

MERRY I. WHITE

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Ph.D., Sociology, Japanese Studies
Harvard University, A.M., Comparative Literature (French, Italian, English)
Harvard University, A.B., Anthropology/Japanese Studies

POSITIONS HELD

Professor, Department of Anthropology, Boston University
September 1987- present
Visiting Professor, Kyoto Center for Japanese Studies, Kyoto, Japan, 2002-2003
Visiting Professor, Education Foundations and Asian Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa, 1997-2001
Visiting Professor, Department of Sociology, Harvard University 1994-1995. Faculty Research Associate, Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University, 1987 to present.
Faculty Associate, U.S.-Japan Program, Harvard University, 1990 to present.
Director of International Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education, July 1985-September 1987.
Director, Project on Human Potential, Harvard Graduate School of Education, December 1981-September 1984.
Administrator and Head Tutor, East Asian Studies, Harvard University 1977 to 1981; 1984 to 1987.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Assembling Japan: Modernity, Technology and Global Culture, edited by Griseldis Kirsch, Dolores P. Martinez and Merry White, Oxford: Peter Lang, 2015

Cooking for Crowds, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2013. Revised and reissued 40th Anniversary edition.

Coffee Life in Japan, Berkeley: University of California Press, May 2013,

Perfectly Japanese: Making Families in an Era of Upheaval, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002

Comparing Cultures: Readings on Contemporary Japan for American Writers, Boston: Bedford Books of St. Martin's Press, 1995.

The Material Child: Coming of Age in Japan and America, New York: Free Press, 1993.

Also in Japanese, Dobunshoin Press, Tokyo, 1993.

Paperback, University of California Press, 1994.

Challenging Tradition: Women in Japan, New York: Japan Society, 1991.

University Press, 1992.

The Japanese Educational Challenge: A Commitment to Children, New York: Free Press, 1987, and Tokyo: Kodansha; 1988. Also in Japanese: Shueisha, 1992.

Human Conditions: The Cultural Basis for Educational Development, with Robert A. LeVine, London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1986.

The Cultural Transition: Human Experience and Social Transformation in Japan and the Third World, co edited with Susan Pollak, London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1986.

Noodles Galore, New York: Basic Books, 1976., Published as *Pasta and Noodles* by Penguin, UK, 1979

Cooking for Crowds, New York: Basic Books, 1974. Re-published in November 2013 as Fortieth Anniversary Edition, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2013.

Chapters in Books

“Café Society in Japan: Global Coffee and Urban Space” in *Assembling Japan: modernity, technology and global culture*, editors, Dolores P. Martinez, Griseldis Kirsch and Merry White, Oxford: Peter Lang, 2015.

“All Roads Lead to Home” In *Tourism in Japan*, editors Sylvie Guichard Anguis and Okpyo Moon, London: Routledge, 2009

“Students, Slackers, Singles and Strangers: Transforming a Family-Nation” with William Kelly in *Beyond Japan*, editors, Peter J. Katzenstein and Takashi Shiraishi, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2006

“Taking Note of Teen Culture in Japan: Dear Diary, Dear Fieldworker” in *Fieldwork in Japan*, editors, Theodore Bestor, Patricia Steinhoff and Victoria Lyon Bestor, Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2003

“Ladies Who Lunch: Young Women and the Domestic Fallacy in Japan” in *Asian Food: The Global and the Local*, Katarzyna Cwiertka and Boudewijn Walraven, eds., London: Curzon Press, 2001

“Social Change, Family and the Child in Contemporary Japan” in Robert A. LeVine and Hidetada Shimizu, *Japanese Frames of Mind*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

"The Marketing of Adolescence in Japan: Buying and Dreaming," in *Women, Media and Consumption in Japan*, eds. Brian Moeran and Lise Skov, London: Curzon Press, 1995.

"The Social Transformation of Childhood," (with Robert A. LeVine) in Arlene and Jerome Skolnick, *Family in Transition*, New York: Harper Collins, 1992, pp. 308-309.

“Tastemaps and Trendqueens: How Young Women Learn to Eat in Japan” in Theodore and Victoria Lyon Bestor, editors, *Cuisine, Consumption and Culture: Food in Contemporary Japan*, Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press

Introduction, *Comparison, Competition, or Contemplation? The Uses and Abuses of Japanese Educational Data in the American Research Context*, edited by Gerald LeTendre 1997.

"Rethinking Japan's 'New' Middle Class," in *Classic Studies of Japanese Human Development: Retrospects and Prospects*, eds. David and Barbara Shwalb, Guilford Press, 1996.

