Dear Professor Takenaka,

Thank you for the opportunity to review your proposal and learn about your very interesting research. After looking at the Cambridge University Press submissions guidelines (<https://www.cambridge.org/authorhub/application/files/2715/1731/1580/How_to_submit_a_book_proposal.pdf>), since they do not initially accept sample chapters but only a prospectus, I suggest developing a longer and more detailed prospectus.

You could play up the “unique selling points” of your research for the fields of sociology, migration studies, and Asian studies. The combination of sociological fieldwork and detailed historical analysis is one feature that you could emphasize. Related to this, you could stress the “transwar” element of your research, since this is a major trend in Japanese studies these days (at least in North America).

From the sample chapter, your most frequently cited sources (such as Wakatsuki and Suzuki) are decades old, so you can justifiably claim to be the first person to examine this topic in-depth in quite some time, and this fact could be foregrounded in the proposal. I know that your fieldwork is the bulk of the book's evidence, but for both the prospectus and sample chapter, I would suggest engaging with more recent historical literature, such as the English-language publications on trans-Pacific migration by Adam McKeown (*Melancholy Order* and *Chinese Migrant Networks and Cultural Change*), Eiichiro Azuma (*In Search of Our Frontier* and *Between Two Empires*), and Sidney Lu (*The Making of Japanese Settler Colonialism*). Since so many Japanese emigrants were Okinawan, you might also discuss some of the recent literature on Okinawans and other subalterns in Japan’s empire (like Ziomek’s *Lost Histories*, Matsuda’s *Liminality of the Japanese Empire*, and Fujitani’s *Race for Empire*).

Also, while the proposal does currently include a chapter breakdown, since the manuscript is mostly written already, perhaps you could provide more information on the individual chapters and what each will contribute to the overall argument.

In terms of intended audience, you might elaborate on what you say in the proposal (“Intended for scholars and a general audience interested in global diasporas and Japanese emigration, immigration, and identities”). You say near the end of the proposal that you wrote the book “with the view to use it for my own courses on immigration, global diasporas, race and ethnicity, and multiculturalism.” Perhaps some more information on the types of courses (graduate/undergraduate, discipline, etc.) and libraries this would be appropriate for would be beneficial. The proposal guidelines ask for “Details of… the level and type of illustration required…any digital functionality, and the intended completion date,” so you’ll want to be sure to address these issues as well.

In the introductory paragraph, you talk about some recent Cambridge publications, but some of these may not be the most relevant (especially *Hate Speech in Japan*). At the same time, you might elaborate on your book’s relationship with Chung’s and Miles’ books, since this is also mentioned in the submission guidelines (“an explanation of how it relates to other publications on the topic that have been published recently whether by Cambridge or by other publishers”). In the last paragraph, perhaps you could add a sentence about the graphs and maps in the manuscript, since the proposal guidelines ask for details of “the level and type of illustration required.”

For the sample chapter, whether it will be used later for Cambridge or for other publishers, I have made some edits and comments in the file itself but would also suggest the inclusion go a Works Cited/Bibliography section at the end if not also submitting the Bibliography for the entire book.