

Seminars on Gender Issues 2018

Organized by the Gender Equality Promotion Committee,
CSEAS, Kyoto University

26-27 November 2018

Venue Room 213, the 2nd floor, Inamori Foundation Memorial Building, CSEAS, Kyoto University

The 4th Seminar on Gender Issues in Academia

15:30-17:30, 26 November (Mon)

Talk

The Development and Growth of the Gender Studies Program at the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Dr. Shanthi Thambiah

Commentators

Mario Ivan Lopez (CSEAS)
Naoko Yoshinaga (Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto Univ.)

Moderator

Junko Koizumi (CSEAS)

*This seminar is organized in collaboration with the Fieldworker Family Care Support Group, ASAFAS, Kyoto University.

Special Seminar: Frontiers of Gender Studies in Asia

14:30-16:30, 27 November (Tue)

Talk

Gender in Southeast Asia: Fluid, Contested and Negotiable
Dr. Shanthi Thambiah

Commentators

Tatsuro Fujikura (ASAFAS, Kyoto Univ.)

Moderator

Chika Obiya (CSEAS)

**This seminar is organized in collaboration with the Fieldworker Family Care Support Group, ASAFAS, Kyoto University, and CSEAS/CIRAS joint usage/research project "Gender, Family and Modernity in Post-Socialist Islamic Space: Seeking for Links with Middle East Islamic Area Studies."

Speakers



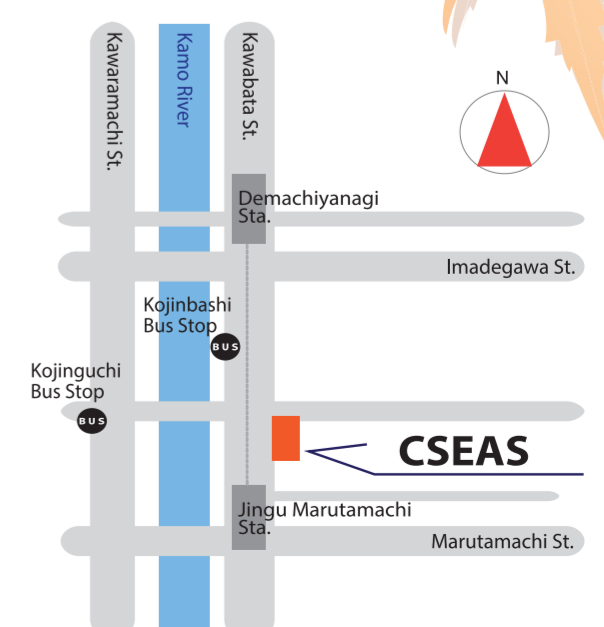
◆ Dr. Shanthi Thambiah

Associate Professor of Gender Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya. She studied at the University of Malaya for her bachelor's degree, M.Phil from the University of Cambridge and her PhD in Social Anthropology is from the University of Hull. She has published widely on gender, family and work and changing gender relations in Malaysia.

- For these seminars, we will provide nursing service in a room near the venue for free.
If you are interested in availing yourself of the nursing service, please contact us not later than November 17, 2018.
- **Contact** : obiya@cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp

■ Access

- ▶ From "JR Kyoto" Station Take No.4, No.17 or No.205 bus and get off at "Kojinguchi". Then walk for five minutes to the east.
- ▶ From "Jingu-Marutamachi" Station of Keihan Railway. Walk for five minutes to the north.



Abstract

The 4th Seminar on Gender Issues in Academia

15:30-17:30, 26 November (Mon)

The Development and Growth of the Gender Studies Program at the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia/ Dr. Shanthi Thambiah

In Malaysia, women's studies and gender studies are new fields struggling to be accepted as legitimate academic fields equal to mainstream disciplines. The academic and intellectual validity of women's studies and gender studies was recognised because of the research done by early feminists. Research and studies on women before the seventies were scarce but researchers who welcomed international changes achieved by the global women's movement were prepared to work to localise the need to elevate the position of women in society. Public universities were also urged to look into ways of contributing towards uplifting the status of women. The article outlines the history of the institutionalisation of gender studies and its profile since its inception at the University of Malaya.

Special Seminar: Frontiers of Gender Studies in Asia

14:30-16:30, 27 November (Tue)

Gender in Southeast Asia: Fluid, Contested and Negotiable/ Dr. Shanthi Thambiah

This presentation examines the bilateral organization of kin in Southeast Asia and women's active role in social and economic activities in all its complexity in a diverse and changing Southeast Asia. It is the bilateral kinship system that contributes to the consideration of Southeast Asia as a region that has certain shared practices and a region with a wide cultural span, diversity and hybridity. A Southeast Asian "cultural matrix" that is fluid and dynamic can be related to the bilateral social organization system that allows for flexibility in its gender relations and inclusiveness in its group formation contributing to the flourishing of diversity and hybridity. Kinship in Southeast Asia is associated with a lack of structure and a lack of permanence and therefore the "cultural matrix" of the region emerging from this context is more of shared resemblances rather than fixed or normative in nature. Therefore, gender in this region can be seen to be constructed and constituted from such a context and this is an attribute of the "cultural matrix" of Southeast Asia. This is not to make a claim for a generalized and essential bilateral principle and with it gender equality in the region but that this social organization system that may manifest in myriad forms in the local context contributes to the outcome on how gender is seen in the region as fluid, contested and negotiable. Such diversity of behaviour, responses and outcomes were and are being overwritten by homogenizing colonial, state, nationalist and global capitalist ideologies and discourses.