

2025

10.1 (wed.)

12:10
12:50

12:10-12:15

◆ Introduction

12:15-12:40

◆ Seminar
(Presentation)

12:40-12:50

◆ Q&A

Online
(Zoom)Scan here for
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Meet the Yayoi People: Discoveries from Ancient Skeletons at the Kyushu University Museum

**Key Words**

Ancient human skeletal remains

Yayoi period

Facial traits

Associate Professor **Shiori Yonemoto**

The Kyushu University Museum

I was born in Sumida Ward, Tokyo, and graduated from Tokai University with a degree in history. After completing the coursework for the doctoral program at Kyushu University's Graduate School of Social and Cultural Studies, I was appointed as a support faculty member at the Kyushu University Museum in 2015. In November of the same year, I received PhD in Science from Kyushu University, and in January 2018 I was appointed as an Assistant Professor (promoted to Associate Professor in October 2024). My research specialty is physical anthropology. Using musculoskeletal stress markers (MSMs) to reconstruct the physical activities of ancient populations from the degree of development at muscle attachment sites, my research aims to clarify how social disparities arose through differences in physical activity. In 2024, I received the 14th Japan Archaeological Association Award for Excellent Papers. In addition, I am conducting 3D cranial analyses of 3,000 ancient human skeletal specimens housed at the Kyushu University Museum, reassessing regional variation in physical traits during the Yayoi period. This research contributes to a deeper understanding of the formation and development of Yayoi society.

At the Kyushu University Museum, where I work, approximately 3,000 ancient human skeletal remains excavated from archaeological sites are housed. Since their excavation and collection began in 1953, these remains have been central to numerous studies on the origins of the peoples of the Japanese Archipelago. In particular, much attention has focused on the beginning of the Yayoi period, when wet-rice cultivation was introduced and migrants arrived from the continent. Research on these skeletal remains has revealed that, during the formation of the Yayoi culture in northern Kyushu, people's facial traits changed significantly from those of the Jomon period. Traits associated with immigrants from the continent, such as a longer facial shape, spread across western Japan. These changes are now understood not as a large-scale population replacement, but as a gradual and small-scale transformation. In this seminar, I will introduce some of the latest findings in physical anthropology that shed light on the historical changes in the people who once lived in the Japanese Archipelago.