What topics have been prominent in this STS formation in different periods?

While the anthropological study of infrastructure is a fairly recent and uncommon phenomenon in Japan, there has always been a strong interest in infrastructure among Foucault-inspired urban sociologists who emphasize the way infrastructures work as apparatuses to shape and orient people's lives. In contact with STS in the early 2000s, anthropologists began to see the more complex and unpredictable sides of their existence. The Great East Japan Earthquake struck in 2011 and, as is often mentioned, infrastructure suddenly became visible to scholars. The following year, the KAKEN four-year project “Environmental Infrastructures: Comparative Ethnographic Study on Nature, Technology and Environmental Change” (PI Atsuro Morita) began. The project connected scholars from a variety of disciplines and countries through meetings and conferences.

Infrastructure

Anthropologies of Science and Technology in Japan

Namba, Miki. 2018. "Infrastructure." In Anthropologies of Science and Technology in Japan, created by Yoko Taguchi, Miki Namba, Grant Jun Otsuki, Gergely Mohacsi, Shuhei Kimura, and Miho Ishii. In STS Across Borders Gallery Exhibit, curated by Aalok Khandekar and Kim Fortun. Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science. Sydney, Australia, Aug 30-31. http://www.stsinfrastructures.org.