

# Tomoki Birkett

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## Education

### **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**

Master of Arts in Anthropology / 2014

Anthropology Ph.D. Candidate / 2017

### **UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN (Ann Arbor)**

Honors with Highest Distinction

Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, Minor in Community Action and Social Change / 2012

## Honors and Awards

**SHINCHO DISSERTATION RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP** / 2018

**WEATHERHEAD INSTITUTE PH.D. SUMMER FELLOWSHIP** / 2015

**FLAS SUMMER LANGUAGE AWARD** / 2014

**WILLIAM MALM AWARD** / 2012

Awarded by Michigan's Center for Japanese Studies, for "exceptional writing on Japan." One undergraduate recipient each year.

**MARSHALL SAHLINS AWARD** / 2012

To honor "the most academically outstanding Michigan student" in the social sciences. One recipient each year.

## Japanese Training and Experience

### **JAPANESE LANGUAGE COURSES**

Inter-University Center Japanese Summer Intensive Program / 2014

Fourth Year Japanese I / 2013

ASIANLAN 440 Academic Japanese II / 2012

ASIANLAN 429 Business Japanese I & II / 2011-2012

### **TRANSLATION EXPERIENCE**

YAMAGATA INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL / 2015

Translated articles from Japanese to English for Arab Film Catalogue.

MISCELLANEOUS TRANSLATION: JAPANESE-ENGLISH / 2015

Translated subtitles for documentary films; translated interviews; simultaneous translation for victims of police violence.

JAPANESE INTERPRETER / February - May 2012

Interpreted between patients and doctors at an orthodontics clinic in Ann Arbor, MI. Communicated information on treatment plans, orthodontics devices, etc to patients.

## Teaching Experience

### GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING ASSISTANT

Fall 2014 - Fall 2018

Columbia University Anthropology Department

Assisted professors with grading and teaching course material for Anthropology courses with varying enrollments:

SEMESTER	COURSE	STUDENTS IN SECTION
Fall 2014	Introduction to Social and Cultural Theory	4 group sessions / 100 students
Spring 2015	Culture Through Film & Media	5 students
Fall 2015	The Interpretation of Culture	20 students
Spring 2016	Anthropology of Sexuality	no section; graded for 30 students
Fall 2016	Arabia Imagined	18 students
Spring 2017	Pre-Columbian Archaeology of Native America	25 students
Fall 2018	The Profits of Race (American Studies)	40 students

In most courses, I graded my students' weekly response papers, midterm exams, and final exams or assignments. I always gave extensive comments on papers, and reviewed their cumulative work over the course of the semester before I assigned a final grade. I also took weekly attendance, held office hours, and contributed supplementary material whenever possible or relevant.

## Research Experience

### PRE-DISSERTATION FIELDWORK

June - August 2015, January 2016, June - August 2016, June - August 2017

FUNDED BY: FLAS, Weatherhead Institute

I have been conducting preliminary fieldwork in Fukushima prefecture since summer 2015. This has consisted of oral history interviews with evacuees from coastal Fukushima, ethnographic fieldwork with former nuclear power plant workers, archival research on labor conditions in the energy industry in Fukushima prefecture, and ethnographic fieldwork with evacuees.

## Coordinating Experience

### TOXIC SOVEREIGNTIES WORKSHOP COORDINATOR

September 2016 - May 2017

Coordinated an ISERP-sponsored workshop series on toxicity and environmental pollution. Helped to plan workshops and coordinate hospitality needs for participants.

## Papers

*Kirisute*: Cut and Discard. Paper at Toxic Sovereignities workshop, "Bodies, Land, Intimacy." / 2017

Gendered Violence of Radiation in Fukushima: Reproductive Labor and Exposure. Conference paper at 2016 American Anthropological Association / 2016

'Soothing Characters' and State Fantasy. Paper at UCLA Graduate Conference / 2014

"Amateur" Mascots on the Loose: The Pragmatics of Kawaii (Cute). University of Michigan. Undergraduate thesis / 2012