

## Abstract

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### New Japanese Cultural Communities in Australia

The extent to which Japanese have meshed culturally with the outside world accelerated rapidly during the 1990s. Whereas only one in 200 Japanese married a non-Japanese national in 1980, the figure is now one in 15-20. A study conducted in North America in the early 1980s indicated that the Japanese were the Asian ethnic group most likely to marry outside the group. Although there has been a good number of studies of inter-marriages, and even studies on the outcomes for children of such marriages in terms of social mobility and other aspects related to life chances, much less attention has been given to the interaction that occurs through cultural activity. In ideas floated earlier in 2004 and 2005 with Alison Tokita and in an ARC grant submitted earlier this year with Craig Norris, I have played with the notion of studying (Japanese) cultural communities--groups engaged in activities originating in one Japanese tradition or another that have now become an important arena in which Japanese and non-Japanese interact.

In this brief 15-minute presentation I wish to point to a few of the research questions which emerge from a superficial consideration of such communities. In the presentation I will seek to indicate some of the ways that the interest in cultural communities has flown from other seemingly unrelated research interests and activities over the past few years.