

Institute for Japanese Studies Lecture Series

The Eugenic Protection Law and the Promotion of Eugenic Marriages in Postwar Japan

2020-2021

IJS
LECTURE
SERIES

Thursday, November 12
2:00-3:30 pm
Online



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The Eugenic Protection Law (EPL) was enacted in 1948 with the aim of “protecting the birth of unfit offspring while protecting the health of the maternal body.” The immediate purpose of the EPL was to control the rapid increase of population in the postwar years by providing women with easier access to abortion and birth control. The broader significance of the law for the lawmakers was that it reinforced the eugenic sterilization policy that had been laid out by the wartime eugenics law. This lecture explains the rhetoric that national leaders in Japan used to promote “eugenic marriages” to the broad Japanese public in order to recover the nation from the devastating effects of war. In this process, eugenic reproduction and sterilization were normalized for the good of the nation. The lecture further connects these postwar events and discussions to the recent lawsuits against the Japanese government by victims of forced sterilization under the EPL

Aiko Takeuchi-Demirci (Ph.D. American Studies, Brown University) has published widely on the topics of eugenics, birth control, and imperialism in Japan and the United States. Her recent research explores the formation of social and scientific ideas about the Japanese race through international and interracial contacts during the twentieth century.

Please register for this event on our website:

<https://easc.osu.edu/events/ijs/atakeuchi>



Free and open to the public

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