPPC) and member of the steering committee of the Universities Network for Sustainable Development (RUS).

He has taught at Italian and foreign universities and is a member of various scientific and editorial committees of Italian and foreign journals. His study and research topics include "mobility, accessibility and social inclusion", "structure and transformation of urban areas," "mobility and transport," "sustainability and sustainable development," and "urban policies." His latest monographs include *Understanding Mobilities for Designing Contemporary Cities*. Springer, 2016, *Mobility and Urban Transformations. The morphology of the contemporary metropolis*. Franco Angeli, Milan, 2019; *Precarious territories: social cohesion and sustainable development in the polycentric metropolis*. Il Mulino, Bologna, 2022.

NADIA OLIVERO

Department of Business and Law, University of Milano-Bicocca, ITALY

MERGING DISTANCES IN THE NAME OF SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY: BUT WHAT ABOUT THE ELDERLY?

Despite a long tradition in sustainability studies, the concept of social sustainability is still missing a clear definition. A wide variety of interventions are today undertaken under the overall scope of promoting a better future for people's life considering issues such as social equity and justice, social and psychological well-being, people empowerment, social cohesion and inclusion. Indeed, a main objective in terms of social sustainability involves addressing cultural distances among people, especially the vulnerable and neglected ones. For the scope of inclusion, people who were traditionally underrepresented in various social contexts because of their 'diversity' are nowadays appearing more often in the media and in advertising communication. However, despite increased efforts toward diversity and inclusiveness, representations in advertising are still almost ignoring the aging population. Social representations about the elderly not only reproduce a partly anachronistic stereotype but are also the unfortunate yet contemporaneous consequence of neglecting and isolating older people. In contrast with the concept of longevity and the studies highlighting opportunities for intervention in terms of health, wellbeing, socialization and work, there is still a serious lack of understanding of what ageing means for the entire population. Paradoxically, it appears that marketing is still underestimating its larger and further growing target. From a management viewpoint, the lack of understanding of the aging population is a significant loss. For instance, even Fashion, which among other sectors plays a more important role in the promotion of images for self-identity construction, social representations and cultural trends, is not showing enough consideration to older people. The so-called inclusive advertising very rarely depicts aged people thus reinforcing a cultural distance between the idea of longevity and the reality of aging in isolation. Data from advanced societies suggest that next to the elderly also young people often live in isolation, if not physical, psychological. Such distances might be shortened by overcoming advertising communication failures through the promotion of cogeneration participative spaces and exchanges for innovation design, cultural growth, social support and public policy co-construction. In this talk I provide some empirical evidence on the impact that different images of 'older people' play on different age groups of consumers and discuss cogeneration participative design as an important opportunity for reducing age gaps distances and aging isolation.



Professor of Marketing Management and Consumer Psychology at the Department of Economics and Law for Economics of the University of Milan Bicocca and Scientific Director of the Master Maref. She graduated with honors in Applied Psychology with concentration in Marketing at the University of Turin and obtained her Ph.D. in Social Psychology and Consumer Behavior from University College London, after working as strategic consultant for advertising agencies of the DDB Group in London. She taught Applied Psychology at the London School of Economics, Management at Birbeck College (University of London), Consumer Behaviour and Management of Fashion and Luxury brands in Federal University of Rio De Janeiro, Consumer Psychology at the University of Gastronomic Sciences and the Polytechnic School of Design. She has over 20 years of consumer insight and strategic innovation consultancy experience for well-known international brands. Since 2011 she has been an advisor for McKinsey & Company for Consumer Experience Strategy and management training. She has directed numerous strategic innovation consultancy projects and top management training in the banking & finance, retail, technology, consumer goods, tourism and luxury sectors. Her latest scientific research is focusing on behavioural change, social sustainability, and inclusion for brand communication and participative innovation design. Her work has been awarded by the European Union, the British Psychological Society and the MIUR. Former editor-in-chief of Micro & Macro Marketing (Il Mulino ed.) from 2003 to 2010; she is the author of numerous scientific and popular publications, including 'Consumption Psychology' (2009; 2013, McGraw-Hill ed.); media coverage of her work includes BBC, Financial Times, Retail Times, RAI, La Repubblica, Corriere della Sera, L'Espresso, and Il Sole 24 ORE.

