

## **Robert Nordström**

Waseda University

1-6-1 Nishiwaseda, Shinjuku,

Tokyo 169-8050 JAPAN

Email: [robert.nordstrom@aoni.waseda.jp](mailto:robert.nordstrom@aoni.waseda.jp)

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Assistant Professor (non-tenured), Waseda University, School of Political Science and Economics (Current position)**

Period: 2026 -

**Research Associate, Waseda University, School of Political Science and Economics**

Period: 2024 - 2026

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

Period: 2022 – 2024

## **EDUCATION**

**PhD, Political Science, Waseda University, 2026**

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)**

**Adjunct lecturer (English), Foreign Service Training Institute (FSTI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), April – June, 2026**

Courses: International Relations

**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

## WORKING PAPERS

Nordström, R, Beyond Competition: Dominant Party Affiliation, Seniority, and Legislative Shirking in Committees (April 18, 2026). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=6742300> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.6742300>

Nordström, R, Shinomoto, S and Benasaglio Berlucci, A, From the Courtroom to the Public: Judicial Influence on People's Attitudes toward Same-Sex Marriage in Japan (May 08, 2025). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=5246510> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.5246510>

## PRESENTATIONS

Nordström, R (2021). "*Kokusei senkyo no seitoukan-kyousou ga mutohyo-tousen ni motarasu eikyou – Todofuken gikai no keiryou 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 & Gonoj, 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 81<sup>st</sup> annual conference of Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) April 3-7.

Nordström, R & Ganoi, 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 & Ganoi, 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.

Nordström, R, (2026). "Beyond Competition: Dominant Party Affiliation, Seniority, and Legislative Shirking in Committees". Presented at the 83rd Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference.

Nordström, R, (2026). "Beyond Competition: Dominant Party Affiliation, Seniority, and Legislative Shirking in Committees". Presented at Science Tuesdays organized by the Finnish Institute in Japan. Link to event: <https://sciencetuesday2026nordstrom.peatix.com/>

## **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