

*All are Welcome!!*

**Comparative Asian Research Network**  
**Monthly Lecture Series on Issues and Research in the Asian Region**  
Organized by the Department of Japanese Studies, CUHK

# **Family and Work Beyond the Lost Decade: A Kansai Family's Legends and Legacies**



**Guest: Professor Glenda S. Roberts**  
Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University  
Ph.D. in Anthropology, Cornell University



**Date: 17 February 2012 (Friday)**  
**Time: 12:30PM – 1:30PM**  
**Venue: HYS LG04**

**Abstract:** This paper, based on life history interviews in 2011 with one family living in the urban Kansai region of Japan, will explore family and work life in regional Japan in the last two decades of economic doldrums. This follows on from my research in the early 1980s on blue-collar women. I will query the goals my (widowed) co-worker set for her life, her work in the company as it increasingly globalized, her eventual decision to retire at age fifty, and her subsequent casual employment. Situated in the recent literature on work and family in today's economy, the paper illustrates the profound generational changes in educational attainment, job trajectories, and family formation. It puts a human face on the socio-economic changes Japan has recently experienced as it attempts to grasp how people perceive their opportunities and choices, hopes and dreams, in an increasingly unstable environment.

No registration necessary.

Enquiries: Prof. Stephen R Nagy

Email: nagystephen@cuhk.edu.hk