

## The Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies (KCJS)

KCJS is an in-country program for the intensive study of Japanese language, humanities, and social sciences. Established in 1989, the thirteen institutions that govern KCJS include Boston University, Brown University, University of Chicago, Columbia University/Barnard College, Cornell University, Emory University, Harvard University, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, Stanford University, Washington University in St. Louis, Yale University, and University of Virginia. For more information, see [www.kcjs.jp](http://www.kcjs.jp)

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### Gender in Japanese Culture

Professor Galia Petkova

Fall 2021

Meeting Time: Friday 13.10 – 16.20

Instructor Contact: 128255@alumni.soas.ac.uk

#### Course objectives

This course introduces students to the workings of gender roles and images in Japanese culture and society from ancient times to the present day. We will begin with a general introduction to key terms: the notions of gender and the body, gender relations, power, performance, cultural re/presentation, sexuality and eroticism. Then we will address various gender issues in Japan from a historical and cultural perspective, focusing on the complexity of gender images and functions in Japanese history, exploring in particular the role of women in the cultural processes. We will also make references to similar gender topics in Western and other Asian societies.

Students should gain a comprehensive overview of Japanese culture and society and deepen their understanding of the intricate workings of gender.

A supplementary goal is to increase students' exposure to Japanese language by integrating specific expressions and vocabulary related to gender studies. Students are welcome to expand their independent reading to include Japanese-language source materials, and will be supported in class to share this research with classmates.

#### Format

Class meetings will include lectures, student-led discussions, performance and film showings, and several field trips, utilizing the many resources that Kyoto has to offer. If the pandemic situation permits it, the course will also include performance observations (TBA).

#### Requirements and grading policy

1. Reading assignments

Students are expected to complete reading assignments on time to prepare for classes. Interested students can supplement these readings with optional Japanese-language source materials in consultation with the lecturer.

## 2. Attendance

Attendance counts for 10% of the course grade. Regular attendance at all scheduled class meetings and fieldtrips is mandatory.

## 3. Class participation

Active student involvement in discussions and other planned activities is essential to the success of this course. Students will be graded on two types of class participation:

- (a) Oral comments and questions during class discussions and fieldtrips count for 10% of the course grade.
- (b) A PowerPoint presentation of their Research Project during the final week of classes counts for 20 % of the course grade. A copy of the PowerPoint document must be submitted to the lecturer electronically on the date of the in-class presentation.

## 4. Writing assignments

- (a) *Midterm paper*: Students will prepare a paper (1000~1500 words) on a topic based on the assigned readings and fieldtrips. This paper will count for 20% of the course grade.
- (b) *Research Paper*: students are required to do additional research on a topic related to gender in Japanese culture and society, present the results of their Research Project at end of the semester, and write an essay (2000~2500 words). This paper will count for 40% of the course grade.

Class schedule (subject to change based on the needs of the class; more readings will be added)

## **Week 1**

### INTRODUCTION

Orientation – class schedule, syllabus, readings, fieldtrips, requirements (class attendance and participation, final research project), grading policy.

Introduction to the course – core topics: gender studies, women’s studies, masculinity studies, queer studies – their development in Japan; the notions of gender and the body, gender relations, power, performance, cultural re/presentation, sexuality, eroticism.

Field trip: TBA

Reading:

Romit Dasgupta and Mark McLelland, "Introduction." *Genders, Transgenders, and Sexualities in Japan*. London: Routledge, 2005: 1-15.

Further reading:

Ishida, H., McLelland, M. J. and Murakami, T. (2005). "The origins of 'queer studies' in postwar Japan." *Genders, Transgenders, and Sexualities in Japan*. London: Routledge, 2005: 33-48.

Judith Butler, "Preface." *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. New York and London: Routledge, 1999 (1990): vii – xxxiii.

Fiona Carson, "Feminism and the Body." In Sarah Gamble (ed.). *The Routledge Companion to Feminism and Postfeminism*. London: Routledge, 2001: 117-128.

## **Week 2**

### 1. GENDER IN JAPANESE MYTHOLOGY

Overview of Japanese mythology from a gender perspective: Izanagi and Izanami, Amaterasu Ōmikami, her brother Susanō-no Mikoto as anti-hero, the myth of the Heavenly Rock Cave (Ama-no Iwato), the deity Ame-no Uzume.

Video: "Ama-no Iwato," male-only *kagura* performance. Short feature "Amaterasu" (director Yuko Torihara, 2011)

Reading:

Excerpts from *Kojiki*, transl. by Donald Philippi. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2015.

