



京都大学アジア研究教育ユニット  
アジア親密圏/公共圏教育研究センター  
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## Adultery and Gendered-biased Sexual Modernity in Japan

*Combining European Laws and Japanese Social Norms from the 1870s to the  
1945*

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日時：9月9日(火) 16:30～18:30

場所：社会学共同研究室(京都大学文学部新館5階)



Prof. Harald Fuess is the Professor for Cultural Economic History at Heidelberg University's Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a Global Context." He was the former President of European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS). His numerous publications in several languages cover aspects of the history of Japan, gender, consumption, cultural-economic relations, and Eurasian cultural flows. His monograph *Divorce in Japan: Family, Gender and the State, 1600-2000* (Stanford University Press, 2004) was reviewed over 25 times .

State and societies have traditionally punished, sanctioned, or tolerated adultery in various ways. For Japan one can argue that legal discrimination against wives lessened after the opening of the country in the nineteenth century before adultery was completely abolished as a crime about one hundred years later. It is natural to assume a positive impact of Western ideas in shaping Japanese laws toward gender equality but a closer look at adultery legislation and court cases, however, reveals a more differentiated picture of European because the "West" was less homogenous and progressive than is often assumed. This presentation argues that Western legal influence instead of being liberating and moving towards gender equality reinforced legal distinctions in the criminalization of the extra-marital behavior of husbands and their wives in the name of modernity.