

**Urban Youth Appearing in the Popular Entertainment Form, *Karioki*,
in Kampala, Uganda**

DAIMON, Midori

Graduate School of Asia and Africa Area Studies, Kyoto University
daimonmidori@gmail.com

Recently, a form of entertainment known as *karioki* has become popular in Kampala, the capital of Uganda. *Karioki* is a group musical performance that occurs on the stage at a restaurant or bar. Performers tend to be young people in their mid-teens to mid-20s.

Karioki consists primarily of songs that accompany three types of performance by one or several members of the group: mime, dance, and comedy. Mime, the main form of *karioki* performance, involves singing without actual vocalization, using body movements and lip-synching for expression. Comedy uses lip-synching as does mime, but it focuses more on playful body movements and humorous performance than on the expression of the song. A *karioki* performance is produced by arranging several of these performance elements. A show lasts about 3 hours, on average, and typically includes about 50 performance segments.

Thus far, I have studied *karioki* performers. *Karioki* performers form groups that consist of about 15 people who represent a mix of social and economic backgrounds. The membership of these groups is characterized by fluidity. Furthermore, the social locations where these groups perform show a similar fluidity, as bars and restaurants are venues in which new participants coexist with old. Thus, a *karioki* group represents a “meet-and-then-leave” situation.

I would like to explore how young people both create and work within a meet-and-then-leave situation by focusing on the experiences of *karioki* performers. How do urban youth relate to each other as they create human relationships? In this presentation, I will describe my plan for future research, which involves investigating three elements of the experiences of *karioki* performers: group formation, music performance, and work commitment.

Key Words: popular culture, performer, fluidity, group formation, Kampala