

## **Some Snapshot Notes on Efforts to Stay Alive between Disasters**

One spring night, I received a text message out of the blue. It was from one of the evacuees who had fled their home due to the TEPCO (Tokyo Electric Power Company) nuclear accident. As a single mother with two children, she had struggled with resettling herself and children into where they had migrated, finding it difficult to restore her family's ordinary lives. Then the covid-19 pandemic came out, and she lost her jobs at the restaurant and hospitals that had sustained their lives since the evacuation. Her message was short but it embodied well the many kinds of difficult situations that evacuees were still facing. 'I should have known we were just between disasters,' she said. 'And I am in no way out from underneath these sufferings.'

Through the brief but compelling stories of two TEPCO-evacuation families, this presentation depicts the negative spirals of the vulnerabilities that individuals experience in social systems. In particular, these stories shed light on the structural injustices that still exist in Japan's gendered job and care systems, and which exacerbate and produce negative spirals of these vulnerabilities. Ultimately, the stories show us some practices related to how food and caring can foster kinds of solidarity, albeit loose ones, that the evacuees gave shape to, and how these gradually expanded to support others outside of the original evacuees' networks.