

**The Remaking of “Folktales” in 1950s Japan:
Journal ‘Minwa’ and the Movement of Yamashiro Tomoe**

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This presentation focuses on the analysis of the periodical *Minwa* (1958-60) as a way to reconsider the so-called “folktales movement” (*minwa undō*) that emerged and developed throughout the 1950s in Japan. In contrast with the conventional view of the folktale (as *mukashi-banashi*) shared among most folklorists and ethnologists at that time, playwright Kinoshita Junji, ethnographer Miyamoto Tsuneichi and others sought to reinstate the folktale as “*minwa*”. In this context, *minwa* was conceived as a contemporary and revolutionary space for re-imagining the Nation and the people departing not only from the Emperor ideology but also from the currents of socialist realism, and modernism. In addition, this presentation reflects on the intersection and overlapping of *minwa* and the oral narrative practice of *kikigaki*, especially in relation with the work of Hiroshima-based writer Yamashiro Tomoe.