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CONFIGURATIONS OF CONVENTIONAL AND NON-CONVENTIONAL 'FAMILY' ARRANGEMENTS IN JAPAN

Inaugural University of Queensland/University of Western Australia Bilateral Research Collaboration Award

Two-Day Workshop

9am ~ 5pm, 26, 27 September 2011

Venue: Fellows Room, Trinity College, The University of Western Australia

This collaborative multidisciplinary workshop involves Japanese Studies scholars from both universities as presenters, and two distinguished external scholars as discussants. The workshop's focus is the institution of 'family' in modern/contemporary Japan. While the middle-class, nuclear family has long dominated imaginings of 'the Japanese family', there have, in reality, always been multiple configurations of family and kinship arrangements. This diversity has gained greater visibility in recent decades, in the context of significant socio-economic, cultural, and demographic shifts since the 1990s. Drawing upon a variety of disciplinary and methodological approaches, the presenters in this workshop will unpack some of these diverse meanings and practices associated with family. Issues explored range from historical contestations of the concept of family to contemporary issues like aging, single households, non-heterosexual living arrangements, and transborder families.

Organizers:

Dr Tomoko Aoyama, UQ; Dr Romit Dasgupta, UWA

Presenters:

University of Queensland

- Tomoko Aoyama, 'The Girl-Grandmother Relation in Japanese Women's Literature and *Manga*'
- Jared Denman, 'Japanese Families Outside Japan: Eldest Sons, International Migration and Filial Piety'
- Lucy Fraser, 'The Gift of the Bark Gown and the Curse of Old Age: *Shōjo* (Girls), *Rōjo* (Old Women), and Family in Traditional and Contemporary Fairy Tales'
- Kayoko Hashimoto, 'The Role of Newspaper Media in Constructing Public Representations of "Monster Parents"'
- Morris Low, 'Families and Living with Disability in Postwar Japan: Returned Soldiers and Male Identity in Peacetime'
- Akiko Uchiyama, 'Story-telling Mothers: Wakamatsu Shizuko's Translation of *Little Lord Fauntleroy*'

University of Western Australia

- Laura Dales, 'Suitably Single?: Representations of Singlehood in Contemporary Japan'
- Romit Dasgupta, 'Re-Imagining the "Post-Bubble" Family in *Tokyo Sonata* and *Hush!*'
- Tomoko Nakamatsu, 'Transborder Families in the Multicultural Framework: Representations of Foreign Nationals of Japanese Descent'
- Sachiko Sone, 'The Transnational Japanese Woman and Family Space in Western Australia'
- Leonie Stickland, 'The "Family of Friends" Concept in Accommodating Seniors of Diverse Sexualities in Japan'

Discussants:

- Professor Vera Mackie, ARC Futures Fellow, University of Wollongong
- A/Professor Leng Leng Thang, Department of Japanese Studies, National University of Singapore

RSVP interest to attend by Monday 12 September: uq.uwa.insideoutjapan@gmail.com

NOTE: There is no charge for this workshop. However, due to venue-capacity constraint, numbers will be limited to the first 30 RSVPs.