明治大学外国人研究者招聘制度　報告書

＜招聘教授・研究員の情報 / Guest Professor・Guest Scholar＞

氏　名 Name	Jonas Mönicke ヨナス・モニケ
所属機関(派遣元) Affiliation (Home Organization)	Goethe University Frankfurt am Main
現在の職名 Position	Graduate Student / Student Assistant
招聘期間（日本への入国日から出国日） Invitation Period (from the date of entry to departure)	15.06.2026 - 25.08.2026
専攻 Field of Research	Japanese Studies
ホスト教員氏名と所属学部研究科等 Name of host teacher and affiliation at Meiji University	Prof. Tsutomu Suda, School of Informaton and Communication

＜外国人研究者からの報告 / Foreign Researcher Report＞

①研究課題　/　Research Theme

Images of Disaster in Earthquake Reports regarding the Ansei Edo earthquake 1855

②活動記録　/　Activity Report

月/Month	活動内容/Activity
June	JSPS-Summer Program Beginning Workshop in Shōnan
June	Literature review and sighting of sources at various Tokyo libraries
July	Asian Studies Conference Japan at Sophia University
July	Field work in Tsuruoka (Yamagata) along with Prof. Suda
July - August	Various meetings with Professors in the field of Japanese History
August	Field work in Nagano, Kashima and Mito
August	JSPS-Summer Program Research Report Meeting

③研究概要　/　Outline of Research

This project is concerned with the understanding and depiction of disaster in publications of the late Edo period. Given the large number of publications concerning earthquakes in the context of the repeated disasters of the 1840s and 1850s, it focuses particularly on those regarding the Ansei Edo Earthquake of 1855 and how the earthquake is depicted in these publications.
The Ansei Edo Earthquake is often considered to be the most influential disaster of the Bakumatsu period. Directly hitting the political and cultural capital Edo, it not only further destabilized an already instable political elite, but also led to a large number of printed materials regarding the disaster. These publications included single-page news articles, as well as many satirical pieces in the form of the famous catfish-images 鯰絵 (namazu-e). In this project I concentrate on so-called earthquake reports (also referred to as earthquake collages), longer publications often spanning several volumes, that brought together different types of stories, satirical pieces and information about the damage caused by the earthquake, as well as general information about earthquakes, that circulated during the time after the disaster.
As publications intended for popular consumption, these reports are a valuable source for popular perceptions of disaster and the discourse surrounding the earthquake in its aftermath. The Ansei kenmonshi 安政見聞誌 and Ansei kenmonroku 安政見聞録, both published within a year after the earthquake, are analyzed in particular detail for this end with the closest attention paid to the depictions of perceived causes of the earthquake as well as the connection made between damages caused by the disaster and broader societal issues.

④招聘期間中の研究活動の実績　/　The research results as Guest Professor・Guest Scholar

The causes discussed within the aforementioned sources can generally be divided into two different perspectives, which are, however, not mutually exclusive. The first describes the earthquake as a punishment for individual actions, whether committed in this life or a previous. This interpretation is usually made using predominantly buddhist vocabulary surrounding the concept of Karma.The second perspective understands earthquakes as a phenomenon occuring based on specific laws governing the world, an interpretation usually framed within a strongly Confucian world view.
Rather than understanding them as entirely separate ideas however, they should be seen as two aspects of a broader understanding of the earthquake. Both are often presented within the same sources and as such do not appear to have been regarded as contradictory to one another.



