

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2020

# BOUNDARIES, CROSSINGS, AND CREATIVE SPACES IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

**2020 SYMPOSIUM OF THE GRADUATE PROGRAM ON GLOBAL SOCIETY (GSP)**

The University of Tokyo, Komaba, Building 18, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Collaboration Room 1

**10:30 – 18:00**



The 2020 GSP Symposium, “Boundaries, Crossings, and Creative Spaces in the Contemporary World,” explores ways in which the currents of global exchange

are reshaping existing norms and institutions and creating space for new ones. As we move toward the third decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, globalization continues to increase in depth and complexity despite countervailing trends and anti-globalist resistance. Due to the accumulating effects of globalization, the contemporary status quo has become a shifting terrain ripe with new opportunities but also shadowed by uncertainty and peril. This new social reality, marked by a dynamic interplay of continuity and change, constitutes the field of inquiry for this year’s contributors.

Although intensifying networks of interconnection and exchange have touched virtually every aspect of society, the 2020 GSP Symposium highlights two domains for special consideration: culture & communication and law & politics.

#### **Culture & Communication**

The current generation has witnessed a communications revolution that rivals that triggered by the new audio and visual technologies introduced in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The result has been an explosion in the quantity and variety of information flow, with profound implications for aspects of culture ranging from representation and identity construction, to community formation and social mobilization, to mass media, literature, and art. These developments, in turn, have opened new spaces within the fields of intercultural communication, linguistics, and communication studies.

#### **Law, Politics, and Human Security**

Forces old and new have been altered or amplified by these currents of global exchange, reshaping the terms, conditions, and contours of international society. Heightened engagement by religious and other non-state actors; new forms of property and economic enterprise; new modes of power projection and the asymmetrical use of force; expanding networks of transnational community and advocacy; evolving understandings of and expectations for personal and political rights; advancing technologies that offer great potential but also raise serious concerns—these developments and many more have directly impacted human security around the globe, forcing legal and political regimes to adapt.

With these vital topics in view, the 2020 GSP Symposium will foster lively academic discussions accessible to scholars, students, and interested observers alike.



#### **Keynote Lecture:**

#### **Dr. Suma Ikeuchi, “How to Study Global Boundaries: A View from Transnational Japanese Studies”**

Suma Ikeuchi is an international writer and anthropologist whose work explores the construction of cultural boundaries in our increasingly interconnected world. Her ethnographic projects investigate the making and crossing of boundaries between all kinds of “us” and “them,” with a special emphasis on the politics of identification at the intersection of migration, citizenship, and religion in Global Asia. Such boundary crossing is mirrored in her multidisciplinary scholarship, which merges insights from anthropology, religious studies, migration studies, visual studies, ethnic studies, and cultural geography.

She is the author of *Jesus Loves Japan: Return Migration and Global Pentecostalism in a Brazilian Diaspora* (Stanford University Press, 2019), a path-breaking ethnographic work based on intensive fieldwork among Japanese-Brazilian migrant communities (including many Christian churches) in Japan. More recently, she has turned her lens on Filipino communities in Japan, with a focus on the intimate care they provide to the rapidly aging nation’s elderly population.



Professor Ikeuchi received her Ph.D. from Emory University and now teaches at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, USA

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