

科学研究費助成事業 研究成果報告書

令和 6 年 6 月 12 日現在

機関番号：34315

研究種目：基盤研究(C) (一般)

研究期間：2021～2023

課題番号：21K12385

研究課題名(和文) Community-building among foreign residents during crises and its implications on the host society: The case of Japan during the COVID-19 pandemic

研究課題名(英文) Community-building among foreign residents during crises and its implications on the host society: The case of Japan during the COVID-19 pandemic

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交付決定額(研究期間全体)：(直接経費) 3,200,000円

研究成果の概要(和文)：2023年度は毎週グループ会議を開き、研究活動・学会発表・論文出版に取り組んだ。研究の枠組みは、社会統合、予期的・多中心的ガバナンス、インターセクショナリティである。パンデミックと日本への移民についてのスコープ・レビューをまとめるため、COVID-19に関する出版物の整理に取り組んでいる。2021-2022年に収集したデータを基にパンデミックの様々な影響を分析し、成果を4つの国際/国内学会、学術論文1本の形で発表した。また、学術論文1本が査読中、論文2本と2つの章を執筆中である。さらに、5名の外国人にインタビューを行い、パンデミックが彼らの日本への長期定住の意思決定に与える影響を調査した。

研究成果の学術的意義や社会的意義

Scientific significance: development of theoretical frameworks for resilient migrant integration by analyzing migrants' vulnerabilities. Social significance: addressing the increased vulnerabilities of marginalized groups and understanding their vulnerabilities and coping mechanisms.

研究成果の概要(英文)：During 2023 the group conducted weekly meetings to discuss research activities, presentations and publications. The main frameworks of the study were set on integration processes, anticipatory and polycentric governance, and intersectionality. The group has been working on sorting publications about COVID-19, migration and Japan to finalize scoping review on the pandemic and migration narratives in Japan.

We analyzed data collected in 2021-2022 to understand the relations between migration status, gender and other categories and the varying impact of COVID-19 on them to identify vulnerable groups and information access issues. Our findings were presented at 3 international and 1 domestic conferences. We published 1 academic paper, 1 academic paper is under review, 2 articles and 2 book chapters are in the writing process. We interviewed 5 individuals: 1 Brazilian, 2 Filipinos, 2 Russians to learn about the impact of COVID-19 on their decision to settle in Japan long-term.

研究分野：sociology, migration, gender, ethnicity

キーワード：foreign residents COVID-19 pandemic integration intersectionality anticipatory governance polycentric governance tabunka kyosei ethnic communities

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1 . 研究開始当初の背景

This research project was proposed within the backdrop of the increasing frequency and severity of global economic and health crises, such as SARS, H5N1, and Ebola, as well as the 2008 financial crisis, to underscore the growing risks posed by such events to lives, livelihoods, and societal stability. The COVID-19 pandemic is a recent crisis that catalyzed the exacerbation of existing vulnerabilities and inequalities. It highlighted weaknesses in social institutions and governance frameworks, particularly in the face of neoliberal policies that prioritize individual interests over collective well-being. The pandemic disproportionately affected groups already vulnerable – women, children, homeless, refugees, and migrants. This project focused on one such group – migrants. These were long-term foreign residents of diverse backgrounds (such as Filipinos, Russian-speaking nationals, and Brazilians), residing in Japan at the beginning of the pandemic in 2020. This selection allows comprehensive examination of varied experiences and challenges faced by different groups of migrants when navigating the COVID-19 crisis. Another issue driving this project is the paralysis of governments and state apparatuses worldwide by the scale and severity of the pandemic. For this reason, the exploration of Japan's experience in coordinating multisectoral efforts to overcome crises, and the COVID-19 crisis in particular, is a valuable case study. Finally, disruption caused by COVID-19-related measures, such as social distancing and border closures, underscores the need to adapt migration and integration policies and theories within the evolving crisis landscape. Overall, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted interconnected challenges within societies, vulnerabilities faced by migrant communities, and the need for robust policy responses and multisectoral collaboration to build resilient and inclusive societies.

2 . 研究の目的

This study extrapolated experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic to enhance the efficacy of migrant integration practices within host countries and communities. It focused on understanding how countries, especially Japan, responded to the pandemic and how effective their actions were. The study also examined how migrants were affected, what help they needed, and how they managed during the pandemic. Additionally, it examined different ways migrants become part of their new communities and how these methods operate during times of crisis, such as COVID-19. The research aimed to find new insights and ideas to improve migrant support during global crises.

The study is divided into several parts. First, it investigates how major countries, including Japan, reacted to the pandemic and the success of their responses. It also explores challenges faced by foreign residents and migrant communities, identifying support they required and strategies employed to cope with difficulties. Furthermore, the research evaluates various methods through which migrants integrate into their new societies, considering how these approaches function during times of crisis. By analyzing these aspects, the study uncovers unexpected factors and identifies areas requiring further exploration in migration studies related to global crises. Through this examination, the research seeks to develop practical solutions to enhance the resilience and well-being of migrant populations in the face of future challenges.

