

Editorial: Sustaining the International Voice of Japanese Archaeology

The *Japanese Journal of Archaeology* (JJA) has served as a critical window into the ongoing research and discoveries in Japanese archaeology, offering an international platform for academic exchange and collaboration. Since its inception as the official English journal of the Japanese Archaeological Association (JAA), JJA has played an instrumental role in bridging the gap between Japanese and global archaeological discourse. However, the journal is currently facing financial difficulties due to the failure to secure KAKENHI funding from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, which had originally provided the financial foundation for its publication.

Recognizing the vital importance of JJA in fostering international engagement, the JAA has made the significant decision to provide an extraordinary budget to ensure the continued publication of Volume 12. This commitment underscores the Association's determination to sustain and strengthen JJA as a pillar of the internationalization of Japanese archaeology. Moving forward, efforts will be directed toward consolidating JJA's status and exploring long-term financial sustainability, ensuring that this valuable platform continues to thrive.

Volume 12 features two original articles that exemplify the journal's dedication to high-quality, topical research of international significance. The first article, by Corey Tyler Noxon, examines the population dynamics of the Middle Jōmon period using paleodemographic methods. Noxon's study focuses on the boom-and-bust population pattern observed in the Kanto and Chubu regions and employs skeletal analyses to test whether these fluctuations reflect true demographic changes rather than shifts in residential mobility. By applying juvenility index values and Monte Carlo simulations, the study provides compelling evidence that the observed demographic trends represent actual population shifts, rather than being mere artifacts of settlement patterns. This research offers an important methodological advancement in Jōmon period studies and contributes to broader discussions in demographic archaeology.

The second article, by Takamuku Hirofumi and colleagues, investigates human mobility during the Yayoi period through an interdisciplinary analysis of skeletal remains from the Doigahama site. By combining strontium isotope analysis with cranial morphological studies, the authors trace the movements of individuals buried in the western burial area of the site. Their findings indicate that certain individuals had migrated from isotopically distinct regions before settling at Doigahama, offering new insights into population dynamics and cultural interactions during the Yayoi period. This study enriches our understanding of prehistoric mobility in Japan and highlights the potential of bioarchaeological approaches in reconstructing ancient lifeways.

The publication of Volume 12 marks a pivotal moment for JJA. While the journal continues to face financial challenges, the JAA's decision to support its continuation reflects a strong commitment to the internationalization of Japanese archaeology. Moving forward, we remain dedicated to ensuring the journal's sustainability and impact. We extend our sincere gratitude to the authors, reviewers, and readers who contribute to making JJA a vital forum for archaeological scholarship.

We hope that the studies presented in this volume will stimulate further discussions and collaborations across disciplines and borders, reinforcing the role of JJA as a leading voice in the field of Japanese archaeology.

MIZOGUCHI Koji

Acting Chief-Editor, *Japanese Journal of Archaeology*