

Were They “Cowboys”? : Country Musicians in the U.S. Military Touring East Asia, 1945–1958

Shin Aoki

Biography



Shin Aoki received his Ph.D. in Sociology from Hitotsubashi University in 2009. After serving as a Specially Appointed Lecturer at Tokyo Woman’s Christian University and other institutions, he has been a Professor at Tsuru University since 2022.

His major publications include:

Meguriau Monotachi no Gunzō: Sengo Nihon no Beigun Kichi to Ongaku 1945–1958 (Moments Rolling Around: The Music Scene in and around U.S. Military Installations in Postwar Japan, 1945–1958), Otsuki Shoten, 2013 — awarded the 35th Suntory Prize for Social Sciences and Humanities (Life and Society).

Shinchūgun o Warawasero!: Beigun Imon no Engeishi ("Make the GIs Laugh! How Japan Entertained the U.S. Military: A Postwar History"), Heibonsha, 2022.

His research focuses on the history and memory of people who circulated across the Pacific from the early to mid-20th century, with particular attention to popular music and bodily performance. His current projects include the study of Japanese popular songs received in the United States during the 1950s and 1960s, as well as research on Japanese acrobats who performed in American circuses and vaudeville shows in the early 20th century.