3 . 研究の方法

This research was conducted using a mixed-method approach:

- We conducted preliminary surveys of 322 Filipinos and 86 Russian-speaking nationals to capture trends in the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on foreign residents in 2020. Surveys were conducted in Filipino/English and in Russian via Google Forms using a snowball sampling method. It allowed documentation of immediate responses and processes occurring in different sectors of society; to identify issues and explore factors associated with the pandemic that long-term foreign residents faced in Japan; as well as to define and review the main participants of integration processes in times of crisis.
- During 2021-2023 fiscal years, we collected large number of secondary academic and

media sources discussing pandemic responses in Japan and around the world. These materials are necessary to review differentiated pandemic responses, compare impacts on migrants in different regions, and analyze both public and academic narratives related to the impact of COVID-19 on migrants in Japan and other countries.

- We conducted fieldwork activities in 2021-2023 FY: fieldtrips to Hiroshima and Kurume to survey Filipinos (n=820), who live nearby Hiroshima and Fukuoka; fieldtrip to Kanto to interview Russian-speaking gatekeepers (n=4) and Brazilian nationals (n=8), fieldtrip to Nagoya to interview Filipino gatekeepers (n=4). These surveys / interviews aimed to examine the impact of the pandemic on individuals, their sources of information and support, support from local and home country government and ethnic communities; as well as how the pandemic affected their decision to live in Japan long-term.
- In 2022 FY we interviewed individuals involved in management and organization of NGOs and ethnic communities in Japan: Filipino Migrant Center, Russian-speaking community online, Takatori Community Center, and Tottori Friends to interview them on the situation of foreign residents in their respective areas.
- In 2023 FY we conducted interviews with individual migrants (n=5) to evaluate how pandemic affected their decision on settling in Japan long-term.

4 . 研究成果

This research project findings revealed several key insights.

- (1) Migration and integration policies. The absence of migration and integration policies, coupled with limited representation of foreign residents in political discourse in Japan, resulted in significant disadvantages, particularly in terms of mobility restrictions across borders during the pandemic. While foreign residents were eligible for welfare subsidies akin to Japanese nationals, the dissemination of pertinent information and application forms predominantly occurred in Japanese, exacerbating accessibility challenges and migrant vulnerability.
- (2) Sending countries. The involvement of sending countries in integration efforts was notably limited, with diasporic institutions exerting minimal influence during the crisis. Information disseminated by home governments predominantly pertained to COVID-19 border restrictions and situations in migrants' home countries rather than in the destination countries.
- (3) Ethnic communities. The findings revealed differentiated impacts and responses within migrant groups, exemplified by the contrasting experiences of Filipino, Brazilian, and Russian-speaking communities. The pandemic disrupted traditional avenues of communication and support for Filipinos (such as churches), necessitating localized initiatives to address emergent needs. Conversely, digital media emerged as a vital platform for fostering ethnic cohesion and providing support among Russian-speaking migrants. As for Brazilians, no organizational support, but mostly local group support of compatriots was distinguished.
- (4) Information support. The findings highlight the significance of information support for foreign residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. Family and social networks emerged as crucial sources of information, aiding in navigating the crisis. Social media, digital platforms and community networks played important roles in disseminating information.
- (5) Integration programs. During the pandemic, governance of migrant integration within Japanese society appeared disparate and uncoordinated, necessitating a reconstruction of relationships among involved institutions to facilitate streamlined communication and information dissemination.
- (6) Language barriers and communication challenges. Japanese language barriers posed significant communication challenges, exacerbating administrative hurdles in accessing support programs. This underscored the need for tailored approaches to information dissemination and enhanced language support mechanisms to ensure equitable access to resources and assistance.
- (7) Residence status. The findings revealed residence status vulnerabilities during COVID-19 faced not only by those on limited term visas, such as 1, 3, 5 years, but also permanent residents. As such, the limitations imposed on migrant entries to Japan as well as on those who wanted to leave the country temporarily highlighted that permanence may not be assured as migrants envisioned it.
- (8) Policy recommendations. There are several key strategies to enhance support for

foreign residents during crises: (a) enhance information dissemination and support mechanisms, using digital platforms and community networks for effective communication; (b) improve coordination among government entities and NGOs to ensure a cohesive and comprehensive response to the needs of foreign residents; (c) create tailored and focused policies to address intersectional vulnerabilities, moving away from generic approaches toward addressing challenges faced by diverse groups of migrants, such as single mothers, older migrants, international students and so on; (d) implement a more flexible and sustainable job-switching and residence status-switching schemes for foreign residents to address labor shortages.

Overall, this research was significant as it enabled the evaluation of achievements and pitfalls of crisis management and mitigation strategies among different stakeholders. These findings are important to improve crisis responses and develop necessary policies. These research findings also contribute to the development of theoretical frameworks for resilient migrant integration and citizenship studies. In terms of research findings' social significance, this research provides an essential understanding of vulnerabilities and coping mechanisms of different groups of migrants to effectively design targeted assistance and support measures. Addressing these issues supports Japan to build a cohesive and inclusive society. Furthermore, these research results are significant for future discussions of human security and the necessity of cost-effectively and efficiently addressing the needs of vulnerable groups to ensure equitable access to resources and support.

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〔産業財産権〕

〔その他〕

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6. 研究組織

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7. 科研費を使用して開催した国際研究集会

〔国際研究集会〕 計0件

8. 本研究に関連して実施した国際共同研究の実施状況

共同研究相手国	相手方研究機関