



# Making Alliance in Social Movement Work: Spring of Social Movement after the Fukushima Accident in Japan

Guest Lecture by

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University of Zurich, Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies, Room ZUB 314,  
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## Abstract

Since the Fukushima nuclear accident (the 3.11), Japan witnessed a nationwide upsurge of not only anti-nuclear demonstrations but also protests against the US military bases, the national security law and the conspiracy law. This spread across issues contrasts strongly with the former 30-year “winter of social movements”. Notably, given the limited number of first-time participators, it can be only fully explained through an analysis of network-building among social movement groups. Various alliances have been created after the 3.11, and some had an enormous impact on the movements.

While previous studies have argued that formation of alliances is a key for expanding mobilization, it also poses challenges to both social movement groups and social movements as a whole. Connecting these discussions, this paper expands to examine the condition of how social impact and challenges of coalition-building take shape based on the nationwide survey on social movement groups conducted in Japan by our team in February 2018 which covers 307 groups.

Our analysis consists of three main parts: (1) type of alliance, (2) impact of alliance on mobilization, and (3) challenges alliance brings to social movement groups. Our unique datasets answer the questions above from a quantitative perspective.

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