

**Japan's southernmost Sue ware pottery center:
Recent excavations and interdisciplinary research in the kiln site cluster at Nakadake Sanroku, Kagoshima**

The "Nakadake Sanroku Kiln Site Cluster" was discovered in 1984. Being the southernmost Sue Kiln Site Cluster in Japan, the following characteristics should be pointed out. (1) Considering the nature as a provincial kiln cluster the estimated number of kilns is large, (2) its location is separated from the location of the provincial administration, (3) Sue ware found in the northern part of the Ryūkyū is thought to have been produced in this site, which makes it one of the rare cases where Sue ware despite its strong relation to state administration is found outside the territory of the state. (4) Almost the whole kiln site cluster is well preserved.

Since 2013, an international group of archaeologists and researchers from the natural sciences carry out excavations, surveys, and analyses funded by the JSPS. The research structure is another characteristic of our work at the Nakadake Sanroku site. Instead of importing ideas and methods one-sidedly from one tradition or discipline, we set up a balanced starting point for our research in the beginning with discussions of methods and research questions among all team members, and we still develop them with continuous exchange of ideas and information. This resembles the idea of "agile programming" in software development, and we call our structure "agile research design". Instead of parallel and isolated studies, our interdisciplinary research adapts to new discoveries from all fields and thus already led us to results that could not be envisaged at the beginning of the project.

This presentation will introduce our research progress and the most recent discoveries.