

Center for Japanese Studies Events - 2002

Positive Action or Part-time-ization? Japan's Changing Environment for Equal Job Opportunity

Charles Weathers, Economics, Osaka City University

February 7, 2002

Center for Japanese Studies

Japan is noted for the persistence of gender discrimination in workplaces. Nevertheless, rising concern about declining economic competitiveness and the falling birthrate led the government, business, and organized labor to become more serious about promoting equal opportunity in the late 1990s. This presentation examines the course of policymaking leading up to the Revised Equal Employment Opportunity Law of 1997, Positive Action (affirmative action) initiatives and conditions for part timers and other non-regular workers. While prospects for many professional and career-oriented women are improving, a deteriorating economy and the increasing "non-regularization" of the work force may mean worsening conditions for most women workers.

The Brazilian Imaginaire on Zen: Global Influences, Rhizomatic Forms

Christina Rocha, Religious Studies, University of Western Sydney

February 8, 2002

Center for Japanese Studies

This lecture aims to show that Zen Buddhism in Brazil is not isolated from global trends. Quite the contrary, not only is Zen in Brazil influenced by "centers" which originate the global traffic of ideas, people and images on Zen, but Brazil is also a "center" itself for other "peripheries". Using the concept of imaginaire and Arjun Appadurai's five scapes, the author will analyze how Brazilian media has reported the Buddhist boom, which has taken place in Brazil since the 1990s. She will identify the sources of this media imaginaire and discuss the reasons for the new Brazilian interest in Buddhism.

The American Indictment: The Japan That Cannot Say Sorry

Charles Burres, Berkeley Bureau Chief, San Francisco Chronicle

February 14, 2002

Center for Japanese Studies

Women, Youths, and Men: Male-Male Eroticism and the Age/Gender System of Tokugawa Japan

Gregory Pflugfelder, East Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University

February 21, 2002

Center for Japanese Studies

Bungalows and Culture Houses: Westernization in Early Twentieth-Century Japan and the Imperial World Order

Jordan Sand, East Asian Languages and Cultures, Georgetown University

February 25, 2002

Center for Japanese Studies

The small, inexpensive houses known as "bungalows" were at the height of their popularity in the western United States in 1908, when Japanese reformers discovered them and began promoting them as the ideal dwelling type to bring Japan closer to modern standards of living in the West. Although these simple buildings made no significant contribution to the high tradition of modern architecture, the story of their importation to Japan reveals much about the formation of modern bourgeois class culture, and about the international position of the Japanese bourgeoisie in the early twentieth century. "Culture houses" (bunka jutaku) — the new hybrid style dwellings that appeared in the Tokyo suburbs of the 1920's — were similarly

humble, and similarly expressive of class culture and national consciousness. While bungalows failed to gain a mass market before World War I, the success of the culture house after the war suggests the new cultural milieu of the first generation of urban consumers to grow up in imperial Japan.

Reasserting Imperial Power? Britain and East Asia in the 1930's

Yoichi Kibata, International Studies, Tokyo University

February 27, 2002

Center for Japanese Studies

Sustainable Environment of Our Civilization - From Japanese Perspective: Agriculture and Industrialization

Koyu Furusawa, Economics, Kokugakuin University

February 28, 2002

Center for Japanese Studies

The author will review the traditional Japanese agricultural system and modern ecological movement from cultural, social and historical aspects, and examine comparatively the prospects of sustainable agriculture in Japan, East, South and Southeast Asia in an attempt to find a holistic perspective for a new sustainable industrial system.

Parody and Pathology in Mori Ogai's "Vita Sexualis"

James Reichert, Asian Languages, Stanford University

March 8, 2002

Center for Japanese Studies

During the first decade of the 20th century, Naturalism dominated the Japanese literary scene. The movement served as lightning rod for various ideological battles. Some praised Naturalism for its "truthfulness"; others dismissed Naturalist literature as near-pornography. One prominent participant in these debates was Mori Ogai, who waged a 20-year campaign against Naturalism. The culmination of this extended campaign was *Vita Sexualis* (1909), a work that strove to discredit Naturalism and its founding principles. This talk will consider how Ogai mobilized two strategies to attack Naturalism: history and science. Specifically, the author will explore the way that these two strategies work with and against each other.

Japan: Crossing the Boundaries Within

March 15-16, 2002

Center for Japanese Studies

This two-day colloquium will focus on the recent dramatic changes in the nature of the Japanese/non-Japanese boundaries within Japan, including what some have called "internal internationalization" (*kokunai kokusaika*), dealing with the growing paradox of increasing political conservatism and retrenchment vs. private open-mindedness and liberal attitudes. The emphasis will be on the existence, nature, components and permeability of these sociocultural boundaries and their on-going modification.

