Dear Sir/Madam,

We cordially invite you to the 17th Annual International Conference on Japanese Studies entitled, “Japan: Age in a Time of Precariousness,” to be held on February 1 and 2, 2019 in Casa Real de Iloilo, Iloilo City, Philippines.

This conference is organized by the Japanese Studies Program, Ateneo de Manila University, University of the Philippines Asian Center, and the International Studies Department, De La Salle University, in cooperation with the Gender and Development Program of the University of the Philippines, Visayas. It has a pending CHED endorsement, and is open to both public and private HEIs, as well as to Junior and Senior High School faculty.

Please see attached Conference Overview and Tentative Program for your reference. The Reply Slip is likewise appended herewith for the required pre-registration. Looking forward to seeing you and your colleagues in Iloilo City.

Respectfully yours,

Karl Ian Lineng Chua
Conference Co-Convener
Director, Japanese Studies Program

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Reply Slip

Japan: Age in a Time of Precariousness

Name of Attendee: (Dr./Prof./Mr./Ms.) ________________________________

Institutional Affiliation: (School/Company) ________________________________
Email Address: ________________________________

I’m attending as: (Please encircle one)
Faculty | Professional | Master’s/Ph.D. Student | Undergraduate Student
Others: ________________________________

I’m attending on: 1st day 2nd day both days of the conference.

I’m attending with my students/colleagues on 1st day 2nd day both days of the conference.
(Please attach a list of full names of attendees for the preparation of certificates.)

Regrets, I cannot attend this time, but I’m sending: ________________________________.

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CONFERENCE FEE (includes lunch and snacks):
- Faculty & Professionals: ₱500-Day 1 only/₱250-Day 2 only/₱600-For 2 days
- Undergraduate Students: ₱200 per day (Please present a valid school ID)

Pre-registration is required due to the limited number of participants that we can accommodate. Please fax reply slip to (632) 376-0966 or e-mail to japanese.soss@ateneo.edu with the subject: PRECARITY by 25 January 2019. Payment procedure will be sent to your email upon confirmation of available slots. Thank you!
Japan: Age in a Time of Precariousness

Organized by the University of the Philippines, Diliman Asian Center | International Studies Department, De La Salle University | Japanese Studies Program, Ateneo de Manila University | In Cooperation with the Gender and Development Program, University of the Philippines, Visayas

Dates: 1 - 2 February 2019 | Venue: Casa Real de Iloilo, Iloilo City

OVERVIEW:
Population ageing is a phenomenon that has been affected developed countries and started affecting other parts of the world. The phenomenon exists through several reasons such as availability of the efficient food distribution to materialize better nutrient supplies and advance medical technology. It causes the decrease of workforce, a delay in social services, and the social security burden on the working population, and, therefore, brings about the stagnation of the national economy and a loss of vitality of culture and society. It is an increasingly researched topic by scholars around the world.

Japan is a focal point in ageing studies. It is labeled as a "super-ageing society" because of not only its high ratio of the aged population and low fertility rates but also its fast pace of aging. Shoshi Koreika (少子高齢化) is a term used by most scholars to describe this phenomenon in Japan. The studies have been made to investigate the reasons for how this phenomenon occurred as well as how the related issues could be addressed. Predicting the aging problems, the Japanese government officially started the implementation of the foreign labor import in the 1970s. Nonetheless, Japan is now facing the new phase of society with the decreasing national population, which extensively affects areas of society, economy and polity.

The phenomenon has wide ranging effects not only limited to Japan but also the international relationships. In the Philippines, Japan’s need for healthcare workers has been affected the industry, the politics and society. Triggered by the Japan-Philippines Economic Agreement that included the item of healthcare workers, nursing and caregiving schools with Japanese language courses mushroomed in the 1990s, and housekeepers and services have recently been launched. Many workplaces in Japan, however, are not ready to accept, or even neglect, those foreign workers who are supposed to take care of Japanese in a precarious state. Such precarity in Japan, associated with various forms of insecurity, risk, ambivalence and vulnerability on one hand, may also give impetus for introducing significant changes in structures, policies and experiences on the other.

