

HATE SPEECH AND THE GENDERED BURDEN OF CARE: ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLITICS IN JAPAN

VIVIAN SHAW

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ROOM 301, 3F, BUILDING 10, SOPHIA UNIVERSITY

In May 2016, Japan passed its first national law against hate speech, a phenomenon wherein ultra-right wing nationalist organizations publicly targeted Zainichi Korean and other minority communities through abuse and intimidation. In spite of this legal measure, hate speech demonstrations continue in major cities throughout Japan as well as online. This talk focuses on how care fits into anti-discrimination politics and the legal governance of hate speech in Japan. Within anti-racism social movements, discourses around care are often central both in articulating the scope of risks and injuries that groups directly targeted by hate speech experience and in promoting a “more caring” civic alternative. In this talk, I analyze how care functions both as an objective for policy implementation and as an affective tactic for providing support and protection for victims and activists. In particular, I focus on the Kawasaki Citizen’s Network, established in early 2016, in its efforts to establish a local hate speech ordinance. I consider how the treatment of online harm as “unreal” and corresponding policy approaches is constituted through racial and gender politics and the ways that digital media exacerbates the gendered burden of labor taken on by Zainichi Korean women activists. This paper builds on 24-months of ethnographic fieldwork conducted in the Greater Tokyo area and Kansai between 2014 and 2017.

Vivian Shaw is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Sociology at the University of Texas at Austin, a Visiting Scholar at the Institute of Comparative Culture (ICC) at Sophia University, and a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) fellow. Her research explores the politics of citizenship and social belonging after disasters, examining issues of race and ethnicity, gender, and human rights. Vivian is currently completing her dissertation on antinuclear and antiracism social movement networks in Japan after 3/11. Her essay, ““We Are Already Living Together”: Race, Collective Struggle, and the Reawakened Nation in Post-3/11 Japan,” can be found in *Precarious Belongings: Affect and Nationalism in Asia*, part of Rowman & Littlefield’s *Asian Cultural Studies: Transnational and Dialogic Approaches Series*, edited by Koichi Iwabuchi and forthcoming in the spring of 2017.