



(Re)Craft-ing of Japanese Practice: An Ethnography of Two Japanese Saké Breweries circa BY H31 & BY R01

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Doctoral Thesis

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Abstract:

The two ethnographies of a Japanese saké brewery advance the post-anthropocentric, practice-theoretic approach to exploration of in-habited and in-dwelling lifeworld(s). I de/construct the multi-dimensionality of the two different modes of production/communication: on one hand, a traditional mode of production/communication centering around a Toji (a saké brewing master) and a live-in apprenticeship system, and on the other hand, a modern mode of production/communication distributed among a factory-like workforce and a corporatized labor system. Through an apprenticeship model of engagement, I reveal the daily enactment of habitus of Japanese *Monozukuri* as a dialectical interaction of practice, subject and object which I call the ensemble of practice. While the dominant Western portrayal of embeddedness is constraining and blinding, I show how increase embeddedness to the environment is actually generative and resonant as the practitioner is sensitized to perceive and maneuver around varying contingencies associated with Japanese saké-making. And in doing so, the practical and creative responses to the surroundings are inscribed into the bodily rhythm and instinctual habits of the practitioner. Thus, in contrast to the disembodied nature of Western rationality with its mind-body dichotomy/duality, I illustrate how the lived-experiences and the daily communications at the two breweries convey the corporeality of Japanese practices that has been neglected in the mainstream scholarship in the West.