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Modernizing Chinese Communities: All that is Solid Cremates into Ashes? Why care for (Whom) those at the ending of (human) life (EOL)? The Care for the ending phase of human life is embedded with two contesting, sometimes contradictory, dynamic specifics which are over a long historical span from pre-modernist of cultural and customs to hyper-modern high-tech in East Asia: traditional virtues of caring the others ~ originated from human love with the art of loving encounter the agglomerated new technologies and know-how of bio-medicine within a wider policy framework of public health and welfare services. The arguably dualistic structure / dynamics of intertwining old virtues (of Chineseess?) with versus or against new technologies not just pose ethical and normative choices-driven dilemma and paradox for all stakeholders, but also presenting a challenge for the state to pursue policy initiatives for enhancing social well-being at large. Deriving from recent research on EOL and case studies on “ hospice” care, this work-in-progress paper examines the contradictions of modernizing living and dying processes in Chinese communities (Hong Kong under colonial-capitalism and mainland China under state-nationalist-socialist), with reference to the Three-Level-Structure of Analysis on the socio-technological innovations — the problems of techno-determinism, and emphasizing the socio-spirituality aspects of humanity, it highlights the manifestations of the social shaping of the end-of-life care, under the bio-medical technological care regime. Initial findings show that, due to differential modernization exposures in terms of customs, belief and knowledge, the concerned parties (professional carers and the relatives of the dying one) act differently, if not contradictory, within their own self-referential logic, belief and emotions. This is especially evident as the gate-keeping function of bio-medical regime for diagnosis, prognostication and certificating dying-to-death has been increasingly instrumental to define, as well as shaping, the ending process of human physical life, even without an explicit nor a well elaborated-shared ethical-normative framework. This brief ends with critical remarks on interactive-engaging processes for the dying and living life course, juxtaposing the re-constitution of old/new social relations; that have to be evolved by the people, based upon veteran and emerging social virtues and reciprocity.

This study aims to estimate prefectural corresponding child maltreatment rates of 2005 in Japan and examine variations in regions using the binomial-beta hierarchical Bayesian model with Markov chain Monte Carlo sampling (MCMC). We apply the model to the data reporting prefectural count numbers of correspondences to child maltreatment rates in 2005 and the population date of children aged 19 or younger in 2005. The results reveal that the model provides better estimates for prefectural corresponding child maltreatment rates. Urban regions tend to have higher estimates than rural areas.

This study aimed to evaluate the suicide prevention gatekeeper training program for the Japanese Protestant clergy using a Pre-Post design. The participants of the program completed an 11 item-scale to measure supposedly three domains: knowledge and readiness of working with those who are suicidal and the bereaved, and attitudes on suicide. A principal component analysis of the 11 items yielded 2 components named “self-efficacy of working with those who are suicidal and the bereaved,” and “attitudes on suicide.” The subscale of “self-efficacy” had a high level of reliability as measured by Cronbach’s α = .894, while the subscale of “attitudes on suicide” had a low level of reliability (α = .584). A paired sample t-test was employed to examine whether there was a significant difference between in pre and post test scores for “self-efficacy.” Results showed a significant increase between in pre and post test scores for “self-efficacy” (t(11)=8.00, p<.000). Implications of the results and recommendations for improvements for the program were discussed.
The core problem of Japan's post-war politics in general and security in particular is the discrepancy between Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan, which stipulates the renunciation of war, non-possession of armed forces, including other war potential, and denial of the right of belligerency, on the one hand, and the presence of growing armed forces, on the other. The controversy over Article 9 has been perennial, dividing the nation ever since the Constitution was imposed on Japan by the Supreme Commander of the Allied Occupying Powers in 1946. Post-war progressive political parties have harped on the preservation of Article 9 while acquiescing in the US's armed forces. The schizophrenic state of mind in Japanese political predilection haunted by the bogey of a "militarism" ghost. As a result, Japan's foreign policy has suffered as it has been constrained by its own limited rights of state while it has increasingly been incorporated into the global strategic design of the United States. This article suggests the amendment of the Constitution, Article 9(2) in particular, in order to cure the present abnormal situation and to bring the Japanese Self-Defense Forces out of the closet into the open and to subject them properly to the principle of civilian control. That would herald the end of post-war politics.