All of the presenters - please note almost all were trained or associated with Berkeley - have carried out contemporary research on topics related to sociocultural boundaries at the grass-roots level as seen and felt by different kinds of Japanese people and their neighbors.

The participants are multinational, with four from Japan, three faculty members, four present and three former graduate students from Berkeley. The resulting collection will be submitted for publication in both English and Japanese.

*This conference is one of a series of events celebrating the Centennial of the Department of Anthropology. It is co-sponsored by the Center for Japanese Studies, Department of Anthropology and the Institute of East Asian Studies.

Japan and the Nobel Science Prizes, 1901-1949

James Bartholomew, Ohio State University

March 21, 2002

Center for Japanese Studies

From the Age of Growth to the Age of Sustainability: Paradigm Shift Turmoil in Japan

Gavan McCormack, Professor, East Asian History, Australian National University

April 18, 2002

Center for Japanese Studies

This lecture will examine Japan's "construction state," its institutions and practices, and the Koizumi "reform" agenda and its likely consequences, with particular attention to two large-scale regional "development" projects on the island of Kyushu, and to the political and social movements generated around those issues.

The Japanese Constitution After 55 Years: The Revision Debate

Gavan McCormack, Professor, East Asian History, Australian National University

April 19, 2002

Center for Japanese Studies

In January 2000, Constitutional Reform Councils were set up in both houses of the national Diet to debate the constitution and its possible reform. The inherent implausibility of the notion that Japan's constitution, drawn up under American occupation, would remain unchanged for so long is such that dispute is hard to avoid. The debate is no mere narrow or legal matter, but goes to the heart of how Japan should see itself and its role in the coming century. This seminar will analyze this debate and its implications.

Gavan McCormack is Professor of Japanese History in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University. He was educated at Melbourne and London universities, with a Ph.D. in History from London University in 1974. He taught at the Universities of Leeds (UK), La Trobe (Melbourne), and Adelaide, before being appointed to his current position in 1990. He has lived and worked in Japan on many occasions since first visiting as a student in 1962, and has been a visiting professor at Kyoto and Kobe universities. He has written a dozen books on aspects of modern Japanese, Korean, and Chinese history. He is well known in Japan (where many of his works have been translated and published) and his work has also been translated and published in Chinese, Korean, Thai, Arabic, and the main European languages.

Phantom Women: An Examination of the Disappearing Acts of Female Bodies in Contemporary Japanese Performance

Katherine Mezur, Dramatic Art, Georgetown University

April 25, 2002

Center for Japanese Studies

Dumb Type, a contemporary theatre collective from Kyoto, Japan, uses its female roles to emphasize a creation of illusionary phantom women. These "phantom women" appear as part human, part ghost/fantasy, and part machine and perhaps reflect a different consciousness that attenuates identity and gender roles. Do they ironically substantiate "new desires" and fluid identities for contemporary Japanese women or do they merely sustain the traditional practices of the male-created role? This presentation suggests that women are indeed exploiting phantom women roles in order to create fissures in iconic traditions through their outrageous and

ephemeral critique of those structures. The presentation will include video excerpts from Dumb Type's performances from 1992 through 2002.

US-Japan Relations: How Will the Next 10 Years Differ From the Last 50?

Steven Vogel and Keith Nitta, Political Science, UCB

April 29, 2002

Center for Japanese Studies

Keith Nitta and Steven Vogel will report on their work on a new edited volume entitled *U.S.-Japan Relations in a Changing World* (Brookings, 2002). The book examines eight factors that have driven the U.S.-Japan relationship over the past 50 years, and that will continue to shape the relationship in the future.

Nitta will focus especially on U.S. and Japanese foreign policy paradigms. Vogel will discuss the volume's conclusions and the implications for the future.

Korean Officials in the Land of the Kami: Diplomacy and the Prestige Economy, 1607-1811

Nam-Lin Hur, Asian Studies, University of British Columbia

May 3, 2002

Center for Korean Studies, Center for Japanese Studies

From 1607 to 1811 Choson Korea maintained an official diplomatic and trade relationship with Tokugawa Japan. During this period, to the Tokugawa Japanese Korea was a powerful source of "otherness" — both an object of curiosity and an alien presence that remained forever outside the cultural ambit of the country of the gods (kami). In contrast, to the Koreans Tokugawa Japan, despite its status as Korea's only equal diplomatic partner, was no more than a country of "pirates and barbarians" — a country beyond the reach of Confucian teachings.

