

MAX PLANCK RESEARCH GROUP “Ageing in a Time of Mobility”

Lecture Series 2021

Zoom Webinar



Monday, 21 June 2021, 15:00-16:15 (CEST)

JASON DANELY (Oxford Brookes University)

Vulnerability and Care: an anthropology of the good, the bad, and the ugly?

Vulnerability is a fundamental aspect of the human condition, giving rise to the need for care in various forms. Yet in reality, we are not all vulnerable in the same way, and not all vulnerabilities are equally recognised or cared for. Moreover, whilst care can be a practice that gives, sustains and affirms life, caring relations and arrangements are not always as benign as we may assume. Furthermore, as social institutions take up the language of ‘vulnerability’ for different political projects, such as humanitarian aid or social welfare, those receiving care are further separated into the more or less deserving, the good subject of care and the bad one. This talk will consider the variable meanings, manifestations and implications of ‘vulnerability’ and ‘care’, examining their complex relationship, and asking how rethinking vulnerability and care may help us to challenge prevailing notions of power, violence, security and well-being. Rather than proposing a vulnerability as a master narrative of care, I will introduce four thematic areas that provide a basis for anthropological engagement with other disciplines concerned with vulnerability and care, and argue for a transdisciplinary approach.

Jason Danely is Senior Lecturer in Anthropology of Japan at Oxford Brookes University. He completed his PhD in Anthropology at the University of California, San Diego. Before joining Brookes in 2014, Dr.



Danely held teaching posts at Rhode Island College and Grand Valley State University, and received Post-doctoral Fellowships from The Center on Age and Community (University of Wisconsin Milwaukee), and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (Kyoto University). His research expertise relates to ageing and care in Japan, where he has at various times taught, studied, performed theatre, travelled, meditated and raised children, over the last twenty years. Publications include the co-edited volume *Vulnerability and the Politics of Care: Transdisciplinary Dialogues*, Oxford University Press (2021) (with V. Browne and D. Rosenow) and the monograph *Ageing and Loss: Mourning and Maturity in Contemporary Japan*, Rutgers University Press (2015).

Please register with Antje Menster (Menster@mmg.mpg.de) to obtain the pre-circulated readings and the Zoom credentials.



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