GIORGIO AMITRANO

Department of Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies, University of Naples "L' Orientale", ITALY and
ISEAS Scientific Committee, ITALY

THE PROXEMICS OF WORDS. NOTIONS OF SPACE AND DISTANCE IN LITERARY TRANSLATION

The notion of distance is central to the discourse on literary translation, as converting a text into a different language is considered one of the most effective ways to reduce cultural distances. However, distance in the field of translation has a broader range of meanings and can be analyzed from multiple perspectives. One significant aspect is indirect translation, a practice widely used in Japan during the modernization phase, when translations often passed through an intermediary language. This practice is still employed in Italy by publishers for texts from East Asian literatures. Indirect translations problematize the issue of cultural distance because, while they help the publishing industry speed up translation timelines and reduce the temporal gap in presenting a work in the target language, they also introduce a double filter that can increase the distance between the original and its rendering in the foreign language.

Furthermore, there is a subtler interpretation of distance in translation, which concerns the way words are positioned in the discursive space, forming a configuration that can diverge significantly from the source text. The concept of proxemics, coined by cultural anthropologist Edward T. Hall, has been adopted in fields such as sociology, semiotics, film language analysis, and more. In my view, it can be effectively applied to translation, particularly to literary translations between completely different linguistic systems, such as East Asian and European languages. I will focus specifically on literary translations from Japanese into Italian. Japanese novels depict the way characters are positioned in space in ways that reflect the rules of interpersonal communication specific to Japanese society. In these works, "intimate distance" between characters—Hall's first of four zones of interpersonal distance—is rarely employed, even in small spaces like family settings. This different relationship between people and space is mirrored in the sentence structure of Japanese writing. It becomes especially evident in dialogues, where the language levels are more nuanced than in Italian, reflecting a different perception of distance. As a result, the proxemics of words—i.e., the position of words in the discourse space and their interrelations—differ substantially between the source text and the target language. In my presentation, I will explore how using the concept of proxemics as an investigative tool can offer new perspectives in translation studies.



Giorgio Amitrano has received his PhD from Naples Orientale University (Università di Napoli L' Orientale) for a dissertation on Miyazawa Kenji's works. He has taught in Osaka University of Foreign Studies, Sapienza University of Rome and he is currently professor of Japanese language and literature at Naples Orientale University. From 2013 to 2016 he has been Director of Italian Cultural Institute in Tokyo.

He has translated into Italian Japanese authors such as Murakami Haruki, Yoshimoto Banana, Kawabata Yasunari, Inoue Yasushi, Mishima Yukio, Miyazawa Kenji, Nakajima Atsushi.

For his activity as translator he has received several awards, including the Grinzane-Cavour Translation Prize (2008) and the 12th Noma Award for the Translation of Japanese Literature (2001). In 2020 he has been awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon by the Japanese Government.

He is the president of the Italian Association for Japanese Studies AISTUGIA and the president of the scientific committee of the Italian School of East Asian Studies in Kyoto ISEAS.

He is the editor of an annotated edition of Kawabata Yasunari's collected works (Mondadori 2003). Among his published works are *Il mondo di Banana Yoshimoto* (Feltrinelli, 2007), *Yama no oto: kowareyuku kazoku* (Misuzu shobō, 2007), *Iroiro: Il Giappone tra pop e sublime* (De Agostini, 2018).

LORENZO MARINUCCI

Faculty of Arts and Letters, Tohoku University, JAPAN

A REMOTE PRESENCE: INCENSE, DISTANCE AND TRANSCENDENCE IN A BUDDHIST CONTEXT

This presentation examines the ideological, imaginary, and experiential role of incense and other odorants within the context of East Asian Buddhism, with a particular focus on Japanese Buddhism. Scent, as a unique combination of both distal (sight, hearing) and contact (touch, taste) senses, offers an experience of something that is part of an absolute, intimate here, and, at the same time, ineffable and remote. This paradoxical coincidence of presence and absence plays interesting roles in most religious contexts. In Buddhism, the remoteness evoked and bridged by olfactory perceptions is both geographical-historical and metaphysical. Given its distance from India and the almost complete lack of autochthonous odorants, the history of incense in Japan, which began with the introduction of Buddhism, is one of imports, both in a physical and symbolic sense. Among such odorants, jinkō 沈香 (aloeswood), the rarest and most precious, surely played a major role both as a religious offer (供香 kukō) and as a marker of refinement and personal expression (空香 kūkō). In this presentation, I will first discuss the historical and phenomenological sense of "distance" as mediated by perfumes. I will then focus on a scene from the Vimalakirti sutra 維摩經, which describes an infinitely remote Pure Land of absolute perfume. Through the power of meditation this Pure Land is able to manifest itself in the here and now, highlighting the unique qualities of olfactory experience in bridging distances.



