

Seeking Stability:
The Migrant Experience
within Japan's Hosting
Industry

JAPN311-02_FA-20 • Alyssa Powell

Why I Chose this Topic:

The Great Happiness Space: Tale of An Osaka Love Thief



- Focuses on the dual lifestyles hosts face:
 - Effects on health, relationships, self satisfaction, etc.
- Provides insight to customers' reasonings for going to host clubs
 - To keep up with the high costs of host clubs, many are nightlife workers and hostesses themselves



Hosts and Clients

Through surveying host club work, the documentary proves that host club work is often **not as luxurious** as it is made out to be, and is **costly** and **emotionally grueling** for hosts and clients alike.



These lines of work are welcoming places for those with low income, little education, and part of **generational poverty** due to socioeconomic background and/or racial background (Mahdavi).

Main Argument:

Due to generational poverty, many migrant Japanese workers seek **financial stability** and a **sense of agency** within *precarious work* such as in the host and hostess club industries.

Relation to JAPN311

Week 3: Labor and Capital

- ▣ “Migrant workers ‘exploited’ in Japan”, BBC News, August 25, 2019

Week 6: Gendered Labor

- ▣ “Hostess Girls” in Japan’s Disposable Workers by Shiho Fukuda

Week 6 introduced me to the topic of host work in general. In accordance to Week 3’s content, I wanted to focus on migrant workers within the host/hostessing industry

Relation to Life Experiences

- ▣ Within the Salinas Valley, there are many minority groups
 - Noticeably, there are areas of Salinas and all off California (Central Valley) that are less developed and given a bad rep because of amount of impoverished and imprisoned.

- ▣ However, I don't think people understand the reasonings as to why these events frequently occur in areas with high percentages of minorities.
 - Discrimination» Less funding for development, rehabilitation programs, access to healthcare, housing, etc.

Sources

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