

SEMINAIRE DE LA FONDATION FRANCE-JAPON DE L'EHESS

Capturing Contemporary Japan

Glenda S. Roberts
(Waseda University)

Thursday February 27, 2014 - 7:00pm to 8:30pm
EHESS, 105 bd Raspail 75006 Paris, Salle 7
The Conference will be held in English.



□ **SUMMARY**

What are people's life experiences in present-day Japan? How are they coping with the nation's growing instability and widening income disparity? *Capturing Contemporary Japan* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2014) addresses these and other questions important to understanding Japan in the first decade of the twenty-first century. Its chapters, all authored by established anthropologists, collectively reveal a questioning of middle-class ideals once considered the essence of Japaneseness. In the postwar model household a man was expected to obtain a job at a major firm that offered life-long employment; his counterpart, the "professional" housewife, managed the domestic sphere and the children, who were educated in a system that provided a path to mainstream success. The past twenty years, however, have seen dramatic challenges to realizing the stability, security, and enduring social ties embodied in these ideals. Japanese society has seen a sharp increase in precarious forms of employment, higher divorce rates, and a widening gap between haves and have-nots. In addition to the upheaval and difficulties brought on by recent natural disasters, individuals and families must now grapple with these new economic and social realities while forging their futures.

PRESENTATION OF THE SPEAKER



Glenda S. Roberts is Professor and Director of the International Studies Program at the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies (GSAPS), Waseda University in Tokyo. She holds a PhD from Cornell University in Anthropology. Together with Mike Douglass, she edited *Japan and Global Migration: Foreign Workers and the Advent of a Multicultural Society* (Routledge, 2000 and University of Hawaii Press, 2003). In 2006-07 she spent a sabbatical year at the Department of Anthropology, Yale University. She is the founder of the Japan Migration Research Group at GSAPS.

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