Lorenzo Marinucci is associate professor of Aesthetics and Italian at Tohoku University. He has been a Canon Europe Fellow (2020) and Japan Foundation Fellow (2021) at Kyoto University. His research work focuses on the phenomenology of atmospheres and on modern Japanese Philosophy. He is currently working on his first book, titled *The Sense of Scent. Japanese Olfactory Culture and Global Philosophy* (Routledge, 2025).

STEFANIA BRUCINI

Simple Tiny Shift, ITALY

REDUCING THE DISTANCE BETWEEN INTENTION AND ACTION WITH SIMPLE TINY SHIFTS

In my presentation, I will discuss how to address the distance that often separates who we are from who we want to become. Whether it's the distance between our present and our future, between our intentions and actions, or between procrastination and progress, every gap can be bridged with Simple Tiny Shifts. Through my podcasts, an effective means of communication that creates intimate and immediate connections, I offer practical tools to bridge these distances and turn intentions into concrete actions.



Stefania Brucini specializes in personal productivity and is the founder of the Simple Tiny Shifts® method, a method based on small and simple changes to stop procrastinating. She is the author of the podcasts "Valorizza il tuo tempo" and "Un passo al giorno." Her podcasts have a strong following, reaching over 260,000 listeners, and have been included by Spotify Italy among the most interesting podcasts led by women. Amazon Music featured her podcast "Un passo al giorno" in Times Square among the "Italian Podcast Queens" and it is also one of the most listened to podcasts in the Health and Wellness category on Apple Podcasts. Her approach to productivity focuses on valuing time rather than merely managing it, promoting personal fulfillment and well-being as the primary goals.

Stefania helps people become more productive through small and simple daily changes. This approach centers around personal fulfillment and happiness, rather than just operational efficiency. She is certified in "Designing Your Life" by Stanford professors Bill Burnett and Dave Evans and applies design thinking principles in her work to help people design a meaningful life. Her method also integrates concepts from Japanese philosophy such as Ikigai, Kodawari, Hansei, and Kaizen, aimed at improving awareness and the quality of daily life. In addition to offering individual and group programs, Stefania conducts workshops and seminars both in private and corporate settings, helping participants identify their strengths and plan effectively to achieve their goals without stress.

DOES DIGITALIZING COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES REDUCE THE PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTANCE TO LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT?

In regions experiencing rapid population decline, there is a significant crisis in the sustainability of the quality of life. In Japan, where the birthrate is declining and the population is ageing rapidly, local self-governing organizations have been responsible for providing detailed citizen services that the government cannot offer. By digitalizing the activities of these organizations, it is hoped that the organizations themselves will be rejuvenated and the willingness of the population to participate will increase. However, some argue that the digital divide due to age prevents the digitalization of older organizations. What changes with digitalization, and what does not? Does it affect the psychological distance of participation, especially in the context of local autonomy? Several case studies will be discussed.



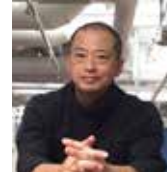
Sae Kondo holds a doctorate in urban engineering from the University of Tokyo and is a PhD (engineering) and first-class architect. She has worked as a first-class architect in an architectural design company and was in charge of the design of housing complexes, train stations and the JR Central Linear Pavilion at the 2005 World Expo in Aichi, Japan. After working as a specially-appointed assistant professor at the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Urban Sustainability and Regeneration Studies and at the University of Tokyo's Research Centre for Advanced Science and Technology, she has been an associate professor at Mie University's Graduate School of Engineering, Department of Architecture since 2020. Her main research themes are local city revitalisation, the nature of civic centres for collaboration and exchange, the collaborative base nature of city halls, childcare facilities and towns, and the Living Lab's co-creation scheme. Among these, the thesis on citizen collaboration and relationship building for forming citizen collaboration bases using city halls as a stage was awarded the Paper Encouragement Award by the City Planning Institute of Japan. She was also selected as a 2019 official speaker at SXSW, one of the world's largest tech trade fairs and conferences in Texas, USA, for her unique perspective on organising regional development in Japan by utilising the region's DNA. She is currently implementing a research project in collaboration with local authorities such as Iwaki City in Fukushima Prefecture and Shimoda City in Shizuoka Prefecture. Her most significant research interest is in analysing the relationship between 'living labs' and the uplift of organisational citizenship behaviour (OCB).

