## TRANS IN PARADISE

THE CURIOUS CASE OF TRANSMEN IN OKINAWA, JAPAN

KAREN NAKAMURA

WED., MAY 2 4-5 PM

MCCUNE CONFERENCE ROOM INTERDISCIPLINARY HUMANITIES CENTER 6<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, HSSB

Okinawa is not only Japan's most southernmost prefecture and island chain and the home of multiple US military bases, but also curiously the area in Japan — if not the world — with the highest proportion of trans men to trans women. This is largely the result of an explosion in the number of transmen coming out in the last two decades, perhaps a direct result of the creation of the medical and legal category of "Gender Identity Disability" (GID) which allowed for the expression of trans as disability.

This talk explores the trans phenomenon in Okinawa and in Japan from a Disability Studies, Queer Studies and Japan Studies Perspective.



## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER**

Karen Nakamura is a cultural and visual anthropologist at UC Berkeley. Her first book was titled Deaf in Japan: Signing and the Politics of Identity (2006). Her next project resulted in two ethnographic films and a monograph titled, A Disability of the Soul: An Ethnography of Schizophrenia and Mental Illness in Contemporary Japan (2014). She is currently working on the intersections of transsexuality and disability politics in postwar Japan.



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Co-sponsored by the Reinventing 'Japan' Research Focus Group, the Department of East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies, Feminist Studies, and Anthropology