

■ Abstract/blurb

This podcast captures the experience of Miyuki Uchiyama, a Japanese medical doctor who had worked in a cancer treatment unit in a Tokyo hospital prior to joining the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare. Miyuki is currently studying at the Graduate Institute Geneva.

The podcast discusses the ways in which the framing of the COVID 19 pandemic as an 'emergency' overshadows pre-existing problems within the Japanese healthcare system. By listening to Miyuki's experience of working within an overstretched public hospital, we discovered that the lives of healthcare workers had been to some degree 'sacrificed' so as to 'save' the general population well before the pandemic started. Miyuki's fierce story brings to light the condition of structural vulnerability within which healthcare workers are kept. The podcast documents how a sense of responsibility to fulfil their medical duty is often hindering healthcare workers from seeking help. Lastly, we underscore how doctors and nurses can be compared to 'humanitarian workers' struggling to save lives while exposing themselves to danger. Miyuki's account provides an evocative illustration of a humanitarian form of government geared toward 'emergency management' that increasingly dominates the ways in which contemporary societies are governed.

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