

# Current Activities of the Ohara Institute

## Publishing

(1) *The Japan Labour Yearbook (Nihon rōdō nenkan)*: First issued in 1920, this is Japan's longest running specialized yearbook series. As of 2025, the series ran to 95 volumes, including two special publications covering World War II. The yearbook records the conditions of labour economy, management policies and labour relations, the state of labour and social movements, and labour and social policies in the year prior to its publication.



*The Japan Labour Yearbook, Volume 95, published June 2025.*

(2) *The Journal of the Ohara Institute for Social Research (Ohara shakai mondai kenkyūjō zasshi)*: Published monthly by Hosei University Press, the journal is one of Japan's leading peer-reviewed academic journals in the fields of labour studies, industrial relations, and other fields of social science and history. The journal accepts submissions of articles in Japanese by scholars in Japan and abroad. As of July 2025, the journal has published 801 issues.



The 800<sup>th</sup> issue of *The Journal of the Ohara Institute for Social Research*, published June 2025.

(3) The Ohara Institute for Social Research (OISR) publication series (*Kenkyūjō sōsho*): This book series publishes one edited volume on a unique topic each year. Edited volumes in this series publish results of research activities (research groups and joint research projects) organized by the Institute. Since 2018, the series has published the following Japanese-language books:

*Japan and Ukraine, Distant Yet Close Partners: Historical Ties, Contemporary Challenges and Future Prospects* (edited by Rikako Shindo and OISR, Hosei University Press, 2025).

*The Destiny of Proletarian Parties: Social Democracy in Japan* (edited by Kazue Enoki and OISR, Hosei University Press, 2024).

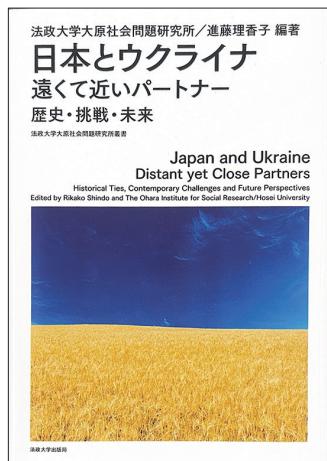
*Styles of the "Debate": On Japanese Capitalism and its Governing Apparatuses* (edited by Yutaka Nagahara, Gavin Walker, and OISR, Hosei University Press, 2023).

*Workers and Pollution/Environmental Issues* (Edited by Akira Suzuki and OISR, Hosei University Press, 2021).

*A Hundred Years of the Ohara Institute for Social Research* (edited by OISR, Hosei University Press, 2020).

*The Japan Socialist Party and Sohyo, Their Trajectory and Activities: Oral Histories of 20 Activists* (edited by Hitoshi Igarashi, Masashi Kishita, and OISR, Junposha, 2019).

*Labour and Life during the Wartime Period* (edited by Kazue Enoki and OISR, Hosei University Press, 2018).



*Japan and Ukraine, Distant Yet Close Partners: Historical Ties, Contemporary Challenges and Future Prospects* (Hosei University Press, 2025)

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## (4) Reprints of Newspapers by Political Parties and Labour Unions

- Reprint of *Jikatabi* (Newspaper of the All Japan Free Labour Union) (1947-1971), 5 volumes, published by Kingendai shiryō kankōkai, 2024.
- Centrist Proletarian Party Newspapers: Newspapers of the Japan Labour-Farmer Party, the Japan Mass Party, the National Masses Party, and the National Labour-Farmer Masses Party (1928-1932), 2 volumes, published by Kohaku shobō, 2024.
- Newspapers of the Social Democratic Party and the Social Masses Party (1927-1940), 5 volumes, published by Sannin-sha, 2019-2020.

## Exhibitions

(1) “Let Our Voices Be Heard: Portraits of Japan’s Postwar Labourers as Depicted in Posters from the OISR Collection” (From February to March 2025, held at Komaba Museum, University of Tokyo and Waseda Gallery).

(2) “Raicho and the Era of the Women’s Movement” Exhibition of the Hiratsuka Raicho Collection (From August to October 2024, held at the exhibition room of the Ohara Institute).

(3) The Ohara Institute for Social Research Centennial Exhibitions (From May 2018 to March 2020, held at the exhibition room of the Ohara Institute).

