

Article: "Introduction--An Open Boundaries Workshop: Women and Politics in Comparative Perspective"

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An Open Boundaries Workshop: Women and Politics in Comparative Perspective—Introduction

The American Political Science Association and Women's Studies at the University of Delaware co-sponsored the Third Japanese American Women's Symposium (JAWS) at the University of Delaware from August 24 to August 26, 2003. The program was supported by a grant from the Japan-United States Friendship Commission and the University of Delaware's College of Arts and Science, Office of International Programs, Department of Political Science, and Women's Studies. The seven Japanese and seven American scholars of women and politics who participated in this symposium spent three days considering similarities and differences in political participation and the effects of this participation on public policy decision making in the U.S. and in Japan. This is the group's third meeting.

by
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The first meeting was held in August 2000 at American University in conjunction with the APSA's Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. and was coordinated by

Karen O'Connor. In August 2002, the scholars reconvened in Japan where they met and lectured to community groups in Tokyo, Tsu City, and Sapporo. This year, the program was held in conjunction with the APSA's Annual Meeting in Philadelphia and was coordinated by Marian Lief Palley, professor of political science and director of Women's Studies at the University of Delaware. The grant from the Japan-United States Friendship Commission was facilitated by the APSA, especially by Deputy Director Robert J-P. Hauck.

Chieko Kitagawa Otsuru, Tokuku Ogai, M. Margaret Conway, Michele Swers, and Melissa Deckman wrote papers that focus on women's political participation in local venues in Japan and the United States. Masako Aiuchi, Yoshie Kobayashi, Julie Dolan, Barbara Palmer, and Dennis Simon contributed papers that focus more directly on non-local elections in both nations. Misako Iwamoto, Hiromi Tanaka, Chiharu Takenaka, Joyce Gelb, and Marian Lief Palley each considered a public policy that had a specific impact on women in their respective nations.

The 2004 E-Symposium

The papers presented here, a result of the extremely successful Japanese American Women's Symposium, focus a fascinating lens on the study of women and politics both in the United States and in Japan. More so, the lens casts the light of comparison on the very different, and very similar, issues affecting women in politics in both countries.

To better present current research in the timeliest of fashions, *PS* brings its readership the e-symposium. This format provides our readers with the most current research on women and politics in the United States and Japan, research that, due to typical publication deadlines for the traditional journal format, would otherwise not be available to the scholarly community for several more months.

The following abstracted articles can be accessed whole at the APSA web site, www.apsanet.org/Jan04/.