Furthermore, this conference examines the politics of age as Japan faces economic challenges that have transformed social, political, economic, and cultural dynamics in Japan. Since the collapse of the economy in the 1990s, Japanese, across all ages and genders, adapt to lifestyles that attempt to overcome states of vulnerability. Japan’s decreasing birth rates and growing aging population spark questions surrounding a demographic that can uplift Japan from its precariousness. These questions also raise the contributions of indigenous, migrant, and divergent population who is changing the social fabric of Japan as they tackle precariousness in diverse ways. Thus this conference invites scholars to consider age as a critical lens in the analysis of different issues surrounding Japan’s precarious state.
### Japan: Age in a Time of Precariousness

#### Tentative Conference Program

**Day 1: 1 February 2019**  
**Venue:** Casa Real de Iloilo  
**8:30** Registration and Coffee Break  
9:00 Welcome Remarks  
Gender and Development Program, University of the Philippines, Visayas  
Opening Remarks  
Asia Center, University of the Philippines, Diliman  
9:30-12:00 **Plenary Session**  
"Aging in Japan: Gender, Intersectionality and Transnational Political Economy"  
Vera Mackie, University of Wollongong  
"The Precariousness of retiring overseas: Reflections from studying Japanese retirees in Southeast Asia and Australia."  
Thang Leng Leng, National University of Singapore  
"Japan in Transition from Homogeneity to Diversity: Does Diversity Include Foreigners"  
Asato Wako, Kyoto University  
12:00-1:30 Lunch  
13:30-15:00 **Paper Session 1 - Precarity and Gender**  
"Women and Feminism in Japanese Literature"  
Lisa Rogers, Doshisha Women’s College of Liberal Arts  
"Maternity Harassment as a Gender Inequality in the Japanese Working Environment (Analysis of Media Frame: The Yomiuri Group and Nihon Keizai Group Online Media Portal to Japanese Corporation)"  
Ni Luh Putu Arsí Widiashí and Kurniawaty Iskandar, University of Indonesia  
"No Longer a “Weekend Heroine:” Momoiro Clover Z and Female Struggle in Japanese Patriarchal Society"  
Astera Khírana, University of Indonesia  
15:00 – 15:15 Coffee Break  
15:15 – 16:15 **Paper Session 2 - Processes of Precarity in the Domestic Sphere**  
"On the Street Corner of Iron City: Gendered Process of Aging in Modern Japan"  
Yoshiya Makita, Koji Murata, Maria Yonemura and Yuu Takagi, Ritsumeikan University  
Assistant Professor, Department of Policy Science  
"Precarious Japan: Understanding the Freeter Phenomenon beyond Government Policies"  
Michaëla I. Navato, University of the Philippines, Diliman  
16:20 - 17:20 **Paper Session 3 - Filipino Precarity in Japan**  
"Filipino Domestic Workers to Japan: Issues and Concerns"  
Maria Rosario Piquero-Ballescá, Orlando Ballescá and Hiroya Takamatsu, Toyo University  
"From childcare facilities to nannies: An analysis of childcare in Japan"  
Girlie Anne Mírador, University of the Philippines, Diliman  
17:20: Housekeeping Announcements

**Day 2: 2 February 2019**  
**Venue:** Casa Real de Iloilo  
**8:30** Registration and Coffee Break  
9:00 – 9:15 Opening Remarks  
9:15 – 10:15 **Paper Session 3 - Precarity and Ageing**  
"Sustainability of Japan’s Pension System"  
Liezl Anne C. Naing, University of the Philippines, Diliman  
10:15 – 11:15 **Paper Session 4 - Precarity and Retirement Migration**  
"Transcultural care of Japanese elderly retiring in the Philippines"  
Jaymie Ysabel M. Dalisay, University of the Philippines, Diliman  
"A Comparative Study of the Philippines and Thailand’s Trend on Retirement Migration: Analysis on Tourism Competitiveness through the existing Foreign Retirement Programs"  
Ezra Nicole Basto, De La Salle University  
11:15 – 11:30 Coffee Break  
11:30 – 13:00 **Paper Session 5 - Precarity of Formal and Informal Care**  
"IJEPA as transferring Scheme of Returned Nurse to not entered in Nursing Job: The Miss-track of Indonesian Nurse who become Care Works in Japan Labor Market"  
Kurniawaty Iskandar, University of Indonesia  
"Analysis of the One-Decade Impact of IJEPA: A Case Study of Indonesian Care Workers’ Rights Fulfillment in Japan through an Employment Contract"  
Happy Zahrotin Nisa and Kurniawaty Iskandar, University of Indonesia  
"Exploring Health Issues of Filipino Women in Japan: Migrant Narratives and Policy Implications"  
Ron Bridget Vilo, Carlos Picocos, Ill and Jan Michael Alexandre Bernadas, De La Salle University  
13:00 Closing Ceremony and distribution of certificates