

Transnational Divorce in Euro-Japanese Couples in Europe: Intersection of Gendered Mobility, Women's Career, and Child Custody

20 November 2024, 12:30 - 13:30 Zoom Webinar

Abstract

When a mixed marriage comes to an end, divorce or separation may present complex issues for migrant women. Due to language barriers, lack of legal knowledge, absence of familial support in the receiving country, or unstable immigration status, migrant women are more likely to find themselves in a vulnerable position during the separation process, especially in cases involving abusive behavior by the husband.

This paper examines the constraints faced by Japanese migrant women during the process of divorce or separation in the context of French-Japanese mixed marriages. In France, a French-Japanese marriage typically refers to a union between a French husband and a Japanese wife; Japanese wife/French husband combinations are ten times more common than the reverse.

Over the past few decades, a significant number of child abductions have been documented, where mothers return to Japan with their children without the consent of their ex-spouses. While the issue has primarily been discussed from the legal perspective of the application of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, the circumstances that lead to divorce or separation, child abduction (or not), and the challenges confronted by migrant spouses have not been thoroughly studied.

Biography of the speaker



Miyako Hayakawa is a social anthropologist, Postdoctoral research fellow for the project AspirE, at the ULB. She received her PhD from EHESS (Ecoles des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales) in France. In her PhD dissertation, entitled "Patriarchal constraints in migration: gendered experiences of Japanese migrants/expatriates in France." Her research focuses on anthropology of family and kinship, Japanese migration, international divorce, and privileged international mobility. She is a former JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science) fellow for her research on political science, at Sophia University and the University of Tokyo. In 2015, she received the Louis Dumont Prize for her research in social anthropology. She is the author of "Migrating to an ideal country? Democratisation of Japanese Migration to France" (Ebisu, Etudes japonaises, forthcoming 2023).

This lecture is part of the Gender Lecture Series organized by **Prof. Elisa Fornalé** as part of the HEurope HRJust (*States' practice of human rights justification: a study in civil society engagement and human rights through the lens of gender and intersectionality*) and the SNF funded project GEM (*Gender Equality in the Mirror*) housed at the WTI, University of Bern.

All previous lectures are available at: <https://hrjust-intersect-observatory.eu/gender-intersectionality/#webinar-series>

ENTER ZOOM WITH THIS LINK **LINK**

Participation is open to the public and free of charge

For further information please email Dr. Nicolò Alessi (nicolo.alessi2@unibe.ch)