

Student satisfaction), Pooled employees' concepts familiar to any interculturalists who specialize in Japan, in- cluding *nemawashi*, *kitezen*, and *isayaitai*, but describes how they are employed within EUC to establish, leverage, and negotiate power -actions which impact how the university culture evolves. For example, through research, social capital is both built and exercised in terms of organizational and leader knowledge having gained and shared, as well as the unique exerted on learning deci- sions. Understanding such dynamics is es- -

FUC is in the process of modifying its programs to recruit and retain students in the midsize of force competition for an ever-shrinking pool of Japanese students. In the first two chapters, Poochee lays the ground-work for his study. Placing such changes within the context of educational reform since the Meiji Restoration, he concludes, will punctiliously details the current sources of student population, and the transition to a customer mentality among students as well as common university responses (e.g., aggressive student recruitment, efforts to introduce new curriculum, and the introduction of new curricula as well as more networking).

Since Western scholars began researching the Japanese educational system in earnest in the 1970s, they have focused mostly upon the primary and secondary levels. These studies have largely failed to address university education in Japan, which, in the spring term of 1987, has been typically viewed as a four-year respite from serious academic study. Dr. Togeory Boole helps to illuminate how professors at one small, private university in Tokyo (the "Edo University" of *Commedia*) configure their working world. As an associate professor, Boole parlayed his insider status to head of the international programs, and instead of the university's president, he is responsible for the administration of its faculty members. The result is a useful reference for understanding their work places and increase also to university faculty members can better utilize their effectiveness as a chronicle and analysis of organizational cultural change, as well as of educational theory.

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Professor An Ethnography of a University Faculty, by

Sense Publishers, 2010, 188 Pages.

Centrifugal Vs. Centripetal Discourses of Reform: Contending Subcultures Within the Japanese

BOOK REVIEW

sential for anyone wanting to affect change in universities, and Poole is a more than competent guide.

Poole's explanation of Japanese university "zemi" also demonstrates how non-Japanese university faculty members can utilize this book to inform their daily work practices. The number of native English speakers teaching *zemi* is still relatively limited, so when those at my university were required to begin doing so last year, our first question was, "What does one actually do in a *zemi*?" *Zemi* and "seminar" may be linguistic relatives, but we knew that they were not practical equivalents. Poole clarifies the educational goals and methodology common in such courses, and in the process, as in so many aspects of Japanese university life, he illuminates the daily rituals, roles, and expectations deeply ingrained among Japanese teachers and students which are often unfamiliar to those of us who were educated outside of Japan.

The next three chapters form the meat of this volume. When considering the internal cultural debate among FUC professors as to how they should respond to pressures to change, Poole introduces two competing discourses: reform and tradition, which divide the faculty between two "camps" that vie for control. He argues that these discourses engender contrasting ideologies embraced among FUC's professors about how their university should be modeled, how faculty members should best go about spending their time in service of the school, and who is a "good" professor. Moreover, such discourses provide contrasting guides for how to accumulate symbolic capital and consequently gain influence, recognition, status, and power.

Poole coins the term "*sotomuki*" ("outward-oriented" or "centrifugal") to describe the ideology of reform that involves a break with the past, and "*uchimuki*" ("inward-ori-

ented" or "centripetal") for the ideology that extols tradition. In the *sotomuki* paradigm, Japanese universities are similar to businesses in the service industry and operate according to competitive market principles. Professors and administrative staff members are expected to provide a service (higher education and degrees) to customers (students and their families), who in turn expect a high-quality product. Quality and efficiency in work are continually emphasized, so administrative jobs, especially those requiring long hours of "merely" being present at meetings, is generally frowned upon as a poor use of time.

Individual achievement is compatible with the *sotomuki* world view typically actualized through off-campus research activities and involvement in academic networks that extend beyond one's university of employment. Teaching is the most highly valued among professorial duties, followed by research, with administrative and committee work coming last. In this model, professors accumulate symbolic capital through high student evaluations, teaching awards, speaking invitations to outside groups, refereed journal articles, PhDs, and external recognition of one's scholarly accomplishments. Being a well-known scholar not only reflects exceptional individual achievement, but also is thought of as one way to attract student applicants.

The second ideology, *uchimuki*, emphasizes the importance of tradition and frames the university as a community, or even a family, where social control and institutional management rely on consensus. *Uchimuki* is characterized both by mutually-interdependent hierarchical relationships and a cooperative, communal spirit of egalitarianism (in terms of equitably distributing teaching and administrative duties). Reciprocity and loyalty are stressed, and social debt ("*on*") is continuously calculated.

