NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FROM GRADUATE STUDENTS

2012 University of California at Santa Barbara – Japan Foundation Summer Institute

“Modes of Japanese Multiculturalism: Coexistence and Marginality”

June 20-24, 2012

Building upon the theme “The Return of the Political to Cultural Studies,” the 2012 University of California at Santa Barbara - Japan Foundation Summer Institute will focus on the figure of minority communities in Japan—the social and political relationships within and among minority groups, and their engagement with Japanese society more broadly. After Japan was stripped of its multi-ethnic colonial holdings by defeat in WWII, the ascendant narrative of the postwar Japanese nation became one of ethnic homogeneity. In recent decades, this narrative has been challenged by the in-flow of new immigrant workers to meet Japan’s labor needs and the demographic crisis they portend. Meanwhile, communities such as indigenous Okinawans and Ainu, and the occupationally marginalized Buraku assert Japan’s long history of ethnic diversity and multiculturalism, tracing their roots far beyond the emergence of the modern Japanese nation-state. Against this backdrop, the Summer Institute will provide a critical opportunity to generate a deeper understanding of how difference has been imagined, perceived, and managed by the nation-state, varying political factions, and those who are labeled as, or self-identify as, “minority” communities themselves. In particular, we look forward to taking up questions of ethnic identity, marginality, and multiculturalism; immigration, citizenship, and indigenous issues; and the historical, social, and political relations with which they intersect in contemporary Japan.

The Institute aims to bring a range of interdisciplinary perspectives into conversation, and will feature the 2012 Japan Foundation Visiting Professor, Dr. Yeonghae Jung (Otsuma Women’s University) and leading scholars of Japanese multiculturalism, including Dr. Kelly Dietz (Ithaca College), Dr. Tessa Morris-Suzuki (Australian National University), and Dr. Jennifer Robertson (University of Michigan). For graduate student participants, the Summer Institute presents a unique opportunity for extensive dialogue with peers from universities across the U.S. and a chance to build linkages with some of the leading thinkers in Japan Studies today.

Application: To be considered for participation, please submit the following materials to UCSB-Japan Foundation Summer Institute Co-coordinators Dr. ann-elise lewallen (lewallen@eastasian.ucsb.edu) and Dr. Nathaniel Smith (nsmith@eastasian.ucsb.edu) by Friday, March 9:

1) A cover letter introducing the student’s academic background and highlighting the linkage between the Summer Institute themes and the student’s own research
2) A summary of the PhD thesis prospectus

Criteria for selection: Students whose research overlaps most productively with the 2012 Summer Institute themes will be given preference. While all interested students are encouraged to participate, those who have advanced to PhD candidacy will be given top priority. Limited financial support may be available.

Further information on the UCSB - Japan Foundation Summer Institute, including an institute schedule, may be found here: http://www.j-culturalstudies.ucsb.edu/summer.htm