

THE STANFORD UNIVERSITY-J. F. OBERLIN UNIVERSITY  
COMMEMORATIVE LECTURE SERIES

*Seventh Lecture*

***Beyond the Binary:  
Representations of Gender in Anime***

**Speaker: Gerry Yokota**

**Professor of English and Contemporary Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies  
Osaka University**

**Language: English (Q&A may be in Japanese)**

**Date and time: December 12, 2014 (Friday), 16:10–17:40**

**Place: Meimeikan A204, Machida Campus**



**Gerry Yokota**

**Abstract:** Japanese anime and manga are popular topics online and in personal intercultural communication. But have you ever found yourself harboring concern about a problematic representation of gender, sexuality or violence in a work that you otherwise find not only entertaining but intellectually engaging? In this talk, I will introduce recent examples from three prominent subgenres—mechas, cyborgs, and beautiful fighting girls—and invite you to join me in a border-crossing adventure. Together we will explore how metaphors and symbols in anime such as *Gundam*, *Ghost in the Shell*, and *Mado-ka Magica* are embodied, and often gendered, but not universal, and consider their potential effects on our cognitive processes.

*Professor Yokota teaches Gender Studies as well as courses on contemporary Japan at Osaka University. Recently she has been examining the meaning of tradition in contemporary Japanese culture, taking a cognitive linguistic approach and expanding on her earlier studies of the representation of women in medieval noh drama. She explores how the concept of tradition serves as a bridge between premodern and modern culture. She is the author of The Formation of the Canon of Noh: The Literary Tradition of Divine Authority (Osaka University Press, 1997) and the editor of Gender and Japanese History (2 vols., Osaka University Press, 2000).*

This lecture series was established within the framework of an Agreement of Academic Cooperation between J. F. Oberlin University and Stanford University. Speakers are non-Japanese scholars who studied, earlier in their careers, at the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies (IUC). The IUC, founded in 1963 and administered by Stanford University on behalf of sixteen U.S. and Canadian universities, is located in the Minato Mirai district of Yokohama.