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work organization, heavy time investments largely applicable only within one's current skills experience and tacit knowledge that is words [of] extreme complexity, building [sector-]. On one hand, *uchimura* tendencies to- digms.

tions of the *uchimura* and *sotomura* para- however, are actually dynamic amalgama- nces model). Many companies in Japan, world view (a proactive, postindustrial busi- model), while American multinationals con- reactive, profitindustrial, and interpersonal reactivities of such work or- by Kaneko (1990), fit the *uchimura* ideal (a family-oriented firms, such as those detailed ganizations. At one end of the continuum, stand the cultural dynamics of such work or- sights can also be applied to other business contexts, which is useful for corporate relations. Although this book focuses upon universi- ty organization/cultural culture, many of the in- matter).

ties of Japan (or any other culture for that- ing) of absolute heterogeneity of cross-cultural narrative. In more clearly understood it—thus render- and realistic terms within any culture so as to fully of recognizing the conflicting values isecall. People evidently demonstrate the nec- diversities of Japanese work organization, the undervalued and Japanese work organization, the experts used in the interdisciplinary field to better forums this book's crowning achievement and *uchimura*'s analysis of *uchimura* and *sotomura* the actors involved.

dition values according to the situation and digging parties, professionals gather valuable digging parties, professionals gather valuable times, aluminum receptions, or after-hours functions, whether they are community meet- ings, little emphasis upon time efficiency. At such many cases in group-centered societies with long hours where one is visible at work—in ity, and it is best expressed by spending text and ability to work within either set of assumptions and realistic behavioral norms. Some do this without conflict, while others feel an inner struggle to reconcile the contra- dictions between the paradigm. Therefore,

its benefits through their sensitivity to con- wern them, gathering symbolic capital and paradigm, while others deliberately maneuver be- processes primarily operate within only one poles on a continuum. For example, some five, diametrically opposite, but rather two ideal types which are not mutually exclu- sively, ultimately, *uchimura* and *sotomura* form elsewhere.

Being display to the institution by moving mobility and thus heighten the possibility of teaching generally improve potential job as individual achievements in research and those subscribing to the *uchimura* ideology, much mode can be seen as threatening by individuals, at work in devotion to admired weekends, a professor who spends long hours, even affect change at the university, and starts as assuming a network of human relationships to recognize as an *uchimura* ("boss man"), pos- view is gained by committee chairs, titles, symbolic capital in the *uchimura* world catalysis and identity formation.

In other words, to participate in students' socializing a functioning member of society— connects to important wisdom about life and be- dents (in one's office, pub, or on overnigh- it is important to spend long hours with stu- Althrough such teaching is not emphasized and academic knowledge—comes last. novative education methods to implement ad- particularly when done in groups, is valued over research, while teaching—i.e., using in- *uchimura* paradigm, administrative work, alliances, and affect decision-making. In the insider knowledge, remaining interpersonal al- drenaking parties, professionals gather valuable times, aluminum receptions, or after-hours functions, whether they are community meet- ings, little emphasis upon time efficiency. At such many cases in group-centered societies with long hours where one is visible at work—in ity, and it is best expressed by spending text and ability to work within either set of assumptions and realistic behavioral norms. Some do this without conflict, while others feel an inner struggle to reconcile the contra- dictions between the paradigm. Therefore,

in after-hours relationship building with coworkers and customers, and a seniority-based organizational hierarchy all conjure images of Japan's past—but also a past that is being reclaimed and fortified in the present as the limits are realized of *sotomuki*-style business practices and corporate reforms. *Sotomuki* ideals are promoted in what is often considered an American corporate model, where promotions are based on performance, workers are given greater autonomy, work-life balance is emphasized, and specialists with explicit knowledge (who can also readily transfer their skills between companies) are common. Japanese companies are indeed at a crossroads—trying to adapt to an increasingly competitive global marketplace, but also striving to retain and even reinvent the organizational cultural factors which contributed to Japan's rapid economic expansion and success for so much of the second half of the 20th century. Therefore, the insights in this book can be utilized by the astute reader to better understand the changing organizational cultural dynamics in work organizations outside the realm of tertiary education.

This book is generally well-written, but it could be improved on several fronts. First, when Poole references the academic literature, some explanations of concepts or theories that appear in these works are sparse or omitted, which can make for difficult reading if someone has not read those specific books or articles. In the Preface, this is most problematic. Also, the fifth chapter ("Cultural Performance") feels underdeveloped, as if it would be either better integrated into previous chapters or expanded to deliver a more thorough analysis of the topics explored. Finally, while I admit this point is biased towards my interests, as an interculturalist, especially since Professor Poole is American and oversaw a staff of native-English-speaking teachers, I wanted to learn

more about the interface between foreign and Japanese professors. While these relationships, as well as the place of non-Japanese faculty within EUC, were treated to some extent, such intercultural relations formed mostly a peripheral topic.

Ultimately, this volume constitutes a detailed guide in how to earn and preserve symbolic capital—and, by extension, core membership status—within Japanese work organizations. Such membership is realized by building trust with coworkers, and it enables people to participate in daily decision-making and affect change. It can be argued that the creation of an open society for foreign residents in Japan is not necessarily accomplished by creating mini-havens within work organizations where English is spoken and non-Japanese behavioral norms adhered to (as is often the case when groups of non-Japanese and Japanese work together); in such enclaves, employees can remain largely cut off from their organizations' primary decision-making bodies. Rather, integrating foreign people *into* those core decision-making groups could be a more effective way of actualizing a "borderless" society, in which acceptance is based not upon national origin, but instead upon Japanese cultural and linguistic competence. This book articulates not only where such decision-making is made in a Japanese university, but also how access to these groups is typically gained and maintained. If both non-Japanese and Japanese use such knowledge wisely and cooperatively, they can be empowered to create organizations where reform occurs in a manner that is sensitive to the concerns and interests of *all* of their members.

References

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