

The everyday politics of Chinese migrant media practices in Japan

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Room 301, 3F Building 10, Sophia University Yotsuya Campus

The Sino-Japanese context is not only constituted by governmental relations but also the ways everyday Chinese citizens imagine their place in the world. This presentation explores how these issues are reflected in the media practices of Chinese migrants in Japan and its implications for how we understand everyday politics. Many Chinese migrants are suspicious of formal politics, whether at an international level or local level. Although not explicitly political, their social media practices show implicit political discussions about the differences between Chinese and Japanese people, and broader questions of personhood, desire, morality and modernity. I focus on how these logics have played out in relation to events over the past two years, arguing that these debates reflect what both Turner and Graeber have suggested are the foundations of politics itself – the establishment of what value is, and the question of what makes life worth living.

Jamie Coates focuses on grounded approaches to mobility in East Asia, with a particular focus on theorizing the relationship between cosmopolitan attitudes and experiences fostered through the movement of things, people and meanings. A PhD graduate from the Department of Anthropology (CHL, CAP) at the Australian National University, his research to date has covered Chinese migrant communities in Tokyo and the influence of media flows between China and Japan. He is currently a JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow in the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies at Waseda University, and co-convenor for the European Association of Social Anthropology (EASA) Anthropology and Mobility Network (ANTHROMOB)

