Yamada Waka (1879-1957) was a first-wave Japanese feminist who was active in the first half of the twentieth century. She is perhaps best known as a contributor to the Motherhood Protection Debate in 1918-1919 and as a popular social critic through her personal advice column “Josei sōdan” in the *Asahi Newspaper* and *Shufu no tomo* before and after WWII. She was also a founder of social welfare organizations for single mothers and their children. Despite this social activism on behalf of women, her patriotic and conservative maternalist views may raise questions about whether or not Waka should be considered a true feminist. I argue that Waka’s contribution to Japanese feminism in the early twentieth century can be seen by the formulation of new feministic frames called “transmissive feminism” and “transpacific feminism.” I also introduce her tragic life in the US and discuss the strength she showed in overcoming the hardships she experienced.


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