YUKIO OHSAWA

Department of Systems Innovation and Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, The University of Tokyo, JAPAN

SENSE OF THINGS EVOLVE IN THE SPACE OF CONTEXTUAL AND PHYSICAL DISTANCES

A Semantic Cell corresponds to an item - event, word, or other unit of meaning -, packing chromosomes corresponding to its own meanings, and interacting with other cells physically and contextually close to itself. As a result of the interaction of cells, exemplified for the word "spring," it is shown that their behaviors realize the history of semantic evolution i.e., its meaning has got expanded into its present four meanings "fountain", "jump", "bouncing coil", and "the beginning of the year". This semantic evolution has been caused by the coupled two types of distance i.e. in the physical and contextual, ruling human's knowledge life with the interaction of meanings. A question in its extension - are the sense making in daily life explained on physical and contextual distances? Can the multi-distance approach solve all our problems?



Prof. Dr. Yukio Ohsawa is Professor of Systems Innovation in the School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo. He received BE, ME, and PhD from the School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo (1995). Then worked for the School of Engineering Science at Osaka University (research associate, 1995-1999), Graduate School of Business Sciences in University of Tsukuba (associate professor, 1999-2005), and moved back to The University of Tokyo. He started researches from non-linear optics, and, via Artificial Intelligence, created a new domain chance discovery meaning to discover events of significant impact on decision making, since the year 2000. About chance discovery he gave keynote talks in conferences such as International Symposium on Knowledge and Systems Sciences, Intl Conf. on Rough Sets and Fuzzy Sets, Joint Conf. on Information Sciences, Knowledge-Based Intelligent Information and Engineering Systems, etc. Chance discovery came to be embodied as innovators' marketplace, a methodology for innovation borrowing principles of the dynamics of markets. Then he, when biking from his job in a business school, invented the basic idea of Data Jackets. Since then, he is introducing the method presented in this book to sciences, educations, and businesses. His original concepts and technologies have been published as books and monographs from global publishers such as Springer Verlag, Taylor & Francis, etc. Some books among them are, "Chance Discovery" (2003 Springer, foreword given by Eric von Hippel), "Innovators' Marketplace: Using Games to Activate and Train Innovators" (2012), "Tools for Activating Markets of Data" (2022), and "Living beyond Data" (2022). He is in the editorial boards of several journals. As a previous program chair of the Annual Conference of The Japanese Society on Artificial Intelligence, he came to be the first to change this conference into an international conference from June 2019. As a member of JSAI (Japanese Society for Artificial Intelligence), he was awarded the two most prestigious awards service award (2017) and research achievement award (2022). He also served as the program chair of IEEE Big Data Conference in 2022, where he is now organizing a new session Synergizing Mobility Data for Creating and Discovering Valuable Places."

HOW DEMOGRAPHICS CURVE SPACE BEYOND FLAT DISTANCES: TOWARDS THE MUNICIPAL POTENTIAL FRAILTY INDICES

Like space in physics, distances in demography are not flat, but curve around points of mass. Demographic size and structure, combined with communication infrastructures, are the points of curvature of distances between local communities and different types of services: health, care, education and other commercial services. Geographical barriers and long distances may tend to be cancelled by communication infrastructures, both physical (railways, highways, frequent public transports) and digital (broadband internet and digital services). On the other hand, the lack of communication infrastructure could lead to infinite distances. This is especially true in the light of social changes in the maximum acceptable travel time (both for work and private life), which is decreasing at the same rate as technological progress, forcing the economic system to achieve ever higher levels of productivity (and time efficiency) to remain competitive or die, ultimately affecting all other aspects of everyday life. Finally, demographic size and structure interact with such communication infrastructures determining, indeed, the final effect on the curvature of distances. A high population density can saturate the capacity of the infrastructure, but a dispersed population could make it economically unsustainable, leading to poor maintenance and frequent breakdowns (it also depends on the ownership of the facility service: fully private, public or mixed model). Moreover, over-aged populations may lack the necessary capacity to use some infrastructures initially designed for younger or at least balanced populations (digital divide and physical limitations due to advanced age as if the infrastructure had never existed). Determining the size, structure and interaction of the population with communication infrastructures at the local level (municipality or even lower) is a fundamental component of estimating real distances.

