



The Launch of Japanese on the Move: Life Stories of Transmigration

11 May 2012 | The Japan Foundation, Chifley Plaza

Macquarie University researchers, Professor Ingrid Piller and Dr. Kimie Takahashi, have produced a video exhibition of the life-stories of 50 transnational people with connections to Australia and Japan. Funded by the Australia-Japan Foundation (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trading), *Japanese on the Move: Life Stories of Transmigration*, showcases their experiences with migration, settlement and belonging in order to highlight their contributions to Australian society. It is hosted by the research website, *Language on the Move*, and is open to the public at www.languageonthemove.com/japanese-on-the-move.

Prof. Piller and Dr. Takahashi are sociolinguists whose research focuses on language learning, multilingualism and intercultural communication in the contexts of migration and globalization. They have jointly conducted several other research projects devoted to the experience of Japanese people who live, work and study in Australia. They recently spoke about the making of *Japanese on the Move* on ABC Radio National's *Lingua Franca* (listen [here](#)).

Japanese on the Move originated from the researchers' recognition that the contributions of transnational people to both their country of origin and their country of residence are often overlooked. This underrepresentation makes their contribution to Australian society invisible, both to the people of Japan and of Australia.

Since October 2011, Prof. Piller and Dr. Takahashi have been adding several interviews each month to the online collection at www.languageonthemove.org, and it is now complete. To celebrate the recent completion of the project, Macquarie University is hosting a launch event on Friday 11 May. The event is sponsored by the Japan Foundation Sydney, Jetstar, Kirin Brewery Company and Yuga Floral Design Café, and catered for by Azuma Restaurant at Chifley.

The project will be officially launched by Macquarie University's Pro Vice-Chancellor for Social Inclusion, Professor Gail Whiteford. Distinguished guests will include Dr. Masahiro Kohara, Consul-General of Japan in Sydney and Greg Earl, AJF Board Member and Editor Asia Pacific for the *Australian Financial Review*. Sydney-based Japanese artist Mayu Kanamori is a featured speaker. There will also be a performance by the Satsuki Odamura Koto Ensemble and a presentation by Jetstar.

For further information and media attendance, contact Dr. Takahashi (Ph. 0406 524 970).

Launch Details | Date: Friday 11 May | **Time:** 6pm for 6:30pm start | **Venue:** The Japan Foundation, Chifley Plaza, Sydney | **Media attendance:** RSVP by emailing to kimie.takahashi@mq.edu.au