

# Lifelong Learning and Retiring Retirement Stereotypes

Video of the last 21 minutes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QX9xx3FaM5U>

A Zoom presentation by Steve McCarty  
Japan Association for Language Teaching  
Lifelong Language Learning & Accessibility  
SIGs mini-conference on February 26, 2022

# Abstract

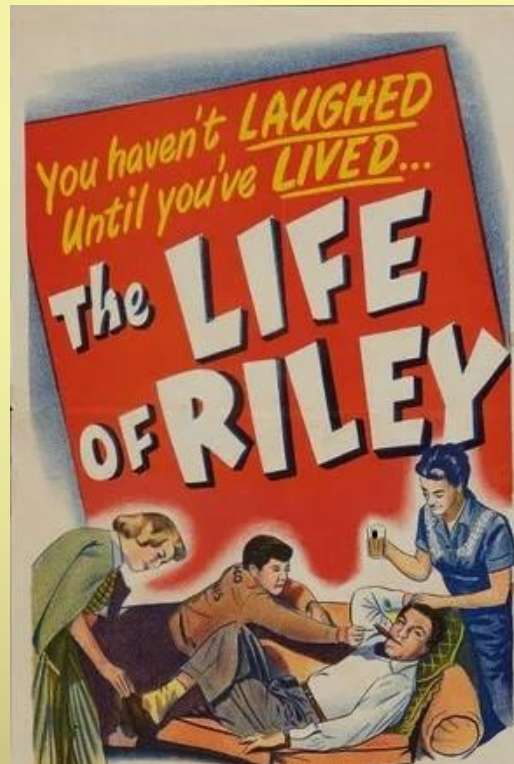
Whether citizens, sojourners, or immigrants, most employed residents of Japan will be unable or unwilling to retire. The natural desire to choose the terms of transitions, however, runs into customary age limits, around 65 for full-time and 70 to 75 for part-time employment in the case of higher education. Combined with stereotypical dismissiveness towards older people, a sudden loss of status can be vertiginous. Yet there is a great demand for the services that older language teachers in particular can perform in Japanese education, society, and academia internationally. This presentation illustrates how teaching duties can be gradually decreased and improved in quality, while the teacher remains at least as active outside of institutions. Many suggestions will be offered: how to have a better quality of life than ever, contributing valuable services where needed, and enjoying more free time to create and curate. Lifelong learning can accord with lifelong interests.

# The Presenter

Steve McCarty lectures for Osaka Jogakuin University and the government foreign aid agency JICA. He is the World Association for Online Education President. At Kansai University from 2015 to 2020 he taught international ICT classes and held a unique Global Faculty Development position. In the Japan Association for Language Teaching (JALT), he was a Chapter founder, Bilingualism SIG President, and appointed Representative of all the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) on the national Executive Committee. See links on the last slide to his highly cited publications on e-learning, bilingualism, language teaching, Japan, Asia, and the academic life.

# THE MIRAGE OF RETIREMENT

- ❖ Time, money, and energy *jan ken pon*
- ❖ Teaching, societal involvement, free time balance
- ❖ Decreasing work, increasing discretionary activities



# TRACTION ON THE SLIPPERY SLOPE

- ❖ Career tapering – without vertigo or feeling erased
- ❖ Never surrender to ageist stereotypes – be present



# SEMI-RETIREMENT WORK

- ❖ Can earn a lot in Japan while receiving a full pension
- ❖ Many opportunities for mature language educators
  - ❖ National and international needs for teachers' skills
  - ❖ Faculty development, mentoring, editing, reviewing
  - ❖ Translating, interpreting, guiding visitors to Japan
  - ❖ Volunteer work, community or societal activism
  - ❖ Japan, home country, global online communication



# FREEDOM FOR

- ❖ Lifelong learning: reading & free time activities
- ❖ Writing for popular media, Websites, social media
- ❖ Publication, promotion, and curation cycle





## Related publications:

McCarty, S. (2015). Ms. Masuko Fujiki – Her story: Just graduated from university in Japan at age 83.” *International Women Online Journal of Distance Education*, 4(2). Anadolu University, Turkey.

McCarty, S. (2019). Meeting global faculty development needs in Japan. *Language Development & Education*. Child Research Net, Tokyo.

McCarty, S. (2021). Online education as a discipline. *Academia Letters*, 434, 1-6.

## Open access to publications:

The Academic Life: [https://japanned.hcommons.org/academic\\_life](https://japanned.hcommons.org/academic_life)  
or <https://wilmina.academia.edu/SteveMcCarty/Academic-Life>

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