

Picture of the first author



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Biography = maximum 800 characters

Bernard Thomann is historian, professor at the Institut National des Langues et Civilisation Orientales, former research fellow at the Maison Franco-Japonaise in Tokyo, visiting researcher at the University of Tokyo from 2002 to 2005 and visiting professor at the Tokyo University for Foreign Studies from September 2017 to February 2018. His research interests include the history of health and social policy in modern and contemporary Japan, labour history, the history of occupational diseases, and the health and social history of the mining industry. His latest book is *La naissance de l'Etat social japonais : Biopolitique, travail et citoyenneté dans le Japon impérial (1868-1945)* (Presses de SciencePo, 2015). He is scientific coordinator for the research programme funded by ANR: *GROWTH AND FORMS OF EMPLOYMENT: A EURASIATIC COMPARAISON OF UNCERTAINTY AT WORK (EURASEMPOI)* (2016-2021).

Abstract title:

Silicosis in Japan: knowledge construction and comparative prospects

The state of the art of silicosis publications in Japan, especially focused on medical research and legislation, is valuable but carries a risk for the historian who wishes to make a social history of this occupational disease. The main risk is to reduce this history to that of a victorious march towards knowledge of the nosology, etiology and epidemiology of the disease and its progressive consideration by labour law. However, the main interest that would constitute a social history of silicosis and pneumoconiosis would be to show why, in spite of the progress of medical knowledge and labour legislation, the miners exposed to dust had so much difficulty to make recognize the occupational disease from which they suffered. To write a different narrative of silicosis recognition processes, a connected and comparative approach, with ancient industrialized nations, but also with emerging countries like China, is extremely valuable.