Taking advantage of official Italian government statistics at the municipal level and following the concept of distance curvature, this presentation will introduce a new type of indices called Municipal Potential Frailty Indices (MPFI), in particular the Municipal Potential Care Frailty Index (MPCFI), designed to capture frailty in the availability of care services at the municipal level. The index balances the proportion of people aged 80+ (as an indicator of potential care needs) and care provision (derived from a combination of the Parent Support Ratio to capture potential formal/informal help and the SNAI Inner Areas Index to capture distances to services) in a single synthetic index. Potential care frailty increases as the balance of care needs deteriorates. The MPCFI includes 5 classes of care frailty, from 0 - no potential care frailty to 5 - high care frailty. All Italian regions contain municipalities that vary between high and no potential Care Frailty (except Valle d' Aosta: no municipalities in high vulnerability). Therefore, a local approach to care needs and related policies is needed: the Italian MPCFI distribution map could be a valid tool to design such place-based policies and evaluate real distances between local communities and services.



Carlo Lallo is a Researcher in Demography at the University of Molise (Italy). His research focuses both on economic demography and on survival and health inequalities. He obtained the European Master in Demography at EDSO (European Doctoral School of Demography) - UAB (Autonomous University of Barcelona) in 2012 and the Ph.D. in Demography at University of Rome La Sapienza in 2014. He has been P.I. of two research projects and team member of several research projects focusing on socio-economic determinants of health and survival and their impact on pension systems, health systems and the labor market. In recent years, he has focused on the challenges that Italian society will face as the ageing process reaches its mature equilibrium in the coming decades, from a multidisciplinary perspective. In particular, he has focused on the challenges that ageing will pose for the planning of public services, the sustainability of care and the labor market. He is part of the research team of the "Age-It, ageing well in an aging society" project, funded by the EU Next Generation program, which aims to achieve a quantum leap in making Italy the leading scientific center for ageing research and a state-of-the-art "empirical laboratory" on the ageing process, in order to build an inclusive society for all ages.

FABIO MITTINO

Musician

BRIDGING DISTANCES. MUSIC AS A CONNECTION ACROSS SPACE, EMOTION AND TIME

In my talk, I explore the concept of distance not as an obstacle, but as a space that allows for connection and growth. Drawing from my experience as a musician, I discuss how physical distance between cultures and places, emotional distance between the artist and the audience, and temporal distance between past and present in music all offer opportunities to bridge gaps and create deeper connections. I also reflect on the technical distance between creative intent and execution, and how the challenge of narrowing this gap becomes a journey of improvement. Ultimately, distance becomes a bridge toward mutual understanding and personal growth.



He was introduced in 1998 to Robert Fripp's Guitar Craft in Salisbury, UK, and he kept studying with this technique since then. He plays acoustic guitar as soloist and together with Bert Lams from California Guitar Trio, passionately exploring the music of G.I.Gurdjieff and Ukrainian born Thomas de Hartmann. Thanks to The Archtop Foundation, he is the first artist to have recorded a solo album (*Out of the Blue*, 2023) using the famous D'Aquisto Centura Deluxe archtop from Scott Chinery's historic Blue Collection. He is well known for his 'Simple Music for Difficult People', a solo project with original music for electric guitar, described by the Press as "Progressives Echoes for the Third Millennium". Inspired by the craftsmanship and poetry of Mechanical Art, Fabio Mittino collaborated with some of the world's best Automata makers, like François Junod (Switzerland), Susumu & Hideki Higashino (Japan), Keith Newstead (UK), and Teun de Vijs (Netherlands). His music mirrors the craftsmanship and intricacy of those contemporary mechanical sculptures, while retaining that mixture of innocent awe and wonder. He intensively tours in Europe, USA and Japan. Ahmad Jamal: Fabio is a wonderful, talented guitarist. I took his cd to the States and they listened to his performance, and they loved it like I do!

DISCUSSANTS

LUCIANA CARDI

Faculty of Literature, Kansai University, Japan



Luciana Cardi is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Literature at Kansai University (Osaka, Japan). She specializes in comparative literature and her research interests encompass contemporary Japanese literature, English literature, gender studies, fairy-tale studies, and reception studies. She is the co-editor with M. Murai of *Re-Orienting the Fairy Tale: Contemporary Adaptations across Cultures* (Wayne State U.P., 2020). She has published in journals and edited volumes, including the *Handbook of Modern and Contemporary Japanese Women Writers* (Rebecca Copeland ed., 2022), where she contributed the chapter “Japanese Women Writers and Folktales: Urashima Tarō in the Literary Production of Ōba Minako and Kurahashi Yumiko”. She is currently leading the international research project “Joint Research on the Reception of Western Classics in Japan: From the Early Modern Period to the Age of Globalization”, supported by the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science (Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research 24K00054). This three-year project brings together a team of Japanese and international scholars to explore the reception of Graeco-Roman antiquity in Japan from the late 16th century to the 21st century, encompassing literature, performing arts, philosophy, history, visual arts, and popular culture.

