

Brown Bag Seminar No. 191

2025

6.18 (wed.) 12:10
12:50

12:10-12:15

◆ Introduction

12:15-12:40

◆ Seminar
(Presentation)

12:40-12:50

◆ Q&A

Online
(Zoom)Scan here for
Registration ▶▶https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GAM6_0WISaCCHV51wwHUg

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Why Is Okinawa Discussed Through the Lens of Colonialism?



Key Words

Okinawa

Colonialism

Positionality

Associate Professor **Wakako SATOMURA**

Kyushu University Institute for Asian and Oceanian Studies

I am originally from Aichi Prefecture. After working as a homemaker, I returned to academia and earned my Ph.D. in Social and Cultural Studies from Kyushu University in 2017. I then served as a Special Research Fellow at the Faculty of Social and Cultural Studies (SCS), Kyushu University. Since April 2022, I have worked as a Research Fellow at both SCS and the Kyushu University Institute for Asian and Oceanian Studies (Q-AOS). In April 2024, I was appointed Assistant Professor at both the Faculty of Human-Environment Studies and Q-AOS, and I am currently an Associate Professor at Q-AOS.

My research focuses on sociology and gender studies, particularly women's labor, domestic roles, and social movements surrounding U.S. military bases in Okinawa.

What comes to mind when you think of Okinawa?

Perhaps the blue sea, delicious food—or the fences surrounding U.S. military bases?

In 1995, the rape of a local girl by U.S. servicemen triggered a wave of outrage in Okinawa, sparking a shared question among many residents: Why are so many military bases concentrated here? This question became a powerful force within Okinawan society, giving rise to a growing movement that challenged the status quo.

By the 2000s, the concept of “colonialism”—a term not often heard in everyday conversation—began to appear in discussions surrounding Okinawa's situation. But why does this academic concept carry such weight in this context? In this lecture, we will explore the historical background and present realities that give meaning to this framing, and reflect together on what it reveals about Okinawa today.