

This spoiled soil

Defining community in an irradiated village in Fukushima prefecture

傷ついた土壌

福島県被爆村におけるコミュニティの定義

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英語講演、日本語訳

Everyone in Japan is supposed to love their home-town or 'furusato.' But the disaster at the Fukushima No.1 nuclear power plant has forced rural communities to confront some stark issues that do not normally arise. Do you love your furusato enough to endure 20, 50 or 100 millisieverts of radiation a year? Would you live there even if all the young people are gone and agriculture is impossible? After briefly describing the events of 3.11 in Fukushima, I will take a close look at what the disaster has meant for people living in one of these rural communities – the hamlet of Nagadoro, in litate village. The hamlet is deserted and barricaded, its population scattered widely. Will the community survive, and if so, how and in what form?

