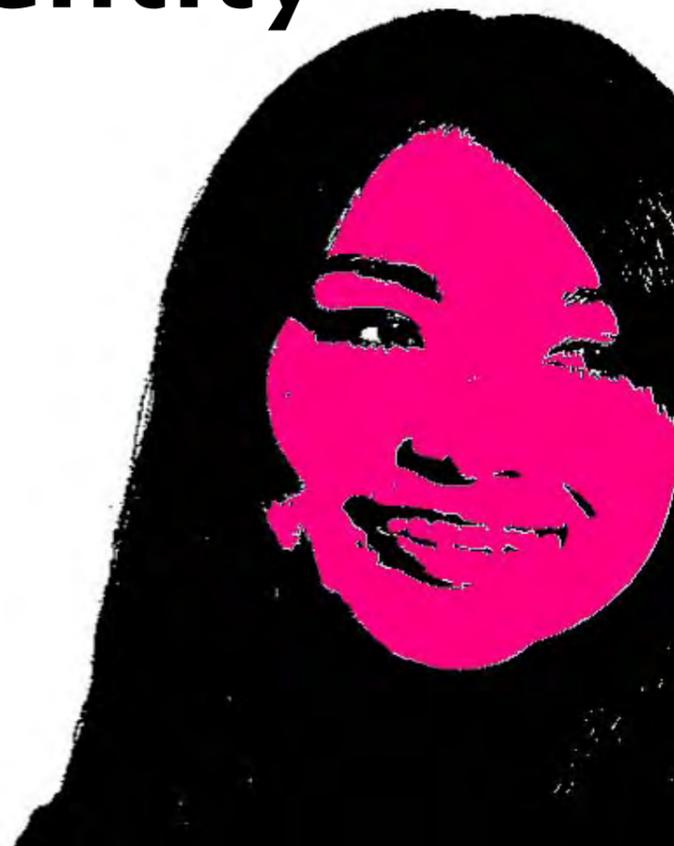


# Being Half Japanese in the transnational age: an enquiry into culture and identity

**Marcia Yumi Lise**  
**Natalie Maya Willer**

**5 pm, June 25, 2009**  
**Rm. 301, 3F, Bldg. 10**  
**Sophia University**



Photographer Natalie Maya Willer and researcher/writer Marcia Yumi Lise recently produced a highly successful exhibition at the Bodhi Gallery (Brick Lane) entitled 'Hafu'/Half Japanese. Showcasing a photographic series produced by Natalie and featuring interviews conducted by Marcia, 'Hafu' sought to create a cultural dialogue to a very current theme with complex issues relating to mixed ethnic identity. The stories provide a rich account of their lives and let us explore the ways in which they construct their identities and establish a sense of belonging whilst being in between two worlds.

Through Natalie's photographs and based on Marcia's interviews, this lecture asks how **Hafus** view themselves and are viewed by others with respect to their cultural heritage and identity. This ongoing exhibition project explores the complex nature of **Hafu** experiences, which is often a result of various factors ranging from upbringing, family relationships, education or even physical appearance and the racially designated society surrounding us. Ultimately, it seeks to highlight the individual diversity and located-ness of the experiences of this specific multiethnic group and to characterise the negotiation and self - definition of ethnic territory and identity.

#### **About Marcia Yumi Lise**

Marcia was born and raised in a suburban town in Kanagawa, to a Japanese mother and an Italian-American father. She moved to London in 2001 where she studied Sociology and recently completed an MA in Social Research at Goldsmiths College.

#### **About Natalie Maya Willer**

Natalie was born in Munich, Germany to a Japanese mother and German father. She moved to London in 1997 where she studied photography at the University of Westminster and completed an MA in Communication Arts & Design at the Royal College of Art in 2004.

Lecture in English

No prior registration necessary

Sophia University Institute of Comparative Culture office

Tel: 03-3238-4082 / Fax: 03-3238-4081 / Email: [diricc\(at\)sophia.ac.jp](mailto:diricc@sophia.ac.jp)

Web: <http://www.fla.sophia.ac.jp/icc/index2.htm>



For more information on the Hafu project, visit their web site at <http://hafujapanese.org/>