
Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPOnline

Title: From secular institution to religious organization: Shrine Shinto in postwar Japan

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Project abstract:

The purpose of this project is to investigate how Shrine Shinto institutions in Japan have responded to stipulations on secularism in Japan's postwar constitution. Written during the Allied occupation of Japan after World War II, the constitution enforces a rigid secularism according to which the state must refrain from all 'religious activity,' while also prohibiting the use of public money for the benefit of 'religious organizations.' The project is divided into two stages. During the first stage historical-archive research will be carried out to collect and analyse materials published by Shrine Shinto actors. The focus will be on materials instructing priests-in-training in how to interpret the principle of secularism in their interactions with representatives of the government. The research will also investigate how the categories of 'religion' and the 'secular' are created in these materials. The second stage of the project consists of fieldwork amongst priests at Shinto shrines. This part of the project will shed light on how Shrine Shinto actors at the grassroots level act in their everyday lives to conform to Japanese law. Despite its status as one of Japan's major religions, contemporary Shrine Shinto remains an under-researched topic, and this project will contribute new knowledge about how Shrine Shinto works on an institutional level. The project will also contribute to theoretical discussions about 'religion' and 'secularism' as universal categories.

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From secular institution to religious organization: Shrine Shinto in postwar Japan

General Information

Project Title

From Secular Institution to Religious Organization: Shrine Shinto in Postwar Japan

Project Leader

Ernils Larsson

Registration number/corresponding, date and version of the data management plan

Version

1.0

Date

2021-11-29

Description of data – reuse of existing data and/or production of new data

How will data be collected, created or reused?

This project employs a mixed methods approach for gathering data, with both quantitative and qualitative techniques.

1) In-depth semi-structured interviews. During the second half of the project (spring 2022-spring 2023), field-work will be carried out at a number of Shinto shrines in Japan. Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with shrine personnel (primarily priests, but also shrine maidens and other staff) during this period. The number of shrines will be decided during the first year of the project. Interviews will be carried out during the entire time of field-work. The total number of interviews cannot be determined beforehand, but is estimated at around 50.

2) Participatory observations. The fieldwork will also include participatory observations during various events at the shrines, including festivals and other rites. The participatory observations will be documented in the form of field notes.

3) Media articles. The project will include a full survey of the biweekly Shrine Shinto newspaper Jinja Shinpō for the entirety of its publication history (1946-). The reading will focus primarily on opinion pieces and news articles related to the 1947 constitution. The total number of media items is not yet clear, but is estimated at between 250 and 350.

4) Other printed materials. The project will also survey other printed materials published by the Shrine Shinto organization Jinja Honchō through their publishing house, Jinja Shinpō-sha, and other publishing houses. The focus is again on publications on the topic of the 1947 constitution and postwar secularism in Japan.

5) Activist documentation. Given the political nature of the questions explored in the project, a survey will also be conducted of materials produced by relevant activist groups (Jinja Honchō, Shintō Seiji Renmei, Nippon Kaigi), with a focus on activities carried out over the last two decades. This material primarily includes articles on web-pages, online videos, pamphlets, and other similar documentation. The total number of items is difficult to determine in advance, but is estimated at around 250-500.

What types of data will be created and/or collected, in terms of data format and amount/volume of data?

- 1) Audio files and transcriptions in text files. The estimated amount is 100 hours of recordings.
- 2) Participatory observations. This data will be documented in the form of field notes, recorded as text files.
- 3) Media articles. Data will be copied/printed and scanned to be saved as PDF of around 250-350 items.
- 4) Other printed materials. This material is mainly books, magazines and journals. The material will be kept as printed (physical) copies gathered during the project.
- 5) Activist documentation. Data will be saved and stored as PDF, JPG, and MP4 of between 250 and 500 items.

Documentation and data quality

How will the material be documented and described, with associated metadata relating to structure, standards and format for descriptions of the content, collection method, etc.?

- 1) Interviews will be digitally recorded after consent has been given by the participants. This data will be organized and coded according to quality standards of anonymization. Audio files will be anonymized before transcription into text files.
- 2) Field notes will be written by the PI following participatory observations. All field notes will be anonymized.
- 3) All datasets, audio, and transcriptions will be documented as name folders in the digital devices. Every file will be described in a separate document in accordance with the methodological plan.

How will data quality be safeguarded and documented (for example repeated measurements, validation of data input, etc.)?

All digital data will be managed and stored by the PI in special devices (portable memories or hard disks) acquired for this purpose. This includes all the datasets, audio files, field notes, and transcriptions. Regular updates of these files and old versions will be kept. A text document will describe the contents in detail.

Printed materials will be stored by the PI. All printed materials collected for the study will be detailed in a text document.

Storage and backup

How is storage and backup of data and metadata safeguarded during the research process?

Data will be stored on hard disks acquired by the PI for this purpose. Back-up copies will also be available. No recordings, transcriptions, or field notes will be stored on cloud services.

How is data security and controlled access to data safeguarded, in relation to the handling of sensitive data and personal data, for example?

No sensitive data is expected to be collected for this project.

All data produced and gathered for this project will be anonymized, except the secondary sources (media articles, activist documentation, printed materials, and official documents). Access to the data will be restricted to the PI.

External access to parts of the anonymized data and datasets can be publicly shared to support academic publication and dissemination of the research results.

Legal and ethical aspects

How is data handling according to legal requirements safeguarded, e.g. in terms of handling of personal data, confidentiality and intellectual property rights?

Data will be handled according to the basic guidelines of good research practice produced by the Swedish Research Council (2017) Good research practice: https://www.vr.se/download/18.5639980c162791bbfe697882/1555334908942/Good-Research-Practice_VR_2017.pdf

How is correct data handling according to ethical aspects safeguarded?

Throughout the research process, the PI will adhere to the basic guidelines of good research practice, produced by the Swedish Research Council (Swedish Research Council, 2017). An application for ethical approval will also be submitted in accordance with the Ethical Review Act (SFS 2003:460), and the updated version (SFS 2019:1144).

Accessibility and long-term storage

How, when and where will research data or information about data (metadata) be made accessible? Are there any conditions, embargoes and limitations on the access to and reuse of data to be considered?

Only parts of the data collected may be publicly accessible after analysis has been completed and the results of the research are published. Access to the data will be only allowed after permission granted by the PI.

In what way is long-term storage safeguarded, and by whom? How will the selection of data for long-term storage be made?

All collected data will be stored on special disks acquired by the PI specifically for this purpose. The PI has the ultimate responsibility to keep the data safe.

Will specific systems, software, source code or other types of services be necessary in order to understand, partake of or use/analyse data in the long term?

No specific systems will be needed to partake of the collected data. All data will be stored as PDF, JPG, MP4, or DOCX.

How will the use of unique and persistent identifiers, such as a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), be safeguarded?

Digital Object Identifier (DOI) are not needed in this study.

Responsibility and resources

Who is responsible for data management and (possibly) supports the work with this while the research project is in progress? Who is responsible for data management, ongoing management and long-term storage after the research project has ended?

The PI is responsible for keeping the dataset safe both while the project is carried out and after it has been concluded.

What resources (costs, labour input or other) will be required for data management (including storage, back-up, provision of access and processing for long-term storage)? What resources will be needed to ensure that data fulfil the FAIR principles?

The only resource needed are the digital devices on which all digital data will be stored. These will be purchased at the beginning of the project.