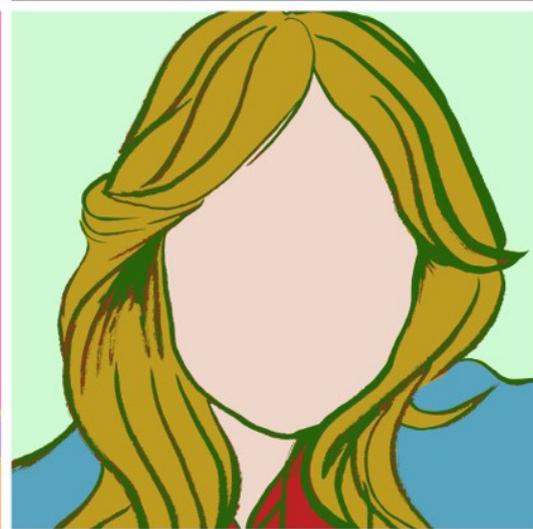


FEMINISM IN JAPAN: RESISTANCE, COMPLICITY, AND GENDERED POWER



March 25th, 2026
Sophia University, Building 10, 301
16:00-18:30
No registration required
In person only

Event Abstract

Feminism in Japan has developed over more than a century, yet persistent gender inequalities continue to shape social, cultural, and political life. This workshop brings together early-career researchers working on gender and feminism in Japan across literature, history, media, and contemporary social contexts. Through an interdisciplinary lens, ranging from postwar women's poetry and interwar feminist movements to wartime sexual violence, contemporary literature, and digital sexual harm, we examine how gendered power, responsibility, and consent have been produced, contested, and reconfigured over time. Rather than treating feminism in Japan as a linear or unified project, the workshop highlights tensions between resistance and complicity, agency and structural constraint, memory and erasure. By placing historical inquiries alongside analyses of present-day sexual violence and digital mediation, the workshop aims to foster dialogue across temporal, methodological, and disciplinary boundaries and to rethink feminism in Japan as an ongoing negotiation shaped by national projects, cultural representation, and rapidly changing technological environments.

Workshop Schedule

16:00-16:05 Opening remarks

16:05-17:05 Panel 1: Feminism, History, and National Projects

Rewriting Tradition: Gendered Lyric Community in *Nyonin Tanka* (1949–1997)

Damiana De Gennaro, PhD Candidate, Stockholm University

Rereading gender and nation in 1920s Japanese women's magazines

Mariam Talibi, PhD candidate, Waseda University

Sacrifice Without Honour: Military Sexual Slavery and the Gendered Logics of Empire

Agnese Dionisio, JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow, Sophia University

Discussant: Maiko Kodaka

17:10-18:10 Panel 2: Sexual Violence, Representation, and Contemporary Negotiations

Rape as a topic within contemporary Japanese literature written by women

Marija Tomic, PhD candidate, the University of Vienna

Clicks for Consent: Using a dating simulator to investigate the sexual consent negotiation process among Japanese youth

Misha Cade, PhD candidate, the University of Tokyo

Digital sexual violence in Japan and the amplification of gendered norms

Maiko Kodaka, Assistant Professor, Sophia University

Discussant Agnese Dionisio

18:10-18:30 Final Discussion

This workshop is organized by Maiko Kodaka (Assistant Professor, FLA, Sophia University) and Dr. Agnese Dionisio (JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow, ICC Sophia University)

