

Coffee Web:

Remapping the Movements of People, Objects, and Knowledge
across Asia-Pacific



Mariko Iijima

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Room 301, 3F, Building 10,
Sophia University

In the prewar period, Hawai'i accepted as many as 240,000 migrants from Japan, who constituted a major labor force on sugar plantations. As other histories of Japanese migrants overseas, a majority of previous researches on Japanese in Hawai'i have

been focused on those who ended up settling in their destination while quite a few of them in fact returned home, or continued their journey to the mainland US. In this paper, however, the main focus lies on the Japanese migrants who moved from Hawai'i to one of the Japan's insular territories—Taiwan. A series of movements of businessmen and agricultural migrants from Hawai'i to Taiwan, created a diasporic network, which transcended the imperial border between the US and Japanese empires. Through this diasporic network, not only coffee but also other agricultural commodities including sugar and pineapple, along with production and processing skills, were introduced to Japanese settlers in Taiwan.

Mariko Iijima is an associate professor at the Faculty of Foreign Studies, and the director of the Institute of American and Canadian Studies at Sophia University. She obtained her M.Phil. and D.Phil. in Modern History from University of Oxford. She is a historian by training and specializes in global history, migration history, history of coffee production in the Asia-Pacific Region. She has published various articles on Japanese coffee farmers in Hawai'i, Okinawa immigrants to the Philippines, and war experiences and memories of Japanese migrants in the Asia-Pacific region.

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