



Work “like a woman”: The construction of femininity and the female body in the Japanese job hunting (*shūkatsu*)

a virtual lecture by Anna Lughezzani

Shūkatsu (就活), namely job-hunting, is a salient moment in the life of a university student in Japan: if they succeed, they will become *shakaijin*, proper members of society. An anthropopoietic rite of passage in which the Japanese society molds its youth into adults, *shūkatsu* inscribes in them socio-culturally constructed ideas of “right” femininity and masculinity, and normative female/male roles in the enterprise-society and in the family, by molding their bodies through various bodily techniques that set boys and girls apart. Nine months of ethnographic fieldwork in Tokyo informed a research on the ways female university students experience *shūkatsu* and make their first career choice, and on the different ways companies adopt in order to appeal to female and male possible candidates, in the context of Japanese demographic crisis, labor shortage, and Abe’s “Womenomics”, on a national scale, and governor Koike’s “Josei ga kagayaku Tokyo” campaign, on a municipal one.



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online

就活
メイク
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