A nation's capacity to govern depends on its capacity to budget. The budget is the most important policy vehicle for affecting countries' economic and social priorities. The US public's strong participation in the budget process (via citizens' groups, think tanks and congressional representatives) is the most resilient part of American democracy. The important step to democratizing the budgeting process in the United States was the creation of a non-partisan, independent, policy analysis institution: the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). The legislature can influence the budget by asking substantial questions and by debating priorities based on information provided by CBO. These critical arguments are imperative in the budgeting process. For democratic policy debates, policy-makers, especially politicians, should have information, data and numbers studied and developed by an institution which has strong analytical capacity. Long term national financial and budget reform in Japan's government is inevitable due to the drastic growth of the aging population and declining birth rate, and long stagnated economy with huge disasters in 2011. However, current budget debates in the parliament, unfortunately enough, only serve ideological and partisan politics, because of the lack of information, numbers, and policy options. The reality of the Japanese policy arena is: no policy research, no analysis, and no evaluation. The very concept of policy analysis and evaluation is unknown not only within the government, but also even policy-makers. Politicians think that they can make policies with several days, or weeks' effort. Regarding the budget policy making, the administration and the governing party have long been dependent on the power and knowledge of the Ministry of Finance. Due to the one-party dominance of administration a long, there was no serious search for non-partisan, independent analysis and objective numbers. In contrast with the United States, policy analysis is not an established discipline within Japanese academia, and until very recently Japanese university's public policy studies had no structured policy analysis and evaluation. No training ground has existed to nurture strong policy analysts either inside or outside of the government to carry out objective and practical policy research. Japan needs to meet the challenges of the changing world and it can accomplish this by introducing democratic mechanisms with which Japan can build its own policy making capability. A key ingredient in producing that capacity is, first, to found a nonpartisan, subservient but independent of Parliament institution that is able to provide timely objective policy analysis and evaluation through the team efforts of policy analysts. Founding the institution will be a breakthrough in democratizing the budget and policy-making in Japan.

This paper explores the issue of cultural representation at museums with a special focus on their transformation as they move from the colonial to post–colonial era. How has the role, identity and strategy of the museum representation changed? In the evolution of museums how do we see the decolonization process in the field of 'exhibiting cultures'? The political nature of cultural representation has been an essential subject in the analysis of colonialism. The process of decolonization in indigenous politics, thus, concerns the issue of representation of indigenous culture and history. The museum, as a colonial legacy, is particularly contested in terms of how 'culture' is collected, interpreted, and exhibited. Through representation of 'other' cultures, museums have played a symbolic role in contributing to the political ideology of the time, serving as a barometer of ethnic power relations in the community, society or nation. Throughout the 20th century, colonial museums were forced to transform their mission according to the ideological demand of the political environment regarding 'cultures.' From the colonial to post-colonial era, their mission has changed: progressing from spokesmen on behalf of a colonial power, to the authority of academia, and then to the community/public educator. Today, in the 21st century, due to the rise of ethnic consciousness and political movements, the museum can serve as an orator that gives voice to cultural minorities who used to be the object of exhibit. The post-modern museum is expected to be the arena for a dialogue among different cultures, in other words, truly a "contact zone" which would allow negotiations for indigenous cultures to decolonize themselves.
### Research Note

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**Title**
Contrastive Rhetoric and What it Can Teach Us About Using Students’ L1 to Scaffold their L2 Academic Writing

**Abstract**  
ESL writing teachers in Japan spend considerable time conceptualizing, planning and delivering English courses. Course content is usually matched to the students’ general level of competency in English. There is an assumption that students in higher-level classes will have a better command of English than those students in lower level classes. Consequently the content of higher-level courses in English writing composition addresses more advanced elements of academic essay construction. Unfortunately current research (McKinley, 2010) suggests that many students, of all levels, struggle with academic writing because they have never received adequate writing instruction beyond sentence structure, even in their first language. Consequently students are not easily able to understand and construct the more complex structures involved in writing an academic paper. ESL teachers have to backtrack and provide specific instruction on the basic structure of English composition before addressing more complex writing skills. In this process, one of the more challenging tasks of an ESL writing teacher is to develop their student’s metacognitive awareness (Hyland, 2008) of the strategies they use to write so that students can reflect critically on their own writing. This paper discusses the current trends in the field of contrastive rhetoric and examines what it can teach us about how we should design academic writing classes for Japanese university students. Through a greater understanding of what their students already know it is hoped that teachers will be better equipped to design and implement classes that help their students develop as competent academic writers in both English and Japanese.