



**“ETHNIC COMMUNITIES WITHIN GLOBAL JAPANESE STUDIES –  
ENCOUNTERING DIVERSITY IN A MULTI-ETHNIC, MULTI-CULTURAL JAPAN”**  
International Collaborative Research-Networking Talk Series at Ritsumeikan University  
Sponsored by Toshiba International Foundation

**PRACTICES OF CITIZENSHIP, MIGRATORY ASPIRATIONS, AND STRATEGIES OF BELONGING  
FOR FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN JAPAN: GENDER, RITUAL, AND SPACE**

February 7, 2026 (Saturday)  
18:00-20:00 JST



Ritsumeikan University,  
Suekawa Memorial Lecture Hall  
-- Hybrid Zoom Online

**Program Outline**

**PRACTICES OF CITIZENSHIP, MIGRATORY ASPIRATIONS, AND STRATEGIES OF BELONGING  
FOR FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN JAPAN: GENDER, RITUAL, AND SPACE**

**1. Opening Remarks**

Dr. Jackie J. Kim-Wachutka, Ritsumeikan University



**2. From Familial to Market Membership:  
Filipina Marriage Immigrants and the Japanese Labor Market**

Dr. Ilju Kim. Sophia University

Shifting the analytical lens from familial to "market citizenship," this study examines how Filipina marriage immigrants in Japan negotiate belonging through labor market participation. Drawing on 27 interviews, it identifies how women appropriate, resist, or transform gendered stereotypes to secure residence, highlighting the conditional nature of membership on economic productivity.



**3. (In)visible newcomers in Japan's Transnational Countryside**

Dr. Cornelia Reiher, Freie Universität Berlin

Rural Japan is facing a severe population decline and labor shortage. Central and local governments are trying to attract new residents to live and work in the countryside. Based on the experiences of and support for different migrant groups from the perspective of (in)visibility, I explore how and why domestic and foreign migrants are treated differently in rural Japan.



**4. Religious Practices and Meaning in the Everyday Lives of Thai  
Workers in Japan**

Dr. Jessadakorn Kalapong, Doshisha Women's University

Low-skilled workers often face constrained living and working conditions in their destination countries. Through a case study of Thai workers in Japan, this talk highlights the significance of migrants' religious beliefs and practices during their sojourn under such circumstances. As part of their repertoire for coping with life's difficulties, these religious elements help create spaces that hold particular meanings in their everyday lives in Japan.



**5. Educational Mobility and the Dilemma of Familial Expectations:  
Life Stories of Female Students from Rural China in Japan**

Rinko Arai, PhD Candidate (ABD), Osaka University

This talk explores the mobility experiences of female Chinese international students in Japan, focusing on those from rural backgrounds. Drawing on life stories, it shows that corporeal mobility does not necessarily result in empowerment and often sustains gendered normative life-course and filial expectations, while some participants mobilise their familiarity with Japan to (re)negotiate personal aspirations and family relationships.

**6. Discussion, Q&A and Closing Remarks**

**LOCAL TIME**



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**CAMPUS MAP**



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Organized by: Dr. Jackie J. Kim-Wachutka (Project Director)  
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