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EVICTION NOTICES: WRITING (AND DRAWING) PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH IN LOW-FERTILITY JAPAN

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JUNE 5, 2019

18:45-20:30 KIBER 110

WRITING PREGNANCY
IN LOW-FERTILITY JAPAN

おなかに赤ちゃんがいます

AMANDA C. SEAMAN
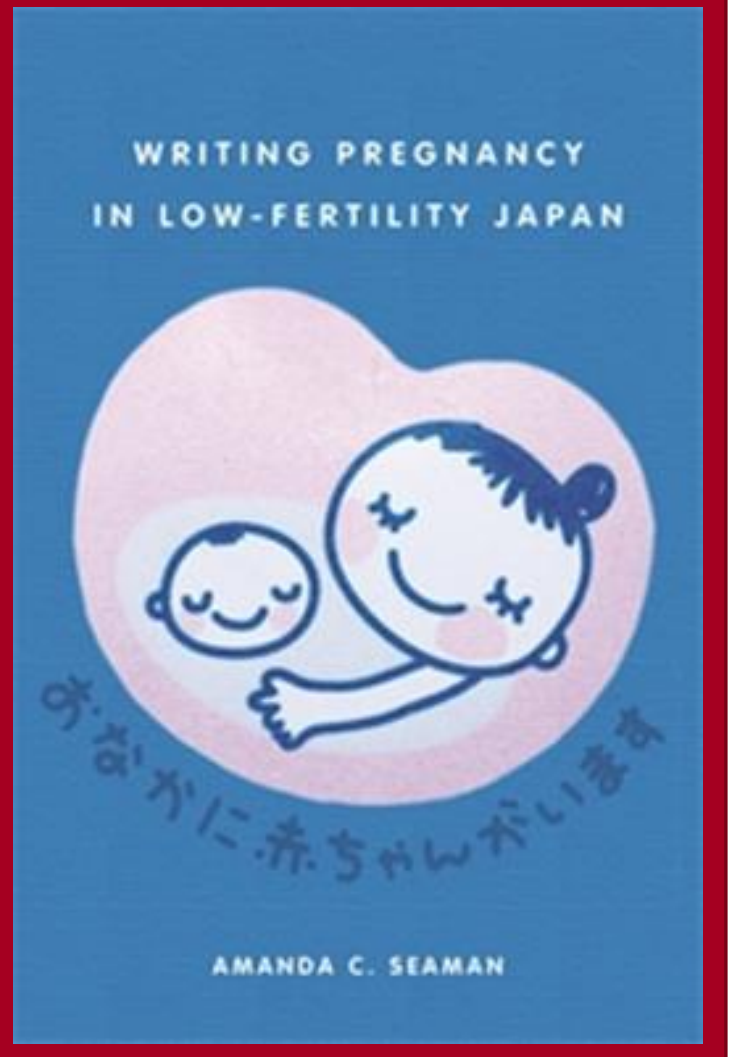
In this presentation I will talk about my recent book *Writing Pregnancy in Low Fertility Japan* (UHP 2017). This year as ever, the decline in the total fertility rate in Japan has been a topic of concern in Japanese newspapers as the number of babies born cause demographers and economists concerns about Japan's future. In my book, I look at how some Japanese women have thought about the process of becoming pregnant and giving birth. I argue that the way of talking about pregnancy and childbirth has not changed markedly from the early twentieth century despite all the historical and economic changes. However, I note that with the increasing popularity of manga and new manga writers this narrative begins to change.

Prof. Amanda C. Seaman (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

Amanda Seaman received her MA and PhD in East Asian Languages and Civilizations from the University of Chicago in 2001. In 2003, she joined the faculty of Asian Languages and Literatures at UMass. She was the recipient of a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science research grant in 2007-2008, leading to the publication of her second book, Writing Pregnancy in Low-Fertility Japan (University of Hawai'i Press, 2017). Professor Seaman is a member of the Five College Steering Committee on Culture, Health and Science; her current research concerns representations of illness and affliction in contemporary Japanese literature, diaristic writing, manga, and film.