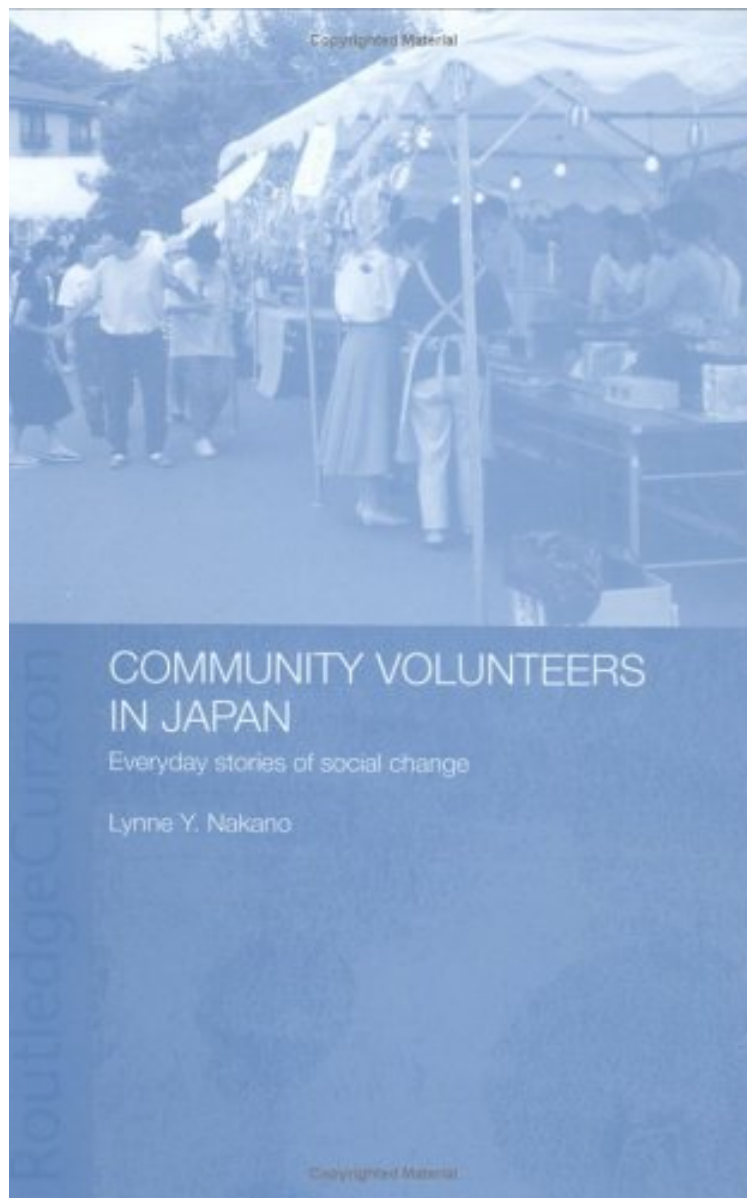


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Community Volunteers in Japan: Everyday stories of social change (Japan Anthropology Workshop Series)

Lynne Nakano

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Lynne Nakano : Community Volunteers in Japan: Everyday stories of social change (Japan Anthropology Workshop Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Community Volunteers in Japan: Everyday stories of social change (Japan Anthropology Workshop Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Community Volunteers in Japan - great study
By Blaine Connor
As of April 4, 2006, incorrectly lists the title of this book as "Civic [sic] volunteers [sic] in Japan." I hope that doesn't prevent anyone with a general interest in contemporary Japanese society, cities, civil society and civic engagement, volunteering, participating, or ethnographic fieldwork from finding this fine book. Dr. Nakano writes with a graceful, fluid style and keeps her case presentation and argument succinct. This makes for quick reading, but the reader takes away a rich view of community life in Tokyo and how the phenomenon of volunteering touches so many realms within it, from raising good children to caring for the elderly and keeping the streets safe. My mom would like it. If only RoutledgeCurzon had priced this more reasonably, I might have assigned it for my introductory-level anthropology course (Hint, Hint!). But I am grateful they published it. See if you can get a copy for your school or local library if not for your personal library.

Volunteering is a recent and highly visible phenomenon in Japan, adopted as a meaningful social activity by millions of Japanese and covered widely in the Japanese media. This book, based on extensive original research, tells the stories of community volunteers who make social change through their everyday acts. It discusses their experiences in children's activities, the parent-teachers association, juvenile delinquency prevention campaigns, and care of the elderly. It explores their conflicts and their motivations, and argues that personal decisions to volunteer and acts of volunteering, besides being personal choices, are productive of larger discussions of the needs and directions of Japanese society.

'Community Volunteers in Japan is an interesting study that raises important questions about life in contemporary societies. It deserves a thoughtful reading by those wishing to better understand Japan.' - Asian Anthropology
About the Author
Lynne Y. Nakano is an Associate Professor in the Department of Japanese Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. An anthropologist by training, her main areas of research include self-identity, gender, mass media and popular culture. She is currently researching gender issues in Hong Kong and Japan.