

Title	地域コミュニティにおける共同性の成立過程の解明と自立的共同性モデルの提案—新参加者の意識と行動の変容に着目して—
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論文の内容の要旨

In conventional regional society research, a wealth of literature captures communality in so-called “Mura societies,” where homogeneity and closed spaces are the premises. The argument is that the importance of “community” has been overlooked.

We live in a “mobility society” premised on movement, and our lives are a collection of attempts by diverse peoples to come together and realize some form of collaboration. With improvements in the mobile environment, the options for places (regions) in which to put these experiments into practice are expanding. Such selective joint opportunities are predicated on the region being open to and accepting different types of human resources. The collaboration developed here does not necessarily assume a public nature but also includes communality based on private desires. Traditionally, the concepts of publicness and communality have been considered to have no “intersection,” but Tanaka argues that it is necessary to create publicness from communality (2003; 2010). This point does not mean “passive communality” that supports public nature but rather communality that has a more positive meaning as an “autonomous realm.”

Focusing on the process by which people from outside the region settle into local communities, this study attempts to empirically analyze the path by which communality, which should be an independent entity, creates publicness.

Symbolized by the recent rise of social entrepreneurs and emergence of digital nomads, there have been signs of changes in the way people in local communities live and work. Many of them are involved in the local area from outside the area not only for entertainment and experiences in the area they visit but also for a variety of purposes, such as business success and a better way of living and working.

As our society faces a full-scale population decline, securing people to take on the responsibility of community development is an important issue; however, owing to factors such as the aging of those responsible and a lack of successors, it has become difficult to maintain local communities with only local human resources. At the same time, traditional community development has been viewed as an activity that aims to resolve regional issues with public interest in mind. However, in recent years, clinging to activities that have a public nature as a given condition has the potential to trivialize or overlook the existence of human resources who are newly involved in local communities for a variety of purposes.

Therefore, we define “newcomers” as human resources who newly enter a specific region based on a variety of motivations. We thus elucidate the process by which communality is established between newcomers and the local community. Here, the establishment of communality means the establishment of autonomous communality based on the creation of a public nature. In addition, the creation of publicness refers to a state in which multiple entities constituting a local community generate the “nature and value of public spaces and assets (including information)” (Hasegawa et al., 2003).

Previous research on the human resources involved in local communities is typified by endogenous development, outsider, and population theories. These studies mainly take the perspective of the local side toward human resources outside the local area, including the endogenous development of the local side, the utilization of human resources from outside the local area, and collaboration with human resources from outside the local area (purposeful collaboration) to elucidate “the process of establishing a sense of community between newcomers and the local community.” By contrast, we focus on the perspective of newcomers who are outside the local community.

In Chapter 4, a quantitative survey was conducted on 700 newcomers nationwide. Using the established hypothesis model, a multiple indicator model was employed to conduct covariance structure analysis to verify the causal relationships of various scales representing changes in awareness and behavior towards the region and experiences in the region. In Chapter 5, a qualitative survey was conducted on newcomers utilizing the Regional Cooperation Team system, who enter the region anew, and 17 local stakeholders. The analysis focused on the changes in awareness and behavior that occur for newcomers and the local community during the process of establishing mutual cooperation between newcomers and the local community.

This research will clarify the “reality of creating communality from communality,” “discovery of creating proactive communality (independent communality),” and “creation of new communality based on the decline of local strength.” The theoretical significance of these points is the “transition” and “discovery of a new existence that crosses the border between the related population and the interacting population.”

The process through which communality is formed between newcomers and local communities has not yet been elucidated in conventional research fields. The present attempt to do so is significant in terms of accepting diverse human resources visiting from outside the region as new leaders of the region and rebuilding local ownership. The insights herein are expected to make academic and practical contributions to the sustainable development of Japan and other East Asian countries—both domestically and internationally—which are facing serious population decline through falling birthrates and rapid aging.

Keywords: local community, community development, communality, publicness, newcomers

論文審査の結果の要旨

本論文は、自立的な存在であるべき共同性が、共性を創出していく道筋を、地域外人材の地域コミュニティへの定着過程に着目することで、実証的に分析する試みである。近年の社会起業家の台頭やデジタルノマドの出現は、地域に関わる人々の生き方や働き方に変化を与えた。彼らの多くは訪れる地域での娯楽や体験に留まらず、ビジネスの成功やより良い生き方、働き方等多様な目的で、地域外から地域に関与する。本格的な人口減少社会を迎え地域づくりの担い手確保は重要課題であり、担い手の高齢化や継承者不足などの理由により地域内の人材だけで地域を維持することは難しくなっている。

この論文の中では、多様な動機にもとづいて特定地域に新たに関わる人材を「新参者」と定義し、新参者と地域側との共同性の成立過程を解明することを目的としている。地域に関わる人材を捉えた先行研究は、内発的発展論やよそ者論、関係人口論に代表される。先行研究では、主に地域側から地域外人材に向けた視点で議論されており、地域側の内発的な発展や地域外人材の活用、地域外人材との協働（目的化した共同）が議論されてきた。しかし本論文では、地域側の視点に加え、地域外人材である新参者の視点にも着目し考察を試みている。

その結果、共同性から公共性創出の実態の解明、積極的共同性（自立した共同性）創出の発見、地域側の勢力の衰退を前提とした新たな共同性構築への移行、関係人口と交流人口を越境する新たな存在の発見、以上 4 点の理論的意義が示唆された。また従来の研究領域では解明されてこなかった新参者と地域との共同性の成立過程の解明を試みた本研究からは、地域外から来訪する多様な人材を地域の新たな担い手として受容し、地域主体を再構築する必要性を指摘した点において意義がある。日本や東アジア諸国をはじめ、今後本格的な人口減少や少子高齢化問題に直面する国内外地域の持続的発展に、学術的貢献と実務的貢献を果たすことが期待される。本論文は、この地域を取り巻く状況の変化とそれによって構築されるべき新たな関係性に着目した点で新規性がある。

以上、本論文は自立的な存在であるべき共同性が、共性を創出していく道筋を、地域外人材の地域コミュニティへの定着過程に着目し、全国アンケート調査および地域事例調査から実証的に分析した。その結果から、知識科学的視点をを用いて、地域外からの関与者が地域に定着していく過程を考察したものであり、この分野における学術的貢献は大きい。よって博士(知識科学)の学位論文として十分価値あるものと認めた。