

Individual Presentations: Migrations (1)

The Ryukyuan state and the post-war Okinawa Migration to Bolivia.

Pedro IACOBELLI (PhD candidate, Australian National University)

This presentation aims to reveal the characteristics of the state-led “Ryukyuan Emigration Plan” to Bolivia from its conception to its realization in the early 1950s. Starting from the literature written on the topic, I focus on the structure of power behind the organization of the emigration plan, and the media coverage of the policy-making-process in the Okinawa Taimusu. Therefore my research aims to enhance our understanding of the political conditions in post-war Okinawa and also to deepen our understanding of this specific state-led migration flow.

Features of the Okinawan Migration to Mexico

MENDOZA Emma (Universidad de Colima, Mexico)

The aim of this paper is to introduce a research project on the Okinawan migration to Mexico. History of Okinawan migration to Mexico will be re-build within the framework of Mexican and Japan-Okinawa history. Some historical events will be mentioned. Features to be highlighted are: Descendants’ unawareness from which part of Okinawa their father or grandfather came from and lack of contact with their Okinawan family. Except for the *Okinawa kenjinkai* in Mexico City, in other parts of the country there is no other Okinawan group or association. The explanation is that only men arrived to Mexico in the first years of the 20th century and the one who stayed got married to Mexican women, so descendants did not learn Japanese, and needless to say Uchinaguchi. The idea of the project is not only to re-construct history but also let Okinawan descendants know about their cultural roots and uniqueness.

Being of Okinawan Ancestry in Peru and in Japan-Instrumentalizing Okinawan

Identity amongst *Nikkei* Peruvians

Ana SUEYOSHI (Utsunomiya University)

This paper explores the identity of *Nikkei* Peruvian of Okinawan ancestry in Peru and in Japan, and its transnational dynamics. As a response to the differences between the Okinawans and the Japanese from *Hondo* or mainland Japan, Peruvians of Okinawan origin have shown a two-dimension sense of belonging: reassuring their *Okinawan-ness* and their identity within the *Nikkei* community, while they present themselves as *Nikkei* or people of Japanese ancestry into Peruvian society. The *dekasegi* phenomenon has meant a transnational ground where *Nikkei* Peruvians of Okinawan ancestry could re-express their Okinawan-ness.