

Sociology

The Research and teaching in the areas of sociology covers sociology, cultural and medical anthropology, gender studies and ethnographic methods. The specific research and teaching interest lies in 1) social and medical anthropological studies on children's health and health-related decision making, 2) multicultural health education, and 3) life changes and perceptions of life and death among older women in Japan.

Associate Professor

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Interests:

Medical anthropology, Children's health, Multicultural health education, Life and death, Health ethnography

Key words:

Medical anthropology, Children, Medicine, Ethnography

1. Medical Anthropology

I engage in research and teaching in the areas of sociology, cultural and medical anthropology, gender studies and ethnographic methods. My specific research and teaching interest lies in medical anthropological studies on children's health and health-related decision making (1-4), multicultural health education (5-10) and life changes and perceptions of life and death among older women in Japan (11). My research and teaching are united by a specific focus on the health and wellbeing of socially vulnerable groups of people (12), informed by theoretical approaches drawn from humanistic medical anthropology.

2. Multicultural health education: Incorporating global anthropological issues into medical education in Japan

My research on multicultural health education has critically examined the current medical and health science curriculum offered in Japanese medical and health science schools (5-10). My aim is to incorporate global anthropological issues into medical education in Japan so as to deal with relevant real-world social issues worldwide (5). I examines two means by which anthropology can enhance the quality of medical education in Japan: One involves the integration of medical anthropology into social medicine and global health; the other promotes anthropological fieldwork in regional medical and health training (6, 9, 10)..

3. Children's health and wellbeing

My research on Children's health and wellbeing aims to understand the situation of the health status of children who are under socially and physically vulnerable conditions (1-4). I explore children's participation in their health promoting activities as well as medical treatment decisions. The study is based on long-term ethnographic case studies. Integrating a medical and applied anthropological theory into the fields of community health, child

development, and pediatric oncology, I specifically explore culturally grounded ideas of and attitudes toward child health and medicine in contemporary Japanese society and the ways in which various groups of people, including children themselves, frame the life and death and health and wellness. Current research activities include clinical ethnography of shared decision making at a university hospital's children's ward, by examining the life-world of children with hematologic cancer.

List of Main Publications from 2013 to 2018

- 1) Michinobu R: The Wellbeing of Children Living on a Remote Japanese Island. *Japanese Journal of Developmental Psychology* (2017) 28(4): 202-209 (In Japanese)
- 2) Michinobu R: The Wellbeing of Children and the Community: Interactions between Children and the Natural Environment on a Remote Japanese Island. 15th Congress of the International Society of Ethno-biology, Makerere University, Kampala Uganda, (2016) August
- 3) Michinobu R: Beyond Narrative—An Autistic Child's Bodily Representation of His Life. 7th International Conference of Health Behavioral Science, London, United Kingdom (2014) September
- 4) Michinobu R: Body, Health, and Medicine through the Eyes of School Children in Japan. *The Society for Applied Anthropology 2014 Annual Meeting in Albuquerque* (2014) March, Paper abstracts, 177
- 5) Michinobu R: Understanding and Appreciating Human Cultural Diversity: Contributions of Cultural Anthropology to Medical and Health Education. *Journal of the Japanese Society for Medical Education* (2013) 44(5): 274-278 (in Japanese)
- 6) Michinobu R: Application of Cultural Anthropological Fieldwork to Community-based Experimental Learning. *Journal of the Japanese Society for Medical Education* (2013) 44(5): 292-298 (in Japanese)

- 7) Michinobu R: Cultural background, in Lecture and Practice of Health Behavioral Science. The Japan Academy for Health Behavioral Science (2017) 3: 22-23 (In Japanese)
- 8) Michinobu R: Anthropology of Health and Medicine. Nursing Research (2016) 49(7): 552-556 (In Japanese)
- 9) Michinobu R: Advances in Anthropological Medical Education: The Benefits and Methods for Utilizing Case Scenarios Journal of the Japan Academy for Health Behavioral Science (2015) 33(1): 16-21 (In Japanese)
- 10) Michinobu R: Common Values as Nurtured in the Field — A Method of Nurturing Perspectives based on the Humanities and Social Sciences in Medical Education in Japan. Journal of the Japanese Society for Medical Education (2015) 46(4): 322-328
- 11) Michinobu R: Coping with the Aging Process: Lifestyles of Elderly Women Engaged in Voluntary Works at a Family Clinic in Sapporo City. Hokkaido Journal of Bioethics (2018) 6:30-34 (in Japanese)
- 12) Michinobu R: A Prospective Policy Analysis of HIV/AIDS Policies and Measures in Japanese Multinational Corporations. Bulletin of School of Health Sciences, Sapporo Medical University (2015) 6: 17-33