- The First Exhibition: Iwasaburo Takano, Founding Director of the Ohara Institute, and his Brother, Fusataro Takano.
- The Second Exhibition: the 100th Anniversary of the 1918 Rice Riots.
- The Third Exhibition: Poster Exhibition.
- The Fourth Exhibition: Materials on Sakai Toshihiko, Kondo Magara, and Kondo Kenji.
- The Fifth Exhibition: Valuable Books Collections (Rare Books and the Eltzbacher Collection on Anarchism).
- The Six Exhibition: Tsukishima Survey.
- The Seventh Exhibition: Suiheisha.
- The Eighth Exhibition: From Osaka to Tokyo: The Ohara Institute for Social Research’s Move from Osaka to Tokyo and its Merger with Hosei University.

(4) Special Exhibition: The Forerunner of Research on Social Problems: From the Establishment of the Ohara Institute for Social Research to its Merger with Hosei University (From October 1 to October 20, 2019, held at the exhibition room in Boissonade Tower on Hosei University Ichigaya Campus).



The Ohara Institute for Social Research Centennial Exhibitions, Poster Exhibition

## The Symposium on International Labour Issues

Each autumn, the International Labour Organization’s Japan Office and the Ohara Institute co-sponsor the Symposium on International Labour Issues (ILO Symposium). The theme of the symposium generally draws from the agenda of the International Labour Conference held earlier in the same year, particularly an item whose theme is relevant to current labour issues in Japan. The symposium opens with a statement of positions on the theme discussed at the International Labour Conference by representatives of the government, management, and labour. This is followed by research presentations on the same theme by academics and other specialists. The most recent symposium, the 38th in the series, was held in October 2025.

- The 38<sup>th</sup> Symposium on International Labour Issues, Platform Economy: Our Style of Working under the New Economic System (October 14, 2025)
- The 37<sup>th</sup> Symposium on International Labour Issues, Toward a Renewed Social Contract (October 15, 2024).
- The 36<sup>th</sup> Symposium on International Labour Issues, Decent Work under the Circular Economy: Toward Just Transition (October 24, 2023, hybrid format).
- The 35<sup>th</sup> Symposium on International Labour Issues, The Labour of Seafarers and Distribution of Goods: Supply Chains That Support Our Daily Life (October 17, 2022, hybrid format).
- The 34<sup>th</sup> Symposium on International Labour Issues, Sustainable Recovery from the COVID-19 Crisis and Skills Development: Reskilling/Upskilling (October 14, 2021, online).
- The 33<sup>rd</sup> Symposium on International Labour Issues, Toward a Better Future of Work after

the COVID-19 Crisis: Sectoral Responses and Social Dialogue (December 2, 2020, online).

- The 32<sup>nd</sup> Symposium on International Labour Issues, Commemorating the ILO's Centenary (November 11, 1919, held at Osaka City Central Public Hall).
- The 31<sup>st</sup> Symposium on International Labour Issues, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) & Decent Work (October 4, 2018).

### OISR Cinema Forum

The Ohara Institute for Social Research holds screenings of films that address social and labour issues. In addition to showing the film, the Cinema Forum invites the directors of each film to give talks on the filmmaking process. The forum is held on the Hosei University Tama Campus and is open to students, faculty, staff, and members of the local community.

The fifteenth OISR Cinema Forum was held on November 29, 2023. The forum screened the documentary *Hama no don*, a film about a movement initiated by the most influential figure in the port industry in Yokohama in alliance with citizens to oppose the construction of casinos in the port of Yokohama. Fumie Matsubara, the film's director, gave a post-screening talk on the film.

### Surveys, Research Activities, and Joint Research Groups (as of July 2025)

- Research Group on Environment and Labour
- Research Group on Unemployment Projects in Postwar Japan

- Research Group on Social Policies
- Research Group on International Labour Organization
- Research Group on Feminist Economics
- Research Group on Politics, Diplomacy, and Progressive Efforts in Postwar Japan
- Joint Research Project on Comparative Studies Between European and Japanese Concepts of Women
- Joint Research Project on the Current State and Future Prospects of Basic Income Movements Within Structures Promoting SDGs
- Joint Research Project on Diversification of Labour Supplies: Legal Issues Concerning Labour Dispatching

### Website

In December 1996, the Ohara Institute for Social Research established a website (oISR.org) to give the public access to a wide range of the Institute's documents and materials. This website was redesigned and updated in May 2015. It provides access to a searchable database of books, newspapers, periodicals, and primary materials owned by the Institute. The website also provides access to the Institute's poster collection (about 5,500 posters) and access to back issues of monthly and yearly publications, including *The Journal of the Ohara Institute for Social Research* and the *Japan Labour Yearbook*.

Japanese website: <https://oISR.org.ws.hosei.ac.jp/>  
 English website: <https://oISR.org.ws.hosei.ac.jp/english/>



Poster of the Fifteenth OISR Cinema Forum



Poster of the 38th Symposium on International Labour Issues