

New Series:

The Intimate and the Public in Asian and Global Perspectives

Series Editor: Emiko Ochiai, *Kyoto University*

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Since the 1970s, the world has been facing fundamental social change at both the macro-level, such as the impact of globalization and the restructuring of the welfare state, and at the micro-level with issues relating to family and individual lives. It is increasingly accepted that the type of welfare regime heavily influences people's decision to marry or to have children as well as the relationship between genders. Likewise, the transnational migration of care-workers impacts on the way of life and quality of life of the elderly in the growing number of aged societies around the world as well as on the workers' own families back in their home countries. This series linking family research, social policy and migration studies, sets out to shed light at many levels and in a wide

variety of contexts on this key twenty-first century issue that could be termed a "reconstruction of the intimate and the public" from an interdisciplinary and global perspective. There is a special focus on Asia where dynamic social changes are resulting in unsustainable societies with extremely low fertility; yet it is such countries that are witnessing the rise in marriage migration to fill the gender gap caused by a skewed sex ratio at birth. Also addressed are issues arising from the alleged convergence of European welfare retrenchment on the one hand, and on the other, the Asian struggle to establish basic welfare state structures at a time of state budget cuts thereby posing the fundamental question regarding the nature of sustainable welfare provision.

Ryōsai Kenbo

The Educational Ideal of 'Good Wife, Wise Mother' in Modern Japan



Koyama Shizuko, *Kyoto University*

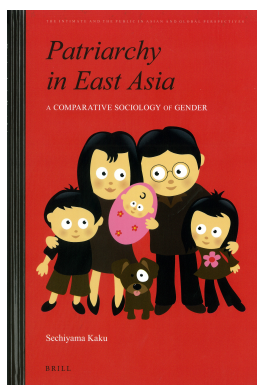
- November 2012
- ISBN 978 90 04 23061 3
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- List price EUR 65.- / US\$ 90.-
- The Intimate and the Public in Asian and Global Perspectives, 1

The famous *ryōsai kenbo*, or 'good wife, wise mother' role of women was not, after all, a traditional Confucian view but a modern construct. In fact, its first appearance in Japan, as Koyama Shizuko points out, was in the latter half of the nineteenth century – due principally to the influence of European ideas about women. Girls at the time were proud to fulfill their new role of contributing to not just the family but to the formation of the state. Koyama's discovery has transformed how we see modern women's history in Japan and the similar discoveries that have followed regarding Chinese 'wise wife, good mother' and Korean 'wise mother, good wife.' Previous studies have interpreted *ryōsai kenbo* thought, which was widely recognized in nationally-sanctioned educational standards, as a 'backward', 'feudal' or even 'reactionary' view

of women, and therefore peculiar to girls' and womens' education in prewar Japan. As a result, *ryōsai kenbo* thought was seen to be completely distinct from postwar views of women in Japan and Western Europe that have also emphasized the role of women as wives and mothers. Here, however, *ryōsai kenbo* thought is examined as a mode of thought inseparable from such issues as the formation of the modern citizen-state and the formation of the 'modern family.' Instead of reducing it to a specific, pre-World War II Japanese ideal of womanhood, Koyama argues that *ryōsai kenbo* thought is, in fact, a modern mode of thought related to, and having much in common with, views of the qualities desirable in a woman both in postwar Japanese society, as well as in modern Western nations and beyond.



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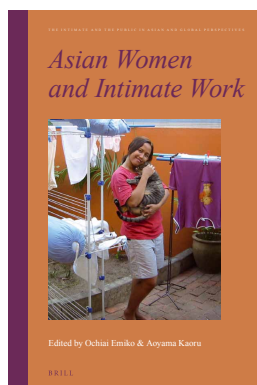
- January 2013
- ISBN 978 90 04 23060 6
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- List price EUR 70.- / US\$ 97.-
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Patriarchy in East Asia

A Comparative Sociology of Gender

Kaku Sechiyama, *University of Tokyo*

The role and significance of patriarchy in East Asia varies greatly according to the interplay between deeply entrenched cultural norms, economic change, and government policy. The aim of this book, therefore, is to offer an historical perspective on these issues combined with an analysis of the transitions and outcomes that have occurred in the status of women over the course of modernization and industrialization in five East Asia societies - Japan, South Korea, North Korea, Taiwan, and China. The narrative is interwoven with a discussion of contemporary issues such as the persistence of tradition and gender discrimination, how gender roles undermine the development of healthier marriage and family relationships (and better relations among the generations), the lack of full equality for women in employment, falling birth rates, and rising divorce rates. Patriarchy in East Asia is the first study of its kind undertaken by a sociologist who is fluent in all of the local languages, thereby providing a rare level of access in terms of research of primary sources.

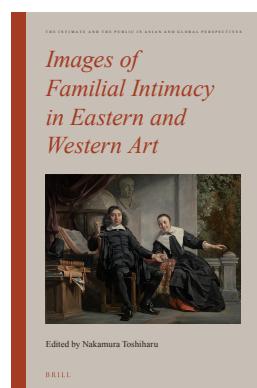


- October 2013
- ISBN 978 90 04 22692 0
- Hardback (approx. 240 pp.)
- List price EUR 75.- / US\$ 105.-
- The Intimate and the Public in Asian and Global Perspectives, 3

Asian Women and Intimate Work

Edited by Emiko Ochiai, *Kyoto University*, and Kaoru Aoyama, *Kobe University*

Asian women are often labelled with biased stereotypical images, ranging from “subordinate housewife” to “migrant domestic maid,” and “overseas bride.” Asian women, in fact, are being constructed as “women among women.” These feminine roles are related to the various activities that women perform for others in intimate relationships both within and outside the family. This book comprises contributions from a distinguished group of international researchers who examine the historical development of “new women” and “good wife, wise mother,” women’s roles in socialist and transitional modernity and the transnational migration of domestic and sex workers as well as wives.



- January 2014
- ISBN 978 90 04 24820 5
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- List price EUR 115.- / US\$ 160.-
- The Intimate and the Public in Asian and Global Perspectives, 4

Images of Familial Intimacy in Eastern and Western Art

Edited by Toshiharu Nakamura, *Kyoto University*

Images of Familial Intimacy in Eastern and Western Art offers a comparative art and socio-historical analysis of selected images of familial intimacy in Asia and Europe from the pre-modern era to the present day based on an examination of the value systems and expectations obtained at the time in the regions in which the works were created. A wide variety of images are discussed ranging from family portraits and depictions of the home in seventeenth-century Dutch genre paintings, *ukiyo*e prints and *fusuma* slidings wall panels of the Edo period, to familial images made after the Korean War of 1950-53, providing the reader with a rare insight into the evolution East and West of the cultural norms and customs impacting on the family and personal space.

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