"Virtual Friendship: The New Media and the Material Child," in *Media of the Twentieth Century*, Tokyo: Justsystem, 1995.

"Japanese Education," in *Japanese Studies Across the Curriculum*, ed. by Robert Rann, Madonna University, Livonia, Michigan, 1993.

"Le Systeme educatif Japonais," in *L'Education en Entreprise: Contre le Chomage des Jeunes* eds. François Dalle and Jean Bounine, Paris: Editions Odile Jacob, 1993.

"Is a College Student a 'Teenager'?: Adolescence in Higher Education in Japan and the United States," in *Culture and Higher Education, Working Papers*, Research and Development Division, National Institute of Multimedia Education, Chiba, Japan, 1992

"Global Japan: Internationalism in the Intimate Community" in *On Community*, ed. Leroy S. Rouner, Notre Dame, Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press, 1991.

"American Secondary School Education from a Japanese Perspective," in Kitamura Kazuyuki, ed., *USA Guide 7: Education*, Tokyo: Kobundo, 1991. (in Japanese)

"How They Learn: Cultural Values and Education in Japan," in *Roots of Japanese Behavior*, The East West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii: 1990.

"Learning in Japan: Community and Competition," in *Japan and America: A Relationship that will Shape the World*, Bernard R. Cooper, editor, Morgantown, West Virginia: West Virginia University, 1989.

"Revolution in Parenthood: Childhood and the Family in Social Transformation," in *Parenting Across the Life Span: Biosocial Dimensions*, editors: Jane B. Lancaster, Jeanne Altmann, Alice S. Rossi and Lonnie R. Sherrod, Social Science Research Council. (with Robert A. LeVine) 1987.

"Nihonjinron: Notes on Japanese Identity and Internationalization" in *The New Nihonjinron* (Japanese national consciousness), Tokyo: Yomiuri Shimbun, 1986.

Articles in Journals

"Toast" in *Pangyrus*, June 2015

"Ramen at Home and on the Road" Review Article in *Japan Forum*, vol. 27, issue 1, 2015

"Coffee work in Japan" *Sabor*, February 2013

"Pulp Natural" in *Longberry*, Issue One, Winter 2013.

"Ingestion: Liquid Power" in *Cabinet*, issue 51, Fall 2013

Gastronomica (University of California Press) several articles from 2003-2009, including the following: "Evacuation Day" (Summer 2003); "Coffee in Cambodia" (Fall 2003) and "Feeding Your Face: Food Fans of Sumo" (Winter 2003-4) "Astro-wraps or how the Chinese are winning the space race" (Summer 2004); Que Sabroso! (Winter 2005)

Atlantic Monthly, Food Channel, "How to Cater a Roman Orgy" fall 2009

Guest Editor, *Gastronomica*, August 2005 issue, on the life and work of Julia Child, including my essay "What Would Julia Think" on politics and food in the 1950s.

Newsweek Japan, monthly opinion column, "On Japan", 2001-2006

"Home Truths: Women and Social Change in Japan," *Daedalus*, Oct. 1992.

"The Virtue of Japanese Mothers: Cultural Definitions of Women's Lives," in *Daedalus*, vol. 116, no. 3, Summer 1987, pp. 149-163.

"Japanese Education: How Do They Do It?" *The Public Interest*, Summer 1984, vol. 76.

"Baby Strike? Reflections on ideology and realities in women's lives" in special publication, Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, D.C. 2002

Publication in progress:

A World History of Food, Oxford University Press, co-authored with Benjamin Wurgaft. Publication date 2017

Journal article, "Preserving Culture: Nishikikooji's Cured Tradition" in *Cured*, vol 1 no 1, 2017

Book chapter, "The Japanese Bullet Train: Eating Along the Route of the Shinkansen" in *Meals on the Move: Dining Out on the Legendary Railroad Journeys of the World*, ed. Sharon Hudgins, Reaktion Press, 2017.

Essay on Japanese knife craft, for Boston Globe, spring 2016.

Presentation on Japanese cultural concepts and culinary uses of offal, Oxford Symposium on Food, July 2016

PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

"Scholar of many kitchens" Address (at a "living festschrift" panel on my work) AAA Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado November 2015.

