



About this Series

It provides both established and early-career researchers with an opportunity to present their on-going research concerning transimperial history.

Title

Kinship in the Afterlives of Empires: Memory, Silence, and Belonging

Date

Wednesday, 1 July 2026
16:00~17:30

Venue

SKB2 , Karasuma Campus, Doshisha University

Description

This paper explores the afterlives of empires within families by asking how perceived physical difference and silences surrounding paternal origins became entangled with memories of the Japanese occupation, shaping experiences of kinship and belonging. It focuses on children born to “Eurasian” women and men across the Empire of Japan, including its colonies of Korea and Taiwan, during the Japanese occupation of the Netherlands East Indies. Following the end of the occupation in 1945, many mothers moved to the Netherlands. Many of these women later married or remarried, and their children grew up in a range of family arrangements in which their paternal origins could remain unknown, concealed, or only partially explained. In some households, children were perceived as looking different from other family members. When such differences were associated with Japan, they could evoke painful memories of the Japanese occupation, including imprisonment as prisoners of war, internment, and the loss of colonial privilege. Drawing on oral histories and archival sources, this paper traces how appearance and silence acquired meaning within family relationships. It argues that unresolved memories of war, colonialism, and decolonisation informed family understandings of difference, kinship, and belonging.

Presenter

Satomi Mizoguchi is a PhD student at the Graduate School of Global Studies, Doshisha University. Her research interests include the histories of empire, war and decolonisation, and the concealment and later recognition of children born of war. The doctoral dissertation examines children born during the Japanese occupation of the Netherlands East Indies to women in the colony, many of whom had both European and Asian ancestry and were categorised as “Eurasian,” and men from across the Japanese Empire, including colonial subjects from Korea and Taiwan. The research explores how these children were rendered invisible within families and wider society in different postwar contexts, and how they gradually became visible in relation to broader social and political changes.



Satomi Mizoguchi

