

APSA Strengthens Ties Between Japanese and American Scholars

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Japan and the United States share many attributes but also have striking differences. These similarities and differences allow for informative comparisons and interesting exchanges that are the hallmark of good scholarship. Sharing different perspectives and experiences on a wide range of topics will be helpful and enlightening to scholars on both sides of the Pacific. Therefore, the American Political Science Association proposed that the Japan-United States Friendship Commission fund a series of workshops on understudied groups in advanced industrial democracies. The first workshop was held from August 27 to August 30, 2000, in Washington, DC, and it focused on women and politics in Japan and the United States. The workshop was organized by Sue Davis of the APSA and Karen O'Connor of the Women and Politics Institute at American University, with the assistance of Sarah Brewer, also of American University.

The purpose of the workshop was to bring together political scientists from both the United States and Japan who teach and write about women and politics. Five Japanese scholars and six American scholars spent three days discussing political behavior, political institutions, and public policies as they relate to women in the two nations. One of the purposes of the meetings was to share information; another was to share perspectives. There were additional outcomes to the meetings. First, a series of articles were written by each of the participants that considered women in relation to behavior, institutions and public policies. These articles will appear in a *PS* symposium titled "Women in Comparative Perspective: Japan and the United States," late in 2001. Second, as a result of these sessions, a decision was made to continue the cross-cultural exchange using a listserv. Finally, the participants in the workshop will meet next year at the

ASA conference in San Francisco to continue their conversations. The group decided to develop an organizational structure and named itself the Japanese American Women's Symposium (JAWS).

The American participants at the workshop included M. Margaret Conway, University of Florida; Julie Dolan, Virginia Commonwealth University; Stephanie Greco Larson, Dickinson College; Marian Lief Palley, University of Delaware; Barbara Palmer, Southern Methodist University; and Michele Swers, Mary Washington College. The Japanese participants were Masako Aiuchi, Hokkaido Asaigakuen University; Mikiko Eto, Hosei University; Misako Iwamoto, Mie University; Yumiko Mikanagi, International Christian University; and Ogai Tokuko, Ochanomizu University.

Two speakers were invited to present talks to broaden the conversation and present different perspectives on the issues being considered. Eleanor Clift from *Newsweek Magazine* discussed American women politicians and their successes, failures, and operating methods. Joyce Gelb, of the CUNY Graduate Center, brought a comparative perspective to bear on the discussion as she discussed women's movement groups and their successes in influencing public policy development in Japan and the United States.

British Politics Group Arranges Embassy Reception at Annual Meeting

Members of the Scottish Parliament, researchers from the Library of the House of Commons, U.S. State Department personnel, and many of the members of the British Politics Group attended a British Embassy reception hosted by Ambassador Sir Christopher Meyer and Lady Catherine Meyer during APSA's Annual Meeting. APSA thanks the ambassador, his wife, and the officers of the British Politics Group for an elegant evening.