

A Study of Chauvinistic Nationalism and Violence from a Gender Perspective: Working Towards Conflict Prevention, Amelioration and Resolution

Group Activities 2008-2009

Muta Kazue and Beverley Yamamoto
18th April, 2009

Activities in 2007 and 2008 in brief (1)

Participation in international conference

- 5th July, 2008 10th INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY CONGRESS OF WOMENS (WOMEN'S WORLDS 2008) at Universidad Complutense, Madrid, Spain.
- YAMAMOTO Beverley Anne, **Studying War Memorials and Museums from Gender Perspective**
- MUTA Kazue, **Gender and the De-politicization of War Memories in Japan**
- HIMEOKA Toshiko, **Comfort Women Resolutions and the Reaction of Historical Revisionists**
- OKANO Yayo, **Post-colonialism and Gender in Japan**

Activities in 2007 and 2008 in brief (2)

- International
- YAMAMOTO Beverley Anne, 2008.10.07 Met Anna Song, campaign coordinator for Friends of the 'Comfort Women' in Australia (FCWA) at University of Melbourne. Discussed the FCWA's activities and recent developments within Japan.
- YAMAMOTO Beverley Anne, 2008.10.10 Met for a second time with Professor Raewyn Connell, University of Sydney to discuss the GCOE project and the socialization of military masculinities.

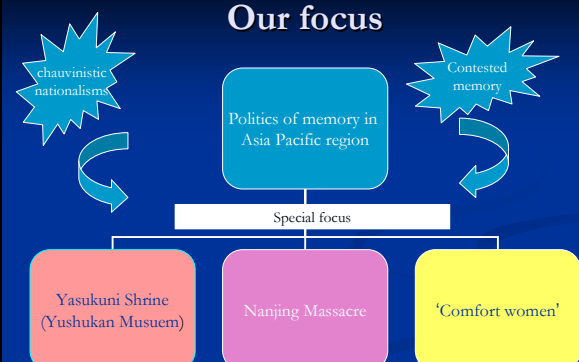
Activities in 2007 and 2008 in brief (3)

- Japan-based
- YAMAMOTO Beverley Anne, 2009.02.21 Remembering a Gendered Nation at War: A Study of War Memorials and Museums in Japan, China and Australia. at British Association of Japanese Studies (BAJS) Work-in-progress Seminar 1. at Waseda University Tokyo.

Project-related publications in 2008-2009

- 友枝敏雄 2009,「保守化の趨勢と社会観・政治的態度」友枝敏雄編『現代の高校生は何を考えているか』116-136,世界思想社
- 藤目ゆき,2008,「基地の街岩国の女性史」『アジア現代女性史』42-56.
- 藤目ゆき,2008,「解説『憤れる白い鳩——20世紀台湾を生きて』」『アジア現代女性史』70-73.
- 藤目ゆき,2008,「第二次世界大戦後日本の『女性解放』について——繊維労働者と朝鮮戦争」『東アジアにおける戦争の記憶と平和共同体(韓国)』115-132.
- 藤目ゆき,2009,「女性史の封印を解く仕事」『森崎和江コレクション——精神史の旅 月報5』5-7.
- 藤目ゆき,2009,「女性史・ジェンダー史」『新編日本のフェミニズム10』284-303.
- 木村涼子 2008,「日本の教育システムとジェンダー: 国家の教育政策と人々の教育ニーズ、そして教育達成の実態」日仏交流150周年記念シンポジウム「変容する社会と教育システムの挑戦——フランスと日本」報告

Our focus



Questions

■ Investigation



Applying a concept of gender

■ Memorial staff and local researchers understandings:

- 1) Representation of **women**
- 2) Giving a voice to **women**
- 3) Placing value on the memories of **women**
- 4) Psychological healing for **women** through process of remembering
- 5) Costs of remembering for **women**

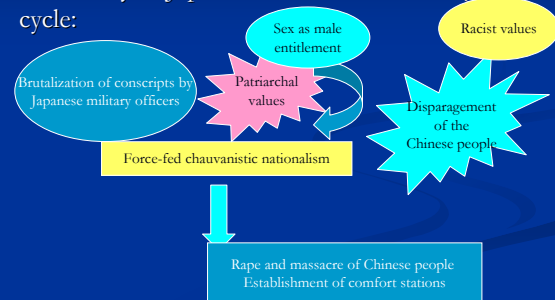
What about masculinity, war & war memory?

The representation of men

- While '**our boys**' are represented as brave and noble, in the Nanjing Museum and AWM the male (Japanese) enemy was depicted as brutal and inhumane.
- The damage caused by the **militarization** of '**our boys**' on the 'enemy' and still less 'our country women' is not touched upon.

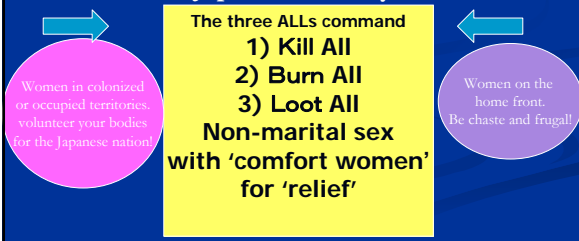
Brutalization of soldiers

■ Testimony of Japanese soldiers shows dangerous cycle:



Reversal of civil values

- During war time men have to be **brutally retrained** and their **normal values turned on their head**. The **Japanese military in China**



Conclusion (1)

Work on women in history of immense importance:

- Giving a voice back to **women**
- Passing along the message '**women were there too!**' (from invisibility to visibility)
- Empowering **women** to tell their own histories
- Challenging hegemonic paradigms, BUT we have to go still further...

Conclusion (2)

- We must also pay attention to the representation of men
- Without an understanding of the reciprocal dynamics of gender be able to see clearly the relationship between gender and public memory
- The tendency to reduce 'gender' to 'women' reduces the power of the gender perspective.

Conclusion (3)

We need to:

- to pay attention to and understand embedded structures of violence
- study the socialization of violent masculinities
- Understand the gender dynamics of chauvinistic forms of nationalism