

## Intimacy and Contempt: WWII Comfort Women and Japanese Soldiers

The poster is for a seminar presentation. At the top left is the African Gender Institute (AGI) logo, and at the top right is the University of Cape Town logo. The text reads: 'African Feminists: Talking the Walk. A programme hosted by the African Gender Institute, University of Cape Town.' Below this, it says 'SEMINAR PRESENTATION' and the title of the seminar: '"Intimacy and Contempt: WWII Comfort Women and Japanese Soldiers"'. The speaker is 'Yonson Ahn', identified as 'Professor & Director of Korean Studies' and 'Deputy Director, Interdisciplinary Centre of East Asian Studies (IZO) Goethe-University of Frankfurt'. A small photograph shows Yonson Ahn speaking into a microphone. Below the photo is a biography and an abstract. The abstract discusses the extraordinary nature of a story about women who were forced into sexual servitude for the Japanese military during WWII and those who survived their 'living death'. The seminar is scheduled for 'MONDAY 23 MARCH 2015' at '12:30pm' in 'A01, Seelinger Room 4.01, Level 4, Harry Oppenheimer Building, University of Cape Town'. Contact information for Hilda Ferguson is provided at the bottom.

**AGI** African Gender Institute

**University of Cape Town**

**SEMINAR PRESENTATION**

**"Intimacy and Contempt: WWII Comfort Women and Japanese Soldiers"**

**Yonson Ahn**  
Professor & Director of Korean Studies  
Deputy Director, Interdisciplinary Centre of East Asian Studies (IZO)  
Goethe-University of Frankfurt

**Biography: Yonson Ahn**  
Yonson Ahn is professor and director of Korean Studies, Frankfurt University in Germany. Before Frankfurt, she taught at Leipzig University in Germany and Ewha Women's University in Korea. She was a visiting scholar at University of Tokyo and Waseda University in Japan. She completed her PhD degree in Gender Studies at University of Warwick in Britain in 2000. Her research fields are sexual violence at war especially issues of "comfort women" during WWII, and historical controversies in East Asia, including colonial history of Korea and historical revisionism in Japan. Her current research project is related to transnationalism, migration and gender.

**Abstract**  
There is an extraordinary feature of a story which told the 10 year stories after the war stories of "comfort women" who were forced into sexual servitude for the Japanese military during WWII and those who survived their "living death."  
Using narrative analysis based on in-depth interviews conducted with Japanese veterans and the former comfort women (victim-subject) and documentary sources to reconstruct the traumatic encounters of the Japanese soldiers and the comfort women at the comfort system, this talk investigates both the personal and pseudo-live relationship between the women and the soldiers, along with the violence inflicted on the women.

**MONDAY 23 MARCH 2015**  
12:30pm  
A01, Seelinger Room 4.01  
Level 4, Harry Oppenheimer Building  
University of Cape Town

Please contact Hilda Ferguson for more information - [hilda.ferguson@uct.ac.za](mailto:hilda.ferguson@uct.ac.za) / 021 6504102

[1]

Monday, March 23, 2015 - 12:30

The AGI cordially invites you to the following seminar presentation:

Intimacy and Contempt: WWII Comfort Women and Japanese Soldiers

Yonson Ahn (Professor & Director of Korean Studies and Deputy Director, Interdisciplinary Centre of East Asian Studies (IZO) Goethe-University of Frankfurt)

Biography: Yonson Ahn

Yonson Ahn is professor and director of Korean Studies, Frankfurt University in Germany. Before Frankfurt, she taught at Leipzig University in Germany and Ewha Women's University in Korea. She was a visiting scholar at University of Tokyo and Waseda University in Japan. She completed her PhD degree in Gender Studies at University of Warwick in Britain in 2000. Her research fields are sexual violence at war especially issues of "comfort women" during WWII, and historical controversies in East Asia, including colonial history of Korea and historical revisionism in Japan. Her current research project is related to transnationalism, migration and gender.

Abstract

There is an extraordinary feature of a story which held the 50-year silence after the war stories of 'comfort women' who were forced into sexual servitude for the Japanese military during WWII and those who survived their 'living death'.

Using narrative analysis based on in-depth interviews conducted with Japanese veterans and the Korean comfort women victims-survivors and documentary sources to reconstruct the traumatic encounters of the Japanese soldiers and the comfort women at the comfort system, this talk investigates both the personal and pseudo-love relationships between the women and the soldiers, along with the violence inflicted on the women.

**For more information, please contact Hilda Ferguson ([hilda.ferguson@uct.ac.za](mailto:hilda.ferguson@uct.ac.za)] / 021 650 4102)**

## Location

AXL Seminar Room 4.01 (Level 4, Harry Oppenheimer Building, UCT)

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