

## Special Feature

# COVID-19 and Japanese (and Other) Studies

This issue's special feature is based on the online GSICCS colloquium "COVID-19 and Japan Studies," which was held on April 23, 2022. I would like to thank all participants—many of whom were GSICCS students—for nearly three hours of lively discussion and exchange of opinions. The colloquium was never possible without the contributions and support of three key presenters, Aaron Gerow, Thomas Lamarre, and Daisuke Miyao. I really appreciate their commitment to the project despite my rather vague explanation of its objectives. This is the second special feature published in *Transcommunication* following the first one on the anime/manga *Kimetsu no yaiba* (*Demon Slayers*) last year. I strongly believe in the value of the academic bulletin or *kiyō* (紀要) as a unique venue for scholarly dialogues. We hope to continue the special feature as an important part of *Transcommunication* in its future issues.

Mitsuhiro Yoshimoto, Editor-in-Chief