In this presentation, which will be based upon analyses of reports, government documents, travelogues, diaries, literary works, and gazetteers, the speaker will explore how the Korean-Japanese relationship was molded by the diverging values of Confucianism and Shinto (interestingly, Buddhism was absent) in imagination and in practice. Professor Nam-lin Hur (Ph.D., Princeton) teaches premodern Japanese history at The University of British Columbia. Having published *Prayer and Play in Late Tokugawa Japan: Asakusa Sensooji and Edo Society* (Harvard University Press, 2000), he is now working on a monograph entitled *Funerary Buddhism and Social Order in Tokugawa Japan: The Danka System and the Cultural Politics of Ancestor Worship*. A first draft (about 480 pages) of this project has been completed and is currently under revision for publication. Professor Hur also writes on the issues of Korean-Japanese relations in premodern East Asia.

Anime and Techno-Orientalism

Freda Freiberg, Visual Dept., Monash University

May 23, 2002

Center for Japanese Studies

This presentation argues that anime texts of the late 1990s reveal the reemergence of a brooding melancholia constitutive of a critical approach to history that has been absent from the Japanese cinema since the sixties. This mood of mourning has not been previously evident in anime, which has been generally marked by its exuberant vitality and (ahistorical and apolitical) postmodern pastiche. Freiberg will examine the return of history and the political repressed, with detailed reference to *Jin-Roh* and some attention to *Princess Mononoke* and *Blood-The Last Vampire*. She will suggest possible reasons for the shift, and raise questions about its extent and maintenance, given the industrial, generic and commercial constraints of the industry. The lecture will be illustrated with clips from the films.

Japanese Silent Cinema and the Art of the Benshi

Midori Sawato

September 16, 2002

Center for Japanese Studies

Stone Tools and Cognitive Patterns in Japanese Palaeolithic Assemblages

Peter Bleed, Professor, Japanese Palaeolithic Archaeology, University Nebraska-Lincoln

September 23, 2002

Joint Colloquium

Center for Japanese Studies, Department of Anthropology

Atmospherics

Jun Aoki, Architecture, Aoki & Associates, Tokyo, Japan

October 2, 2002

Joint Colloquium

Center for Japanese Studies, Department of Architecture

After the Bubbles: Linking the Recoveries of America and Asia

Barry Eichengreen, Director of Institute for European Studies, UC Berkeley

Shijuro Ogata, Former Deputy Governor for International Relations, the Bank of Japan

Chantale Wong, Former U.S. Acting Executive Director, Asian Development Bank

T.J. Pempel, IEAS Director, UC Berkeley, moderator

October 7, 2002

Lunch and program, registration required

Bubbles in the Japanese banking, stock and land markets burst in 1990-91 and the country has yet to recover. Rapid growth across Asia's developing economies collapsed in 1997-98 and recovery there has been uneven at best. China did well in 1997-98 but now faces a massive non-performing loan problem that many are warning is about to explode into a full scale banking crisis. Americans riding the wave of the most spectacular stock market boom in their nation's history may have felt a wave of temporary triumph until the recent puncturing of the Dot.Com and NASDAQ bubbles. Meanwhile, Enron, Imclone and World Com make it clear that Asian economies are hardly alone in the need to confront "crony capitalism."

The time is right to address a number of questions that grow out of the economic difficulties that have hit both sides of the Pacific and to search for solutions sensitive to the interconnections between these economies rather than for unilateralist approaches that attempt to ignore them. What are the dangers to Asia of America's technology slowdown? What's the latest on financial deregulation, liquidity shortage and deflation? What are the virtues of creating a new region-wide Asian financial architecture? Who will serve as the engine of trans-Pacific recovery — Japan, China, ASEAN or the U.S.? Please join Shijuro Ogata, former Deputy Governor for International Relations of the Bank of Japan, and former Deputy Governor of the Japan Development Bank, for a luncheon discussion.

Registration 11:30 AM

Lunch and Program 12:00 - 2:00 PM

\$40 Members of Co-sponsoring Organizations

\$45 Non-Members

Co-sponsored by the Japan Society of Northern California, UC Berkeley Institute of East Asian Studies, the Commonwealth Club of California, the Asia Society, the Asia Foundation, Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Northern California.

Becoming Ukifune: Sarashina Nikki and a Performance of Self

Sudeshna Sen, Postdoctoral Fellow, Classic Japanese Literature, University of Oregon

October 10, 2002

Center for Japanese Studies

In *Sarashina nikki* the narrator articulates her desire for monogatari and her fascination for Ukifune emphasizing her own rusticity and failure to achieve goals of worldly and romantic success. Garnering evidence from the narrator's descriptions of her marriage, her love affair, and her experiences at court, Dr. Sen argues that the narrator's identification with Ukifune, assertions of marginality, and social ineptitude successfully locate her as a vulnerable heroine in her reenactment of her own life.

