

# Special Needs Education and Perspectives on Human Value in Japan

**Monday, May 20, 2019**

**PM13:00~14:30**

**Venue: E404**

This talk explores approaches to special needs education in Japan from an anthropological perspective. It considers how ideas about special needs education in Japan reflect changing interpretations of the purpose of education and the role of individuals in society. The talk covers the views of educators who established special education institutions in the early postwar period such as Kazuo Itoga and Kiyo Kitahara. It also considers how contemporary approaches to special needs education reflect changing beliefs about the purpose of education, the relationship of the individual and the group, and the role of individuals in society. The speaker argues that contemporary debates about special needs education in Japan reflect ongoing attempts by different sectors of society to strike a balance between the needs of the individual and the needs of society.

**Speaker Profile:** Lynne Nakano is Professor in the Department of Japanese Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Her research interests include gender, family, and social marginality and inclusion. She is author of *Community Volunteers in Japan: Everyday Stories of Social Change* (Routledge 2004), and is writing a book on single women and family change in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Shanghai. She is currently a Guest Professor at Osaka University Graduate School of Human Sciences.



**Speaker**

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