

Acknowledgments

This book would not have been published without the emotional, intellectual, and financial support of so many people, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, which was a trying time for all involved in this project. A big thank you goes out to our contributors. Despite heavy teaching loads and numerous other academic duties, you managed to meet the deadlines, always responded carefully to our requests for revisions, and provided us with invaluable insights.

We are extremely grateful to Andrea Germer and her team at the Institute for Modern Japan at Düsseldorf University and Vera Mackie of the University of Wollongong for providing us with the academic resources to develop and finish this project. We would also like to thank Shimizu Akiko and the Komaba Safer Space at Tokyo University, as well as Tanaka Kazuko, Ikoma Natsumi, and the Center for Gender Studies at International Christian University for years of personal and intellectual support, and for teaching us how to fight the heterosexist norms within and outside of academia.

We would like to express our appreciation to our copyeditor Sara Kitaoji whose intricate knowledge of the English and Japanese languages and constructive criticism ensured that each of our contributors found the right words to express their thoughts. We also owe our deepest gratitude to Anne Sokoll and Jessica Bartz from De Gruyter for believing in this project and patiently guiding us through the publication process.

This project was supported by the German Research Foundation (DFG) as part of the individual research project Sexual Diversity and Human Rights in 21st Century Japan: LGBTIQ Activisms and Resistance from a Transnational Perspective (Project no. 446477950). We are also thankful to Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf's Open Access Fund, which has enabled us to publish this volume with open access and make it available to a wider readership.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude toward our partners, friends, and families. Each in their own way provided support, critical feedback, and safe spaces to rest. It is thanks to you that this book is now out in the wider world.

