

Robert Nordström

Waseda University

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Tokyo 169-8050 JAPAN

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Associate, Waseda University, School of Political Science and Economics (Current position)

Period: 2024 - 2027

Research fellow (DC2), Japan Society for the Promotion of Sciences (JSPS)

Period: 2022 – 2024

EDUCATION

Doctoral degree, Political Science, Waseda University, Ongoing

Concentrations: Contemporary politics, Japanese politics

Dissertation: The effect uncontested elections have on the quality of Democracy in Japan

Dissertation advisers: Kohno Masaru PhD., Hino Airo PhD.

M.A., Political Science, Waseda University, 2019

Concentrations: Contemporary politics, Japanese politics

Thesis: Dynastic Politics: Political Competition and Voter Turnout in Japanese Elections

Dissertation advisers: Ueda Michiko PhD., Kohno Masaru PhD.

B.A., Political Science, Swedish School of Social Science, Helsinki University, 2017

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Local politics, electoral studies, Uncontested elections, Accountability, Politician behavior, Japanese politics

Secondary interests: Sexual minorities, LGBTQ rights, Same-sex marriage, Suicide, Mental health, Loneliness

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (Language of instruction)

Teaching Associate, Waseda University, 2020 –

Courses: Introduction to Political Analysis (English/Japanese)

Teaching Assistant, Waseda University, 2019 –

Courses: Comparative Democratization (English), Research Methods in Political Science (English)

TEACHING AWARD

Certificate of Appreciation - Waseda University Teaching Award 2021

Award for work as teaching assistant in course “Introduction to Political Science 01” (English).

PUBLICATIONS

Ueda, M., Nordström, R., & Matsubayashi, T. (2021). Suicide and mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic in Japan. *Journal of public health* (Oxford, England), fdab113. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1093/pubmed/fdab113>

Badman, R.P., Nordström, R., Ueda, M. et al. (2022) Perceptions of social rigidity predict loneliness across the Japanese population. *Scientific Reports* 12, 16073. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-20561-5>

Nordström, R. (2024). The effects of uncontested elections on legislative speechmaking: An analysis of legislative performance in Japan’s prefectural assemblies. *Electoral Studies*, 87, 102732. doi:10.1016/j.electstud.2023.102732

PRESENTATIONS

Nordström, R (2021). “*Kokusei senkyo no seitoukan-kyousou ga mutohyo-tousen ni motarasu eikyou – Todofuken gikai no keiryuu bunseki* (The effect national voting patterns have on the occurrence of uncontested seats – Evidence from Japanese prefectural assemblies)”. Presented as poster at the annual conference of the Japanese Association of

Electoral Studies (JAES)

Nordström, R (2022). "Does the continuous pressure of facing competitive elections force legislators to work harder?: An analysis of politicians' performance in Japanese prefectural assemblies". Presented at the annual conference of the Japanese Association of Electoral Studies (JAES)

Nordström, R (2023). "The effect uncontested mayoral elections have on the municipal spending decisions" (in Japanese) Presented at the annual conference of the Japanese Association of Electoral Studies (JAES) May 20-21.

Nordström, R & Gonoï, K (2023) "Exploring gendered differences in political speech: Female representation and legislative speech patterns through keyword-assisted topic modeling" Presented at NLP4DH conference held at Waseda University Dec 1-3

Nordström, R & Hino, A. (2024). "Absence of Elections and Voters' Knowledge: Analyses of Matched Samples in Japan" Presented at 81st annual conference of Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) April 3-7.

Nordström, R & Gonoï, K (2024) "*Josei-giin ha gikai shingi ni eikyou wo oyobosuka? – Nihon no Todofuken-gikai no bunseki* (Does female legislators influence the contents of legislative debate? – An analysis of Japanese prefectural assemblies -) ", Presented at the annual conference of the Japanese Association of Electoral Studies (JAES) May 28 – 19

Nordström, R (2024). "Does Absence of Competition Lead to Worsening Fiscal Outcomes in Local Communities? – Evidence from Uncontested Japanese Mayoral Elections", Presented at Asian Political and International Studies Association (APISA), 26-28 September 2024, Osaka School of International Public Policy, Osaka University

Nordström, R, Shinomoto, S & Benasaglio Berlucchi, A. (2025). "Exploring Public Opinion on Same-Sex Marriage in Japan - The Effect of Judicial Action Reconsidered". Presented at the 82nd Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference.

Nordström, R & Gonoï, K (2025). "Gender and Individual Speech Patterns: A Micro-Level Analysis of Parliamentary Debates in Japan's Prefectural Assemblies". Presented at the annual conference of the Japanese Association of Electoral Studies (JAES) May 17 – 18,

2025.

MEDIA PARTICIPATION

Sveriges Radio P3 Dystopia, *Episod 93: Ensamhet* (February 14, 2024) – Cited as an expert on loneliness in Japan.

(<https://www.sverigesradio.se/artikel/kallforteckning-ep93>)

OTHER WRITING

Nordström, R (October 27, 2022) “Event Report: Electronic voting in Japan. What can we learn from the European and Latin American experiences?” Waseda University TGU seminar report, Available online: <https://www.waseda.jp/inst/squ/news-en/2022/10/27/18055/>

Nordström, R (August 22, 2023) “A new way of looking at how negative campaigning backfires more often for women than for men – My thoughts on the presentation “Gendered Backlash: Reassessing Negative Campaigning Sanctions for Women via Survey, Observational, and Experimental Evidence” by Alessandro Nai” Waseda University TGU seminar report, Available online: <https://www.waseda.jp/inst/squ/news-en/2023/08/22/26056/>

Nordstrom, R. (February 10, 2025). Limited shift in public opinion on same-sex marriage in Japan. The Loop – ECPR’s Political Science Blog. <https://theloop.ecpr.eu/limited-shift-in-public-opinion-on-same-sex-marriage-in-japan/>

Nordström, R. (September 17, 2025). More women, multipartism, and far-right populism — is Japan becoming more ‘European’? The Loop – ECPR’s Political Science Blog. <https://theloop.ecpr.eu/more-women-multipartism-and-far-right-populism-is-japan-becoming-more-european/>

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Nomura Foundation Foreign Student Scholarship (2020 - 2022)

Japan Society for the Promotion of Sciences (JSPS) Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC2) (2022 - 2024) Grant number: 22KJ2921/22J11342 (KAKENHI)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Japanese Political Science Association (JPSA)

Japanese Association of Electoral Studies (JAES)

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)

Public Policy Studies Association, Japan

RELEVANT SKILLS

Programming:

- Content analysis: GenSim, LDA, Gibbs sampling, MALLET, STM, KeyATM
- Web scraping: Selenium, BeautifulSoup
- Streamlit
- GIS analysis
- Programming languages: Python, R

Languages

- Fluent in Swedish, finnish, english, Japanese
- B2 level proficiency in German