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# The Grand Festivals of Edo (tenka matsuri)

## Religion, Performance, and Politics in the Shogun's Capital during the Early Modern Period

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Gerald Groemer

Thursday  
2023-10-12  
18<sup>00</sup>~19<sup>30</sup>



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Carmen Săpunaru Tămaș



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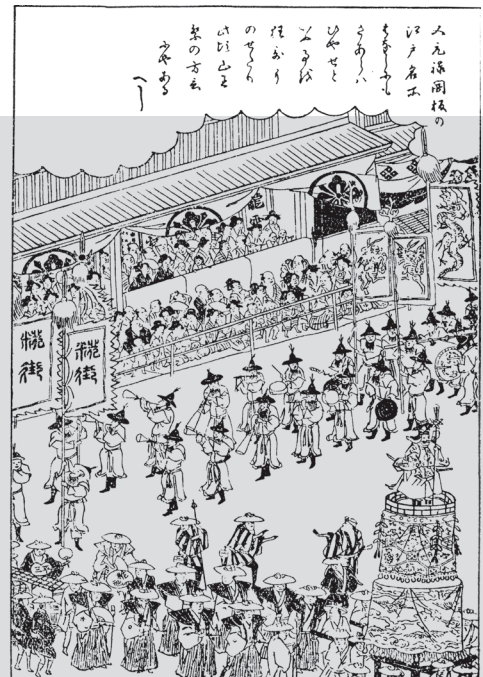
During the Edo period (1600-1868), several great festivals honoring the Tokugawa bakufu were staged in Edo in an annual rotation. These were the Sannō Festival, the Kanda Festival, and in 1714 the Nezu Festival. Each event was accompanied by an enormous parade, in which the three sponsoring shrines and supporting city wards presented portable shrines, huge floats, colorful exhibits, exuberant perfor-

mances of music and dance, and much else. For the bakufu, the shrines, and ward residents the meaning of these festivals changed in conjunction with the social, economic, political, and religious contexts in which the celebrations were embedded. This talk will trace some of these changes in order better to understand what the great festivals of the city signified to sponsors, participants, and spectators alike.



### Gerald Groemer

born in 1957 in the USA, studied piano at the Peabody Institute of Music in Baltimore and musicology at the Tōkyō University of Fine Arts and Music. From 1998 to 2023 he was a professor at the University of Yamanshi in Kōfu (Japan), since summer 2023 he is living in Vienna. Many of his numerous books and other publications deal with Japanese street artists and blind female musicians of the early modern period. Since 2016, three volumes of translations of Japanese essays (*zuihitsu*) of the Edo period (1600-1868) have been published.



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