

CSEAS Gender Seminars 2023 with Prof. Patricia Sloane-White



Special Seminar:

Frontiers of Gender Studies in Asia



July 4 Tue, 2023

16:00-17:30



**Gendering Sharia
in the Muslim Workplace:
Corporate Islam in Malaysia**



Seminar Room AA447, 4th Floor, Research Bldg. No 2, Main Campus, Kyoto University

📺 This seminar is also available online



<https://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/access/main-campus-map> *Building 34 in the map



<https://forms.gle/ievNyMfFB14o99d88>



Moderator: Nurul Huda Mohd. Razif (CSEAS)

Seminar on Gender Issues in Academia



July 11 Tue, 2023

12:00-14:00



**Growing a Strong Department
of Women and Gender Studies**



Seminar Room 213, 2nd Floor, Inamori Memorial Foundation Building, CSEAS, Kyoto University

📺 This seminar is also available online



<https://kyoto.cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/access-2/>



<https://forms.gle/EbDoqRq383bQpYTU6>



Moderator: Nurul Huda Mohd. Razif (CSEAS)



京都大学研究連携基盤
Kyoto University Research Coordination Alliance

The seminars are organized by Gender Equality Promotion Committee, Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), Kyoto University, and co-sponsored by Kyoto University Research Coordination Alliance (KURCA)

Special Seminar: Frontiers of Gender Studies in Asia

July 4 , 2023

Gendering Sharia in the Muslim Workplace: Corporate Islam in Malaysia

This talk presents material from a long-term ethnographic project to study Malaysian companies which are significant employers of Muslims and emphasize—as substantial number of Malaysian companies do—the Islamicity of personnel and corporate policy. It explores the role that gender and sharia play in the lives of the men and women who work there. For over thirty years, I've traced the path of Islam in the boardrooms, lunchrooms, prayer rooms, and cubicles of Malaysian corporations, where, as in any modern capitalist economy, a significant number of men and women spend the greatest portion of their waking lives. I argue that there, as in workplace and in work relations everywhere, much of modern corporate subjectivity is fashioned. But in Malaysia, it is also fashioned as “Islamic.” Today's talk addresses how what I call “personnel sharia” informs Malaysian Muslim business culture and how it affects gender relations in the workplace where much has changed of the thirty years of my ethnographic engagement with it. Using examples from sharia-inflected human resource policy and of two difference cases of workplace sexual harassment in Malay-Muslim corporations, I discuss how as sharia has become more conservative—and more patriarchal regarding personal status law—many of its premises have been reconstituted and legitimated in corporate space for personnel.

Seminar on Gender Issues in Academia

July 11 , 2023

Growing a Strong Department of Women and Gender Studies

The Department of Women and Gender Studies at the University of Delaware is the second oldest in America. But it has struggled over the years for recognition, resources, and respect. The feminist bell hooks wrote in her book *From Margin to Center* that contemporary feminism requires listening to overlooked voices—but how does a small, overlooked department of women and gender studies grow over fifty years? I entered the Department of Women and Gender Studies with precisely the mission to move from the margin to the center: to ensure the Department's centrality at the University of Delaware, not only in how we were organized, how we contributed to the University, and in how we serve students and the community. How has one of the smallest—and most overlooked—undergraduate departments in a major Ph.D.-granting research university increased its standing, enrollment, and advocacy? Where have we made an impact? What role does our curriculum play in changing campus culture? How do we balance advocacy and teaching? Should an academic department serve an advocacy role at all? And, finally, how well is the University of Delaware addressing gender and racial inequity in general—and what is the Department's role in that?

Professor Patricia Sloane-White is a social anthropologist who earned her Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology at Amherst College, her M.A. in Anthropology at Princeton University, and her DPhil at University of Oxford. She is a professor of anthropology and chair of the Department of Women and Gender Studies with joint appointments in Asian Studies and Islamic Studies at the University of Delaware, USA. She has been teaching at the University of Delaware since 2002, and prior to that was teaching tutorials in Social Anthropology at Oxford University, served as a post-doctoral researcher at the National University of Malaysia (UKM), and is the recipient of two Fulbright Awards. She has researched Islam, Muslim entrepreneurship, and corporate business in Malaysia for nearly 30 years and has written numerous articles on the Malaysian Muslim middle class, gender, shariah, zakat, and the Muslim workplace. The author of *Islam, Modernity and Entrepreneurship among the Malays* (Palgrave/Macmillian 1998), her recent book, the winner of several awards in law and religion, is *Corporate Islam: Sharia and the Modern Workplace* (Cambridge University Press, 2017). The book was translated into Turkish in 2021. Patricia served as the Chair of the Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei Studies group, a section of the Association for Asian Studies in the U.S. for four years until 2022 and currently serves as a member of its Executive Committee.



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