

The Center for Comparative Japanese Studies · Support  
 Program for Improving Graduate School Education  
**THE 2<sup>ND</sup> PUBLIC LECTURE**

Speaker	Amanda C. Seaman (Assistant Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA)
Topic	Two for One — Pregnancy as Identity in Contemporary Japanese Women's Literature
Time	June 27 <sup>th</sup> (Friday), 2008 17:00~19:00
Place	Faculty of Letters & Education, Building 1, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, Large Conference Room
Moderator	KAN, Satoko (Professor, Ochanomizu University)

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008, we held a public lecture by inviting as a speaker Ms. Amanda C. Seaman, Assistant Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, who was then working as a visiting researcher at Ochanomizu University. She spoke on the topic of “Two for One — Pregnancy as Identity Depicted in the Contemporary Japanese Women’s Literature.” At Ochanomizu University, Professor Seaman was doing comparative research, from the perspective of Gender Studies, on the representations of pregnancy and childbirth in the contemporary Japanese society; the speech was based on her research.

All the works that Professor Seaman cited in the course of her analysis, including HASEGAWA Junko’s *MUSEI-RAN (The Unfertilized Eggs)*, sharply and sensitively depict, from women’s viewpoint, Japanese women’s issues of career and sexuality in today’s society; her talk gave to the audience a refreshing and inspiring literary experience. Professor Seaman clearly demonstrated how the identity, both public and personal, of today’s Japanese women is formed and transformed through Japan’s institutional oppression and the influences from its cultural media.

On the day, many students from inside and outside the campus attended the lecture and had a lively post-lecture question-and-answer session together with our teaching staff. The lecture must have been quite meaningful particularly for the students in that it presented them with a typical case in which, by looking at certain problems intrinsic to Japanese society from an external, completely new viewpoint, we can make their invisible aspects more visible and realized.

【KAN, Satoko, Professor, Ochanomizu University】