

## International Symposium “The Philosopher and the Princess” Outline



On May 19, 2019, the Institute for Gender Studies (IGS) hosted the international symposium, “The Philosopher and the Princess: Freedom, Love, and Democracy in Cold War Japan.” The symposium aimed to analyze Cold War dynamics from the perspectives of gender representations. This fresh approach was based on a pioneering research project that Professor Jan Bardsley was conducting at IGS.

Keynote speeches depicted the young women’s search for new ways of living at that time. Discussants responded to the speeches by emphasizing the importance of considering the diversity among women and the need for women’s empowerment. Subjects of the discussion included feminism and the dissemination of the concept of gender in Japan. A thought-provoking, multidimensional discussion took place in the symposium.

**【Date】** Sunday, May 19, 2019 13:30～16:30

**【Venue】** Multi-purpose Hall, Hisao & Hiroko TAKI Plaza, Ochanomizu University

**【Coordinator】** Jan Bardsley (Specially Appointed Prof., IGS/Prof. North Carolina Univ. Chapel Hill)

**【Keynote Speeches】**

Jan Bardsley “Romance Revisited: The Royal Wedding of 1959 Viewed Sixty Years Later”

Julia C. Bullock (Emory University) “Beauvoir in Japan: Tracing the Impact of *The Second Sex* on Japanese Women”

**【Discussants】** Aya Kitamura (Tsuda University), Gaye Rowley (Waseda University)

**【Moderator】** Fumie Ohashi (IGS)

**【Organizer】** Institute for Gender Studies (IGS), Ochanomizu University

**【Language】** English (with English-Japanese simultaneous interpretation)

**【Number of Participants】** 72

**【Symposium Summary】**

Japan’s rising affluence in the 1950s and 1960s, the expansion of girls’ education, the increase in women’s magazines, and the rise of middle-class consciousness led women to imagine new possibilities. What new choices did women have? What would it take to realize dreams of freedom, self-discovery, and love? This symposium engages with these questions by discussing the influence of two legendary figures—French feminist philosopher Simone de Beauvoir and Crown Princess Michiko, women who posed radically different models of self-expression, sexuality, and social engagement. Viewing attention to these women through a Cold War lens, we can also ask how ensuing discussion of the philosopher and the princess positioned Japan itself amid the transnational dynamics of the 1950s and 1960s.

【Speakers】 (Extracts from handouts)



**Jan Bardsley** is Specially Appointed Professor at IGS and Professor at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is the author of *Women and Democracy in Cold War Japan* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2014) and *The Bluestockings of Japan: New Women Fiction and Essays from Seitō, 1911-1916* (University of Michigan, Center for Japanese Studies, 2007), which was awarded the 2011 Hiratsuka Raichō Prize by Japan Women's University. With Laura Miller, she has co-edited two books, *Manners and Mischief: Gender, Power, and Etiquette in Japan* (University of California Press, 2011) and *Bad Girls of Japan* (Palgrave, 2005).



**Julia Bullock** is Associate Professor of Japanese Studies and Chair of the Department of Russian and East Asian Languages and Cultures (REALC) at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. She is the author of *The Other Women's Lib: Gender and Body in Japanese Women's Fiction, 1960-1973* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2010) and *Coeds Ruining the Nation: Women, Education, and Social Change in Postwar Japanese Media* (University of Michigan Press, summer 2019). With Ayako Kano and James Welker, she also edited the essay collection *Rethinking Japanese Feminisms* (University of Hawaii Press, 2017).



**Aya Kitamura** is Lecturer at Tsuda University. She specializes in sociology, gender studies and Japanese studies, and conducts ethnography in Tokyo, Honolulu, Hong Kong and Singapore. Her publications include: *Nihon josei wa doko ni irunoka* (Locating Japanese Women: The Politics of Image and Identities), Tokyo: Keisō Shobō, 2009, "English Mystique? A Critical Discourse Analysis on Gendered Bilingualism in Japan," *Gender and Language* 10 (1), pp.1-20, 2016, and "Gender, Representation and Identity: The Multifold Politics of Japanese Woman Imagery" in Jieyu Liu and Junko Yamashita eds., *Handbook of Gender in East Asia*, London: Routledge, pp.269-284, 2020. She is also a co-editor of *Gendai esunogurafi* (Contemporary Ethnography), Shin'yōsha, 2013.



**Gaye Rowley** teaches English and Japanese literature at Waseda University. She has written and/or translated several biographies of Japanese women, including *Yosano Akiko and The Tale of Genji* (2000), *Autobiography of a Geisha* (2003), and *An Imperial Concubine's Tale: Scandal, Shipwreck, and Salvation in Seventeenth-Century Japan* (2013). Her translation of Ōgimachi Machiko's *Matsukage nikki* (In the Shelter of the Pine, 1710-12) is almost complete.



**Fumie Ohashi** is Associate Professor of the Institute for Gender Studies and the Graduate School of Humanities and Sciences, Ochanomizu University. Her research interests focus on gender and migration in the reproductive sphere of Mainland China, Hong Kong and Chinese speaking communities in Japan. Her first book *Migrant Domestic Workers in Contemporary China: The Politics of Reproductive Labor in Rural-Urban Relations* (Ochanomizu Shobō, 2011. in Japanese) was based on her long-term fieldwork experiences in Beijing and was awarded the 31st Yamakawa Kikue Women's Studies Memorial Book Award in 2011. Currently she is working on the labor relations and labor movements of migrant and local domestic workers in Hong Kong. She is also interested in transnational and translocal women's activism in East Asia.