Excerpts from *Nihongi: Chronicles of Japan from the Earliest Times to A.D. 697*, transl. by William Aston. London: Japan Society of London, 1896 (available online)

David Lurie, "Myth and History in the Kojiki, Nihon shoki, and Related Works," in Haruo Shirane, Tomi Suzuki, David Lurie (eds.), *The Cambridge History of Japanese Literature*, Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press, 2016: 22-39.

### 2. GENDER AND SHINTO

Shinto rituals from a gender perspective, the roles of men/women over history and at present, the early shamaness and present-day *miko*. Comparison of Japanese and Okinawan shrine maidens: *miko* and *tsukasa*. Female and male body in Shinto.

Video: rituals of Okinawan *tsukasa*, *miko kagura*, Shinto priests' rituals.

Reading:

Yusa Michiko, "Women in Shinto: Images Remembered." In Arvind Sharma (ed.), *Religion and Women*. Albany, N.Y., 1994: 93–119.

Further reading:

Kawahashi Noriko, "Seven Hindrances of Women? A Popular Discourse on Okinawan Women and Religion." In *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*, 27-1/2, Apr 2000: 85-98.

### **Week 3**

#### GENDER IN EARLY JAPANESE HISTORY

Gender and power in legendary images of early emperors, queen Himiko, empress Jingû. Female emperors.

Reading:

Excerpts from *Kojiki*, transl. by Donald Philippi, Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2015.

Excerpts from *Nihongi: Chronicles of Japan from the Earliest Times to A.D. 697*, transl. by Willian Aston, London: Japan Society of London, 1896 (available online)

Kiyoko Takagi, *The Eight Female Emperors of Japan: A Brief Introduction to Their Lives and Legacies*, trans. by Masaka Hamada, Tokyo: Fuzambo International, 2018.

### **Week 4**

#### STRUCTURES OF GENDER IN THE HEIAN PERIOD

Institutionalization of gender, division of female and male roles in society, Heian period women, women in literature, gender representation in art, early ideals of femininity in Japanese culture and their usage in contemporary Japan.

Gender in Japanese festivals – Girl's Day and Boy's Day.

Field trip to sites related to Murasaki Shikibu, eg. Rozanji temple, her tomb, or a museum trip.

Reading:

Haruo Shirane, "Introduction: Court Culture, Women, and the Rise of Vernacular Literature." In Haruo Shirane, Tomi Suzuki, David Lurie (eds.), *The Cambridge History of Japanese Literature*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press, 2015: 95-101.

Royall Tyler, "Introduction." In Murasaki Shikibu, *The Tale of Genji*, transl. by Royall Tyler. New York: Viking, 2001: xi-xxix.

Further reading:

Ivan Morris, "The Women of Heian and their Relations with Men." In Ivan Morris, *The World of the Shining Prince: Court Life in Ancient Japan*. New York: Kodansha USA Inc, 1994: 199-250.

## Week 5

### JAPANESE MASCULINITIES

Classical ideals of masculinity in Japanese culture, Heian period aristocrats, samurai masculinity, the male body in martial arts, ninja. Class and gender.

Field trip: Imperial Palace and Nijo Castle to observe modern representations of the classical male archetypal figures of aristocrats and samurai, or Kyoto Costume Museum.

Reading:

R. W. Connell and James Messerschmidt, "Hegemonic Masculinity: Rethinking the Concept," *Gender and Society*, 19: 6, Dec., 2005: 829-59.

Sabine Frühstück and Anne Walthall "Introduction: Interrogating Men and Masculinities." In Sabine Frühstück and Anne Walthall (eds), *Recreating Japanese Men*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2011: 1-19.

Further reading:

James Roberson and Nobue Suzuki (eds), *Men and Masculinities in Contemporary Japan: Dislocating the Salaryman Doxa*. London: Routledge, 2003.

## Week 6

### GENDER AND BUDDHISM

Buddhist priests, nuns, gender images in Buddhist paintings and sculpture. Women in Buddhism.

Field trip: TBA

Reading:

Kawahashi Noriko, "Feminist Buddhism as Praxis: Women in Traditional Buddhism." *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* 30, nos. 3-4 (2003): 291-313.

Kawahashi Noriko, "Gender Issues in Japanese Religions." In Paul L. Swanson and Clark Chilson (eds.), *Nanzan Guide to Japanese Religions*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2006: 323-35.

Further reading:

Faure, Bernard, *The Power of Denial: Buddhism, Purity, and Gender*. Princeton, N.J., 2003: 1-20.

