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Professor in the Graduate School of Arts and Letters at Tohoku University, Japan; He received his PhD from the University of Tokyo in 2004. He was a visiting professor at the University of Minnesota in 2004 and a visiting scholar at Wageningen University in 2004 and 2005.

He has been serving as the President of a national environmental NGO, Japan Network for Climate Change Action since 2010, and as the President of a local environmental NGO, Miyagi Environmental Life Outreach Network since 2007.

Currently he serves as the President of the ISA Research Committee 24 on Environment and Society and as the Program Coordinator of RC24 for the XIX World Congress of Sociology in Toronto. He is a Vice-president of Japan Sociological Society. He was the Chair of the Japanese Local Organizing Committee for the ISA World Congress of Sociology in Yokohama, 2014. He was a member of the ISA Program Committee for the Yokohama Congress.

He has published many articles on environmental sociology, civil society, social movements and social change. His publications include:

"Continuities and discontinuities of Japan's political activism before and after the Fukushima nuclear accident," in David Chiavacci and Julia Obinger ed. *Social Movements and Political Activism in Contemporary Japan: Re-emerging from Invisibility*, Routledge 2018: 115-135.

"Risk culture, risk framing, and nuclear energy dispute in Japan before and after the Fukushima nuclear accident," in Kuei-Tien Chou ed. *Energy Transition in East Asia: A Social Science Perspective*, Routledge 2017: 9-27.

Beyond Fukushima: Toward a Post-Nuclear Society (Trans Pacific Press 2015), "The Fukushima nuclear accident and Japan's civil society: Context, reactions, and policy impacts," *International Sociology*, 29-4:283-301, 2014.

*Constructing Civil Society in Japan: Voices of Environmental Movements* (Trans Pacific Press 2004, awarded as one of 100 Books for Understanding Contemporary Japan).