MARTA FANASCA

Alma Mater Università di Bologna, ITALY and Hosei University, JAPAN



Marta Fanasca obtained her Ph.D. in Japanese Studies from The University of Manchester in 2019, investigating the phenomenon of *dansō* (FtM crossdresser) escorts in contemporary Japan. After completing a postdoc at the Higher School of Economics in St. Petersburg, she is currently a Marie Skłodowska Curie Global Fellow affiliated with the University of Bologna. Her current research project focuses on the commodification of intimacy and gender performativity, using as case studies Japanese services that provide commodified emotional and/or sexual intimacy in a female/female context. Her articles have appeared in *Asian Anthropology*, *Mechademia*, and *Girlhood Studies*, and her first monograph, *Female Masculinity and the Business of Emotions in Tokyo*, was published by Routledge.

STEERING COMMITTEE

ANDREA DE ANTONI

Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Kyoto University, JAPAN



Andrea De Antoni is program-specific associate professor of socio-cultural anthropology at Kyoto University. He specializes in the anthropology of Japan and, more recently, has carried out ethnographic research also in Italy. His fields of research include the anthropology of space and place, death, outcaste discrimination, experiences with spirits, spirit possession, and spiritual healing in relation to biomedical practice, with a focus on perception and affect. He has published extensively on these topics both in English and Japanese. He is the author of *Going to Hell in Contemporary Japan: Feeling Landscapes of the Afterlife, Othering, Memory, and Materiality* (Routledge, forthcoming 2021), and has co-edited several books and special issues of academic journals. He is also the coordinator of the international research network "Skills of Feeling with the World: Anthropological Research on the Senses, Affect and Materiality," based at Kyoto University.

STEFANIA BANDINI

Università di Milano-Bicocca, ITALY and School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo, JAPAN



Stefania Bandini, Full Professor of Computer Science and expert in Artificial Intelligence, with a career spanning academia and research institutions worldwide. Now she is Visiting Professor at the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics at the School of Engineering of The University of Tokyo, previously Fellow at RCAST - Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, and now RCAST-AAD Advisor. Her fellowship with the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) further underscores her expertise within the Complex Systems and AI communities. She is Director of the Milano-Bicocca Cini Node "Artificial Intelligence & Intelligent Systems" . As Director of the Complex Systems & Artificial Intelligence Studies and Research Center and the Artificial Intelligence Lab at the University of Milan-Bicocca, she spearheads multidisciplinary research combining AI, agent-based simulation techniques, engineering, and management. She co-chairs the working group "Ageing Society" for the Italian Association for Artificial Intelligence.

Throughout her career, Stefania Bandini served as the Principal Investigator for numerous national and international research projects, leaving a impact on the involved fields. Her expertise is reflected in an extensive collection of publications that highlight her contributions to AI, complex systems, agent-based simulation, and affective computing, focusing on simulations capturing the dynamics of pedestrian/crowd behavior as social complex system and collective intelligence, enabling the development of crowd management strategies. Recognizing the transformative potential of AI across diverse domains, she is the Chair of the Working Group "Artificial Intelligence for an Ageing Society" within the Italian Association for Artificial Intelligence since 2010. Her recent research focuses on affective computing, where AI systems are designed to understand and respond to human emotions. As the Principal Investigator for the "LongeviCity" project (funded by Fondazione Cariplo, in partnership with Politecnico di Milano, Auser Lombardia, and RCAST), she demonstrates an innovative approach through pioneering experiments conducted at RCAST and living labs in Milano, to create urban environments fostering social engagement and improve accessibility to services and care through "affective walkability", AI-driven modeling and simulation techniques uncover insights into the distribution and accessibility of caregiving services in urban and remote areas. These findings empower policymakers and urban planners to develop age-friendly cities with the necessary infrastructure and support systems for inclusive living. Currently, she leads the WP4-Spoke5 "Care provision across different territorial contexts" within the "National Recovery and Resilience Plan AGE-IT" co-funded by the Next Generation EU plan.