

“... and my heart screams”: Children and the War of Emotions

Sabine Frühstück

18:30-20:00, July 20, 2017

Room 301, 3F, Building 10, Sophia University

Perhaps more than during any other time, children became political actors and were exploited as such during Japan's modern wars. Drawing from her new book, *Playing War: Children and the Paradoxes of Modern Militarism in Japan*, Frühstück examines the “use value” of children—as well as the necessity and inevitability of such use—in the ideological reproduction of modern war. She asks how a large body of pictures and narratives that tie soldiers to children have reproduced a multi-sensory emotional register that has been attributed to children: the assumption that children were politically innocent, morally pure, and endowed with authentic feelings; and the expectation that adults would respond to the sight of children with a specific, predictable set of emotions. She argues that this “emotional capital” has been primarily employed through the unapologetic insinuation of sentiments as sympathy, empathy, friendship, familiarity, and gratitude. In so doing, the child's vulnerability, innocence, and malleability—all considered innate characteristics—were enlisted in order to offer a sense of redemption to soldiers and a form of appeasement to children and the home front population.

Sabine Frühstück is a Professor of modern Japanese Cultural Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Mostly concerned with the cultural history of modern Japanese culture and its relations to the rest of the world, she is the author of *Colonizing Sex: Sexology and Social Control in Modern Japan* (2003), *Uneasy Warriors: Gender, Memory and Popular Culture in the Japanese Army* (2007), and *Playing War: Children and the Paradoxes of Modern Militarism in Japan* (2017). With Anne Walthall she has co-edited *Child's Play: Multi-sensory Histories of Children and Childhood in Japan* (2017) and *Recreating Japanese Men* (2011).

Lecture in English/No registration required

