



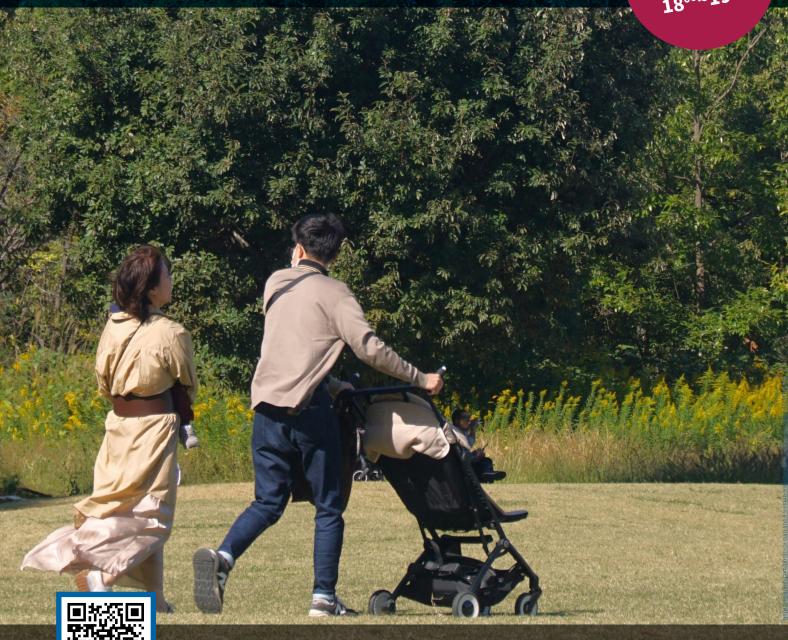




Family Matters: Gendering the Japanese State Governance System

A hybrid u: japan lecture by Hiroko Takeda

Thursday 2025-11-13 1800~1930



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Thursday 2025-11-13 18⁰⁰~19³⁰

Studies of state governance have long excluded the family from their scope due to the conventional liberal understanding of the public-private divide. Feminist critiques, particularly those in the field of Feminist Political Economy, have challenged this view by highlighting that families play a vital role in reproducing a national economy and a nation-state by maintaining the current workforce/citizens and replenishing the future one. As Melinda Cooper has discussed, the spread of neoliberal financial capitalism, which emphasises individualisation as a normative value and operates transnationally, has not fundamentally transformed the functioning and understanding of the family as the backbone of everyday stability, happiness, and well-being. Or rather, according to Wendy Brown, its significance as a safe haven in the competitive socio-economic environment has been strengthened. In this way, the sound

biological, economic, and socio-political reproduction based on gender roles within the family remains part of the state governance system, which maintains and further develops nation-states and national econo-

The trajectory of Japan's governance system since the mid-19th century presents an intriguing case study for examining the political functions the family has played. By referring to the concept of governmentality, which operates through two distinct types of power-biopolitics and necropolitics — the lecture aims to illuminate the ways in which the family is situated within the modern and neoliberalized governance system in Japan, being mobilised for the governing of the nation-state and national economy. This enables us to grasp the crucial importance of gender when studying the Japanese governance system.



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