

# Gay and lesbian identity debates in Japan

日本における同性愛者のアイデンティティーについての考察

## Dr. Wim Lunsing

Author of *Beyond Common Sense: Sexuality and Gender in Contemporary Japan*  
(Kegan Paul, 2001)

**October 23 (Thu), 2008**

**From 12:30**

**Room 10-301**

Historically, homosexuality in Japan has been cast more as an activity all people could engage in than as a feature inherent to some particular people. The relatively positive attitude homosexual activities could indulge in, came under pressure from western influences with the Meiji restoration in the 19th century and later with the US occupation and its aftermath. Since the 1960s, gay and lesbian cultures have been regaining space in particular places in Japan as well as in the general media, in which case the traditional view of homosexuality as something between people with opposing gender performances and/or age difference has increasingly been contested by gay and lesbian spokespeople. A number of these spokespeople, particular in Tokyo, stress that only those who speak from the perspective of being gay and lesbian themselves, have the right to speak out, which entails that only those who 'come out' as gay or lesbian can be heard. This position is very much under fire from others who find that everyone has a right to their opinion on homosexuality. Looking at a variety of examples concerning this debate, this talk investigates individual examples in relation to the Japanese social context in which gay and lesbian positions are negotiated.

## About Wim Lunsing

Ph.D. in Anthropology: Oxford Brookes University, 1995

### Specialties:

Japanese society; sexuality, gender, lifestyles, discrimination, irregular employment, Islam and discrimination in Europe

### Publications:

- 1) *Beyond Common Sense: Sexuality and Gender in Contemporary Japan*, Kegan Paul, 2001.
- 2) *Perspectives on work, employment and society in Japan*, Palgrave, 2006 (ed. with Peter Matanle)
- 3) “Japanese sex workers: between choice and coercion”, *Sexual Cultures in East Asia; the Social Construction of Sexuality and Sexual Risk in a Time of AIDS*, Evelyne Micollier ed., RoutledgeCurzon, 2004: pp. 54-75
- 4) “What masculinity? Transgender practices among Japanese ‘men’ “, *Men and Masculinities in Contemporary Japan: Dislocating the Salaryman Doxa*, James Roberson and Nobue Suzuki eds, RoutledgeCurzon, 2003: pp. 20-36

The lecture will be in English/使用言語・英語

No translation will be provided/通訳なし

No prior registration necessary/事前登録必要なし

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