

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the sixth volume of the Japan Studies Review, sponsored by the joint efforts of the Southern Japan Seminar and funding from the Japan Foundation and Florida International University.

This issue contains four articles. Each article deals with a unique aspect of Japan. These main topics include the cultural significance in cross-dressing, the econometrics of Japan, organizing a study abroad course, and tracing the movement of the new Japanese religion, Mahikari. Also included in this issue are two featured essays. The first featured essay deals with the Asian Globalization and Latin America (AGLA) program at Florida International University. The second featured essay discusses the philosophical interpretation of religious faith and god in relation to evil, sin, and falsity.

The first essay, "Cross-Dressing and Culture in Modern Japan" by Ma Yuxin, traces the significant role of cross-dressing throughout certain periods of Japanese history, and how it constructs and deconstructs Japanese culture.

The second essay, "Economic Knowledge and the Science of National Income in Twentieth-Century" by Scott P. O'Bryan, examines how institutional structures and economic practices in Japan during the twentieth-century were affected by the economic statistical methods imposed.

The third essay, "Transcultural Possessions In/Of Mahikari: Religious Syncretism in Martinique" by Erin Leigh Weston, explores the Mahikari cult's syncretism across cultures around the world, with a detailed focus in the development of Mahikari in Martinique.

The fourth essay, "Planning, Organizing, and Executing a Short-Term Field Study Course in Japan for Business Students" by Troy Festervand and Kiyoshi Kawahito, explains the significance and the procedures to initiate a short-term field study course in Japan for business students.

The first featured essay by Steven Heine with Melissa Sekkel, "Must Area Studies Be So Darn Interdisciplinary? A Report on the Title VI Asian

Globalization and Latin America Project at Florida International University,” explores a distinct faculty and curriculum development project at Florida International University.

The second featured essay, “Evil, Sin, Falsity and the Dynamics of Faith” by Masao Abe and edited and translated by Steven Heine, explains Abe’s philosophical theory of how the realization of evil, sin, and falsity in one’s world will bring us closer to understanding God and the experience of religious awakening. The essay will also appear in the forthcoming book by Masao Abe, *Zen and Modern Society*, ed. Steven Heine (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press).

Finally, this issue contains six reviews of recent publications on Japan. Nishio Kanji et al.’s book on the historical events of Japan and Marius B. Jansen’s work on the development of modern Japan are reviewed by John Tucker of East Carolina University; the publication the *Nihon Keizai Shimbunsha* on the changing of women’s roles in Japan is reviewed by Kinko Ito of University of Arkansas at Little Rock; Karen Kelsky’s book on the changing perspectives in Japanese women due to “internationalism” is reviewed by Jan Bardsley of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Joseph M. Henning’s work on the historical relations between Japan and the U.S. is reviewed by Daniel A. Metraux of Mary Baldwin College; and Brian J. Mc Veigh’s analytical study on two fashionable modes of dress in Japan is reviewed by Ann Wehmeyer of the University of Florida.

Steven Heine, Editor

Re: Submissions, Subscriptions and Comments

Submissions for publication, either articles or book reviews, should be made in both hard copy and electronic formats (preferably in Word) on an IBM or Macintosh formatted disk. The editor and members of the editorial board will referee all submissions.

Annual Subscriptions are \$10.00 (US). Please send a check or money order payable to the *Florida International University*.

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All comments and reactions to publications appearing in the *Japan Studies Review* are welcome.