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December's featured speakers

「US News Media Representation of Economic Integration between China and Japan」

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「Brazilians in Japan: Identity Redefining Processes and Media Representations」

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Abstract

When investigating the impacts of regional integration, it is important not to neglect how the process affects non-regional countries, especially those with interests in the given region. For Northeast Asia, one of many non-regional countries with such an interest is the United States. Given the importance of Northeast Asia to the US, we could expect changes brought about by regional integration, in the relationships between regional countries and the subsequent ramifications for the US, to be reported on in the US news media. This study employs a longitudinal (2002-2006) analysis of economics-related articles written about China and Japan in the *New York Times*. Assuming that China and Japan became more integrated economically over this time period, the aim of the study is to assess 1) how the relationships between the two countries are shown to have changed, and 2) what consequences and opportunities for the US appear as a result of these changes. Implications for how the US news media might continue to portray integration between the two countries and the impact this portrayal might have on mechanisms of US regional behavior are also considered.

If transnational migrants can be seen as taking part in a world economically globalized, thus in some cases forming new transnational elites, an important part of them do not benefit from this privileged status. The case of Japanese Brazilians, who have been migrating towards Japan since the early 1990's, exemplifies this phenomenon: while some of them are managing to define themselves as first class travelers, or transnational business owners, the others, most of them being dekassegui (unqualified temporary workers) find themselves caught in an « in-between » causing them to constantly move back and forth from Japan to Brazil although only seeing themselves as Brazilians. This presentation aims to show how, in the case of Japanese Brazilians, the question of political identity has been, from the start (the modification of the Japanese immigration law in 1990), at the core of their migration: it is indeed likely that the way they define themselves as transnational migrants or Brazilians on the return or again Brazilians living and working in Japan, etc., and are being defined by the media and the political authorities of both countries will influence the future of the Brazilian community living in Japan. This will allow us to examine the role played by the ethnic Portuguese-written media both from the Brazilian and the Japanese side in this identity redefining process and to show how it somewhat serves the economic and political interests of the states. While emphasis is very often put on cultural differences, each part representing the other as radically different, the emergence of Japanese-Brazilian cultural productions allowing cultural borders to be crossed questions these representations and emphasizes the influence of this Japanese experience on migrants' identity.