Science for Governing Japan’s Population

Twenty-first-century Japan is known for the world’s most aged population. Faced with this challenge, Japan has been a pioneer in using science to find ways of managing a declining birth rate. *Science for Governing Japan’s Population* considers the question of why these population phenomena have been seen as problematic. What roles have population experts played in turning this demographic trend into a government concern? Aya Homei examines the medico-scientific fields around the notion of population that developed in Japan from the 1860s to the 1960s, analyzing the role of the population experts in the government’s effort to manage its population. She argues that the formation of population sciences in modern Japan had a symbiotic relationship with the development of the neologism, “population” (jinkō), and with the transformation of Japan into a modern sovereign power. Through this history, Homei unpacks assumptions about links between population, sovereignty, and science. This title is also available as Open Access.

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Science in History is a major series of ambitious books on the history of the sciences from the mid-eighteenth century through the mid-twentieth century, highlighting work that interprets the sciences from perspectives drawn from across the discipline of history. The focus on the major epoch of global economic, industrial and social transformations is intended to encourage the use of sophisticated historical models to make sense of the ways in which the sciences have developed and changed. The series encourages the exploration of a wide range of scientific traditions and the interrelations between them. It particularly welcomes work that takes seriously the material practices of the sciences and is broad in geographical scope.
Science for Governing Japan’s Population

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