

## **Abstract of Doctoral Dissertation**

### **Title: Population and Mobility in the Middle Jomon Period Viewed from Architectural and Skeletal Remains**

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Understanding changes in population levels can provide insight into the stability, successes, and struggles of a group. There have been a number of examinations into the Jomon period population studies, while in the Kanto and Chubu regions a boom/bust pattern has been identified in the Middle Jomon period. Population estimation methods so far have mostly relied on site and dwelling counts, but have not accounted for the possibility of changes in mobility as a partial explanation of this spike and drop in sites and dwellings. Soil conditions in Japan are often not conducive to the preservation of organic materials, making some types of seasonality and sedentism examinations difficult. This study aims to utilize architectural remains in the form of pithouse and posthole impressions to identify changes in residential mobility during the Middle Jomon period, using the highly excavated area of Tama New Town as a case study. In addition, the boom/bust period identified by other population studies is compared against skeletal evidence from the Kanto and Chubu regions.

The study found that outside of posthole diameter, posthole measurements do not appear to be a clear indicator of architectural change. Posthole diameter values do appear to offer some insight, but interpreting the changes present will require further investigation. Skeletal data from the Kanto and Chubu regions show some correlation with the population trends seen in other site and dwelling based studies, but the timing and intensity of those trends requires further study.