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中央研究院
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Community building and well-being: A case study of community revitalization through learning in the Maoi at central Hokkaido, Japan

2025 年 9 月 24 日 (三) 14:00~16:00

中研院民族所「第三會議室」(新館 3 樓 2319 室)

演講語言：英文

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A few years ago, there was a movement to establish an elementary school in Naganuma Town, Hokkaido, that prioritized experiential learning. The school's name, 'Maoi,' derives from the Ainu word 'Mao-i' (meaning 'the place where hamanasu berries grow'), and is also rooted in the town's history, as the area was originally known as 'Maoi Plain' during the Meiji-era settlement period. This initiative is led by the NPO 'Maoi Learning Village,' which is based in Naganuma Town and collaborates with neighboring municipalities to revitalize the community. It aims to create a place where the entire community supports experiential learning and where the community itself can grow and learn together with the children. This year marks the third year since the school opened. Children's voices have returned to the elementary school, which was once the center of the community, and new residents have moved to the area since the school opened. Amidst this influx of people into the community, the locals, including farmers, have been at the center of efforts to support the school's opening and continue to do so today. For these residents, who have lived in the area since before the school opened, witnessed the closure of the previous school, and supported the opening of the new school, the school has always been a focal point of the community. Against this historical backdrop, I would like to consider what the school means for the well-being of the residents. While this school is gaining attention for its unique educational practices within Japan, I would like to examine the relationship between the school within the community and the people where the school is located.