



Title of the presentation: Where were Nisei soldiers? - an examination of war memories from a gender perspective

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Short biography (up to 100 words)

She earned her Ph.D in Japanese History from Ritsumeikan University. Her specialized areas include modern Japanese history, especially, cultural history and gender history. She has taught at Kobe University since 2010. She published edited several books on Japanese gender history and war memory and two monographs in Japanese: *Modern Japan and Linguistic Nationalism*, and *Time, Space, and War Memory of US-Occupied Japan*.

Abstract (up to 200words)

A typical example of categorizing people according to the attributes of their group, rather than treating them as individuals, can be found during periods of external war. It is important to examine people's recollections to discover where these groups were, what they did and how they were perceived. In particular, how is the collective identity of being "nationals of a country," the image of soldiers, and the strong gender role segregation among soldiers associated with war memory? Today, I will focus on how the war against Japan has been remembered and is recalled regarding Japanese-American soldiers, by covering three key topics.

The first topic is "what does the topic of Japanese-Americans during World War II remind people of?" Studies in the Japanese language on Japanese-American soldiers in the war against Japan have been accumulated from the perspective of intelligence media activities by the U.S during World War II, in particular, Nisei=Kibei.

The second topic is the memories and records pertaining to Japanese American soldiers in occupied Japan. In Japan, there are many compilations of people's testimonies on war memory, except for those about the occupation period, which are very scarce.

In addition, the occupation period, as defined by political history, is from September 1945 to April 1952. However, U.S. troops were still stationed at various places on the Japanese mainland in the mid-1950's.

Third topic is "Records and Memories on nisei female recruits". In the stage of total war, the boundaries between the frontline and the home front become blurred. During World War I, many colonial soldiers were mobilized to the battlefields. In World War II, military mobilization of women became a reality, though there were discussions as to whether women should be allowed to wear military uniforms and how differences in races or ethnic groups should be dealt with. Recent history studies have a keen interest in arguments regarding female recruits, not limited to socialist countries. Scholars of feminism, which is sounding an alarm on emphasizing either equality or difference, are also interested in this topic.

I believe that examining the occupation era in Japan, which directly followed experiences of warfare, allows interesting and profound observations.