

# **How can Japanese Psychologists be Critical of Their History**

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# I. History of Japanese Psychology



**Yujiro Motora**  
(1858-1912)

1890-1945

Importations and acceptance of  
European (German) psychology

1945-

Importations and acceptance of  
American psychology

History of **importations and acceptance**

Translating the psychological constructs into Japanese

→ **Accelerates the dominance** of major methodology

**Suppresses** alternatives and critical views

## 2. Japanese Studies on History of Psychology

Focused on western history of psychology



**Megumi Imada**  
(1894~1970)

“**心理学史** History of Psychology” books

Tanaka(1894), Ueno & Noda (1922)

→ **No chapter or sections** on Japanese psychology

Imada (1962) ...the translator of James, Allport, or Bridgman

→ **No chapter or sections** on Japanese psychology

50 years of Japanese Psychological Association(1980)

75 years of Japanese Psychological Association(2002)

→ **Celebrates** the major institutions and psychologists

**No critical view** on the history of Japanese psychology

### 3. Epoch-making Works in 1990s-2000s

Sato, T. & Mizoguchi, H. (eds.) 1997

**通史 日本の心理学**

*A history of Japanese psychology*

Sato, T. 2002

**日本における心理学の受容と展開**

*Acceptance and development of  
modern psychology in Japan*



**Tatsuya Sato**  
(1962-)

Growing interests on history of Japanese psychology

→ Focused on **acceptance of western psychology**

Critical views are still **implicit**

## 4. Seeds of Critical Views on the History



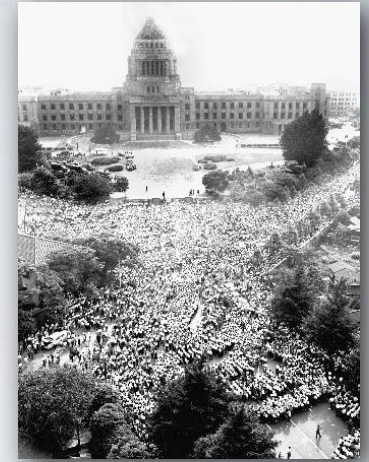
**Tomokichi Fukurai**  
(1869-1952)

Various interests in 1945-2000

- 1) Psychologists' cooperations to the WW II
- 2) Anti clinical psychology movements 1970s
- 3) Mavericks and outsiders in Japanese psychology  
ex. **Fukurai**: Clairvoyance and thoughtography 1910s  
**Furukawa**: Blood-type characterology 1930-40s
- 4) Critics on research constructs and methodology  
→ correspond with the movements of  
the **Qualitative psychology** in 1990s

**Sharing critical view** on the history, explicit or implicit

## 4. Where Do We Go From Here?



**Tokyo, 1960**

Can Japanese psychologists become **political**?

Psychology as a **non-political** “scientific” discipline

→ A principle of Japanese main-stream psychology suppresses critical views **that must be political**

History of Japanese psychology

→ Correspond to educational administration, health administration, labor & military policies in **History of Japanese politics**

→ We must be political to be critical of our history