This lecture will introduce the “Voices from Tohoku” digital video archive of survivors of the triple disasters of Tohoku in 2011. “Voices from Tohoku,” based at Sophia University, started with students volunteering in the spring of 2011 and has turned into the largest archive of first-person narratives of the disaster that we know of. Hundreds of clips are posted at tohokukaranokoe.org. In this session we will explain the origins of the project and show clips from the archive (with English subtitles) and will more generally discuss the challenges as well as the potential in these sorts of archives in understanding contemporary society.

David H. Slater is the Director of the Institute of Comparative Culture and Professor of Anthropology at Sophia University. Haruka Danzuka is a graduate of Tokyo University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and one of the core members of the “Voices from Tohoku” project. Their co-authored publications include, “Micro-Politics of Radiation: Young Mothers Looking for a Voice in Post–3.11 Fukushima” in Critical Asian Studies.