

# Disability in Premodern & Early Modern Japan

## General

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Namase, Katsumi 生瀬克己. *Nihon no shōgaisha no rekishi, kinsei hen* 日本の障害者の歴史. 近世篇 (History of disabled people in Japan – early modern period). Tokyo: Akashi Shoten 明石書店, 1999.

Namase, Katsumi 生瀬克己. *Kinsei shōgaisha kankei shiryō shūsei* 近世障害者関係史料集成 (Sources related to disabled people in the early modern period). Tokyo: Akashi Shoten 明石書店, 1996.

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Tanaka shiryō sentā (kokuritsu koroni nozomi no sono) 田中史料センター (国立コロニーのぞみの園). *Waga kuni kodai shinshin shōgaisha no*

*mondai* 我が国古代心身障害者の問題 (The problem of people with disabilities in ancient Japan), Tokyo: Shinshin shōgaisha fukushi kyōkai. 1986.

Watanabe, Takeshi. "Reexamining the Yamai no Sōshi: Defining Illness, the Ill, and the Normal." In *Yamai no sōshi* 病草紙, ed. Kasuya Makoto 加須屋誠 and Yamamoto Satomi 山本聡美. Tokyo: Chūō kōron bijutsu shuppan, 2017.

Yamamoto Satomi 山本聡美. "Yamai" 病 (Illness). In *Yami no Nihon bijutsu* 闇の日本美術, 95–115. Chikuma Shinsho 1356. Tokyo: Chikuma Shobō, 2018.

Hanada Shunchō 花田春兆. *Nihon no shōgaisha : ima wa mukashi* 「日本の障害者・今は昔」 (Japanese disabled people : now is the past). Tokyo : Kozue. 1990.

## **Blindness Studies**

Fritsch, Ingrid. *Japans blinde Sānger: Im Schutze der Gottheit Myōon-Benzaiten* (Japan's blind singer : protected by the deity Myōon-Benzaiten). Munich: Iudicium, 1996.

Groemer, Gerald. *The Spirit of Tsugaru: Blind Musicians, Tsugaru-jamisen, and the Folk Music of Northern Japan, with the Autobiography of Takahashi Chikuzan*. Harmonie Park Press, 1999.

Groemer, Gerald. "The guild of the blind in Tokugawa Japan." *Monumenta Nipponica* 56, no. 3 (2001): 349–380

Groemer, Gerald. *Goze uta* 瞽女うた (Songs of the goze). Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten, 2014.

Groemer, Gerald. *Goze: Women, Musical Performance, and Visual Disability*

*in Traditional Japan*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016.

Hyōdō, Hiromi 兵藤 裕己. *Biwa hōshi – "takai" [ikai?] wo kataru hitobito 琵琶法師 – "異界"を語る人びと (Biwa hōshi – people narrating the "other world")*. Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten. 2009.

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Matisoff, Susan. *The Legend of Semimaru, Blind Musician of Japan*. Boston: Cheng & Tsui. 2006.

Nagai Akiko 永井彰子. *Nikkan mōsō no shakaishi 日韓盲僧の社会史 (Social history of Japanese and Korean blind priests)*. Fukuoka: Ashi Shobō 葦書房, 2002.

Nakayama, Tarō 中山 太郎. *Nihon mōjin shi 日本盲人史 (History of the Blind in Japan)*, Tokyo: Shōwa Shobō. 1934.

Ōkuma, Miyoshi 大隈 三好, Namase, Katsumi 生瀬 克己, *Mōjin no seikatsu 盲人の生活 (The daily life of the Blind)*. Tokyo: Yuzankaku Shuppan, 1998.

Tan, Wei Yu Wayne. *Blind in Early Modern Japan: Disability, Medicine, and Identity*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2022.

Tan, Wei Yu Wayne. "Disability, Text, and Performance: The Significance of One Blind Musician's Career in Tokugawa Japan." *The Journal of Japanese Studies* 45, No. 1 (2019): 91–119.

Taniai, Susumu 谷合 侑. *Mōjin no rekishi 盲人の歴史 (History of the Blind)*. Tokyo, Akashi shoten, 1996.

## Deaf Studies

Itō, Masao 伊藤 政雄. *Rekishi no naka no rōasha 歴史の中のろうあ者 (Deaf people in History)*. Tokyo: Kindai shuppan. 1998.

## Visual/Media Sources

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Illustrated Biography of Priest Ippen (*Ippen hijiri-e* 一遍上人絵) Scrolls 1 & 2, Tokyo National Museum. Available [online](#).

Illustrated Biography of Priest Ippen (*Ippen hijiri-e* 一遍上人絵) Volume 7, Tokyo National Museum. Available [online](#).

*Yamai no sōshi* 病草紙, reproduced in full in *Nihon emakimono shūsei*, v. 9, and *Nihon emakimono zenshū*, v. 6. Also available [online](#).

## Additional Readings of Interest (non-Japan)

Chen, Mel Y., Alison Kafer, Eunjung Kim, and Julie Avril Minich. *Crip Genealogies*. Duke University Press. 2023.

Ellcessor, Elizabeth, and Bill Kirkpatrick. *Disability Media Studies*. NYU Press. 2017.

Kafer, Alison. *Feminist, Queer, Crip*. Indiana University Press. 2013.

Kim, Eunjung. *Curative Violence: Rehabilitating Disability, Gender, and Sexuality in Modern Korea*. Duke University Press. 2017.

Mills, Mara, and Rebecca Sanchez, eds. *Crip Authorship: Disability as Method*. NYU Press. 2023.

Mitchell, David and Sharon Snyder. *Narrative Prosthesis: Disability and the*

*Dependencies of Discourse*. University of Michigan Press. 2001.

Puar, Jasbir. *The Right to Maim: Debility, Capacity, Disability*. Duke University Press. 2017.

Sterne, Jonathan. *Diminished Faculties: A Political Phenomenology of Impairment*. Duke University Press. 2022.

## **Notes**

The foundations of this reading list were generously provided by the PMJS Mailing List, [Wayne Tan](#), and [Anne-Lise Mithout](#).

## **Suggest Additions**

If you would like to suggest additions to this list, you may do so on [this page](#).