Those Naughty Teenage Girls: Assessments of the Kogal Identity

Laura Miller, Associate Professor, Anthropology/Sociology, Loyola University of Chicago

October 16, 2002

Center for Japanese Studies

Among the many styles which contemporary youth may adopt, perhaps none has become the focus of such mass media anxiety and voyeuristic interest as the so-called Kogals, young women with bleached hair, dark tans and extreme make-up who create dramatically different hybrid looks. Drawing from popular culture sources, this presentation will examine critiques and displays of schoolgirl subculture, with a particular focus on the way their use of language challenges longstanding norms about gendered speech.

On Recent Work

Waro Kishi, Professor, Architecture, Kyoto Institute of Technology, Kyoto

October 21, 2002

Joint Colloquium

Center for Japanese Studies, Department of Architecture

Waro Kishi's work offers unusually rich sectional and spatial variations which are studied and admired around the world. He is known for crisp, elegantly detailed Modern buildings, often unbelievably tiny, but with a sense of great openness and light. Externally, his buildings are cool compositions of steel and glass, but he nonetheless takes full advantage of the crafts of the Kansai area of Japan, and his interiors incorporate *tatami*, wood, and even stone, and are frequently interwoven with elegant gardens of a traditional style. He struggles in his work to reconcile tradition and today, and makes an effort to be responsible to heritage but aware of the new materials and economic forces that have led to change.

The 10th Annual Bakai パークレー大学研究大会

October 28, 2002

Center for Japanese Studies

Agenda

2:10 — Welcome / Announcements

2:15

Performative Memories: On Postwar Japanese Theatre and Culture" — Miryam Sas, Assistant Professor, East Asian Languages and Cultures/Comparative Literature

"Fractured Memory, Split Memoir: Containing the Past in *Tamakiwaru*, a 13th-Century Court Memoir" — Miki Wheeler, Graduate Student, East Asian Languages and Cultures

"Contextualizing Heian Screen Poetry" — Joseph Sorensen, Graduate Student, East Asian Languages and Cultures

"New Elementary Japanese Textbook" — Yoko Hasegawa, Associate Professor, East Asian Languages and Cultures

"Opposition Disappearance in Japan: Post-Realignment Evidence Supports Theoretical Pessimism" — Robert Weiner, Graduate Student, Political Science
"Japanese Labor Relations in Transition" — Steven Vogel, Associate Professor, Political Science

3:45 — Break

4:00

"Gender, Community Activism and Grassroots Transnationalization in Japan" — Keiko Yamanaka, Lecturer, Ethnic Studies
"Crime Situation after a Natural Disaster: Do Crimes Increase or Decrease after a Disaster?" — Hideyo Matsubara, Visiting Scholar, Law School
"Japan's Provincial Tourism Market" — John Ertl, Graduate Student, Anthropology
"Kudara no Sato" — Nelson Graburn, Professor, Anthropology "On Digital Map Project" — Yuki Ishimatsu, Head Librarian in Japanese Selections, East Asian Library

5:15 — Further Questions / Closing Comments

Cherry Blossoms and the Tokkôtai: Aesthetics and Totalitarian Ideologies
Emiko Ohnuki-Tierney, Professor, Anthropology, University of Wisconsin, Madison
November 6, 2002
Center for Japanese Studies

How did the Japanese military state come to use the master trope of falling cherry blossoms in order to aestheticize its soldiers' sacrifice to the emperor? In what ways did the Tokkôtai pilots, 85% of whom were university students, reproduce this "totalitarian" ideology in action or perhaps even in their thoughts? This paper assesses the impact of the state's use of education and popular culture through a close examination of these pilots' diaries. The queries it poses are placed in broader comparative perspectives on the role of aesthetics in totalitarian/authoritarian/fascist ideologies.

Religious Systems in Prehistoric Japan: Clay Figurines in Jomon and Yayoi Periods
Hiromi Shitara, Archaeology, National Museum of History in Sakura
November 14, 2002
Center for Japanese Studies

Clay figurines appeared around 12,000 years ago, roughly coinciding with the incipient Jomon and simultaneously with the appearance of Jomon pottery. This presentation will discuss three themes: first, the role of clay figurines and their symbolic meaning in the male and female principle; second, the change of meanings of clay figurines and tattoo custom from the Jomon to Yayoi period, and the cultural transformation from the one of hunter-gatherer to the agricultural; third, the possibility of using clay figurines to concretely reconstruct the clothes and customs of the people of those days.

The Impact of International Law on Japan: Comparing Trade and Human Rights
Keisuke Iida, Professor, International Politics and Economics, Aoyama Gakuin University
November 21, 2002
Center for Japanese Studies