## Week 7

### MEDIEVAL WOMEN

Samurai wives, women warriors, female performers (shirabyōshi, goze, etc.).

Screening of the Noh Play "Tomoe."

Reading:

Wakita Haruko, "Women and the Creation of the 'Ie' in Japan: An Overview from the Medieval Period to the Present," transl. by David P. Phillips. *U.S.-Japan Women's Journal*. No. 4 (1993), pp. 83-105.

Tabata Yasuko, "Female Attendants and Wives of the Medieval Warrior Class," tr. Christina Laffin. In Wakita Haruko et al., eds., *Gender and Japanese History*, v. 2, (Gerry Yokota-Murakami, translation ed.). Osaka: Osaka University Press, 1999: 313-47.

Further reading:

Wakita Haruko, "Marriage and Property in Premodern Japan from the Perspective of Women's History," transl. by Suzanne Gay. *The Journal of Japanese Studies*, Vol. 10, No. 1 (Winter, 1984), pp. 73-99.

Wakita Haruko, *Women in Medieval Japan: Motherhood, Household Management and Sexuality*, transl. by Alison Tokita. Clayton, Australia: Monash Asia Institute and Tokyo: University of Tokyo Press, 2006.

Hitomi Tonomura, "Re-envisioning Women in the Post-Kamakura Age." In Jeffrey P. Mass, ed., *The Origins of Japan's Medieval World: Courtiers, Clerics, Warriors, and Peasants in the Fourteenth Century*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1998: 138-169.

## **Week 8**

### GENDER IN TRADITIONAL PERFORMING ARTS I

Professional male actors; exclusion of women from official performance space; bugaku, kusemai, sarugaku, noh, kyogen, kabuki and bunraku; women in the early formation of noh and kabuki.

Screening of visual materials – bugaku, kyogen, kabuki and the onnagata body.

Reading:

Isaka Maki (Morinaga), "The Gender of *Onnagata* as the Imitating Imitated: Its Historicity, Performativity, and Involvement in the Circulation of Femininity." In *Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique*, 10.2, Fall 2002: 245-284.

Petkova, Galia, "Kabuki: Performance of Gendered Bodies," in Irina Holca & Carmen Tămaș, eds., *Forms of the Body in Contemporary Japanese Society, Culture, and Literature*, Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2020: 49-72.

## **Week 9**

### GENDER IN TRADITIONAL PERFORMING ARTS II

Female versions of the all-male performing arts and popular male characters. Female performance in "chamber" spaces (courtesans and geisha).

Screening of excerpts from the kabuki plays *Shibaraku* and *Onna Shibaraku* "The Female Shibaraku."

Reading:

Petkova, Galia, "Projecting Classicism in Classical Kabuki Theatre – A Gender Perspective." In Hiroshi Araki, ed., *Projecting Classicism*. Tokyo: Bungaku tsushin, 2020: 762-786.

## **Week 10**

### GENDER IN THE EDO PERIOD

Neo-Confucian teachings and manuals on ideal gender behavior and relations, gender fluidity in popular culture (kabuki), representations of gender in woodblock prints.

Reading:

Leupp, G. P, *Male Colours: The Construction of Homosexuality in Tokugawa Japan*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995.

Mostow, Joshua, "The Gender of Wakashu and the Grammar of Desire in Late 17th Century Edo." In Joshua Mostow, Norman Bryson and Maribeth Graybill (eds.). *Gender and Power in the Japanese Visual Field*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2003: 49-70.

Nishiyama, Matsunosuke. *Edo Culture: Daily Life and Diversions in Urban Japan, 1600-1868*. Gerald Groemer (trans. and ed.). Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1997.

## **Week 11**

### TRANSFORMATION OF GENDER DISCOURSE IN THE MODERN PERIOD

Gender discourse in the Meiji period and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. "Good wives and wise mothers." Changes in gender representation.

Reading:

Koyama Shizuko, *The Educational Ideal of "Good Wife, Wise Mother" in Modern Japan*. Leiden: Brill, 2013.

## **Week 12**

### GENDER IN CONTEMPORARY JAPAN

Maintenance of gender norms in the stereotypical images of salaryman and housewife, construction and preservation of traditional ideals of femininity and masculinity, changing perceptions of gender in depictions of women in TV drama, cross-dressing and gender-bending in popular culture.

Possible field trip to observe *taishū engeki* in Osaka or Takatsuki.

Reading: TBA

**Week 13**

**PowerPoint presentations of Student Research Projects!**