"Boston by Food: a Geographical and Culinary Tour" Old South Meeting House, February 14, 2014

"Then and Now: Social History in a Cookbook" Princeton Public Library, January 23, 2014

"Coffee: A Cultural Geography" Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. December 8, 2013

"Paradise Panel" Presentation, American Anthropologist Meetings November 20, 2013

"The Passion Factory" Coffee and its Spaces, San Francisco, October 16, 2013

"Coffee Life in Japan" St. Louis, University of Missouri/St. Louis, September 26, 2013

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, "Small Plates: Culinary Culture and Social Change in Japan" lecture, May 15, 2013.

"Coffee Life in Japan" Yale University, East Asian Studies, April 26, 2013

Coffee House Culture in Japan, Suffolk University, March 29, 2013

IgNobel Culinary Address, AAAS Annual Meeting, February 16, 2013

"Not Nightingales' Tongues Again!" Pepin Lecture Series in Food Studies and Gastronomy, Boston University, Feb. 12 2013

"Tools of the Trade: Experiential Pedagogies in Culinary Studies" Boston University September 22 2013

Panel Moderator and Presenter, "Amuse-Bouches" in Japanese Culture, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, November 2011

Lecture, "Café Society and the Cup of Solitude" Culinary Historians of Boston, Schlesinger Library, March 22, 2010

Lecture Series, “Merry White Public Lecture Series” including “Revisiting Returnees: From Kokusaika to Gurobarisumu” “Café Society in Japan” and “Families and Schooling in Post-Bubble Japan”, International Christian University, Tokyo, February 9 and 10, 2004

Lecture and workshop, “Social Change and Japan’s New Commonsense” Japan Society of New York, December 13, 2003.

Lecture, “Coffee Cultures: Grounded Social History in Japan” African American Studies Program of Boston University, October 23, 2003

Lecture, “Coffee Cultures: Grounded Social History in Japan”, Tenth International Conference of the European Association for Japanese Studies, August 27-30, 2003, Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland.

Lecture, with Richard Dyck, “Learning in Institutions” University of Cambodia, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, July 11, 2003

Discussant, Asian Studies Conference, Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan, July 2003

Lectures and Workshop Leader, National Faculty Development Institute, “Incorporating Japanese Studies into the Undergraduate Curriculum,” San Diego State University, San Diego, California, June 9-11, 2003

Lecture, “Moveable Feasts: Gender, Authenticity and Subversion in a Plate of Pasta”, Japan Anthropology Workshop, Yale University, May 11, 2002.

Lecture, “Families and their Discontents: Home(sic) in Japan”, Resource Session, Fulbright Memorial Fund, Boston, April 20, 2002.

Lecture, “Global Gelato, or Do You Know Where Your Ice Cream has Been?” Panel: The Science of Ice Cream, AAAS Annual Meeting, February 16, 2002, Boston Massachusetts

Presentation, “Talkin’ Bout Love: Affiliation and Responsibility among Young Adults in Japan”, Symposium on The Ways Some Japanese Live Now: Three Problematic Age Groups, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, January 11-13 2002.

Lecture, “It’s Not Japanese Miso Soup; It’s Grandma’s!: Food and Identity Among Japanese Americans”, The Davies Forum, Center for the Pacific Rim, University of San Francisco, October 1, 2001 [NOTE: the above lecture, in different forms, was also delivered at The Mansfield Freeman Center for East Asian Studies, Wesleyan College, November 28, 2001 and at The Japan Society of Boston’s series on soy, at Harvard University November 14, 2001.]

Lecture, “Blending the Tastes of Home: Japanese-American Foodways” University of Leiden and Kikkoman Institute for International Food Culture, Leiden, Netherlands, June 20, 2001

Lecture, “Yearning for Italy, Confirming Japan: New Tourisms as Identity Projects” Harvard University, Program on US-Japan Relations, April 10, 2001

Lecture, “Italian Food as Japanese Identity Project”, Boston University Anthropology Graduate Lunch Series, October 20, 2000

Lecture, “Aoyama Italiano: Itameshi and a Yearning for Home in Globalizing Japan”, Annual Meeting, Association for Asian Studies, March 24, 2001, Chicago.

Lecture, “Society and Culture” Japan: Year in Review, The Japan Society of Northern California, February

1, 2001.

Lecture, "Sex, Identity and the Marketing of the Japanese Teen", Center for East Asian Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, April 16, 1999.

Lecture Series, "Dual Culture Children: Issues of Race, Culture and Globalization", Japan America Societies of New Mexico, Texas and Arizona. Houston, Dallas, Phoenix and Albuquerque, February 1999.

Lecture, "Confessions of a Closet Caterer: My Secret Life in Food", Sakamaki Memorial Lecture, University of Hawaii at Manoa, July 1998

Lecture, "Japanese Women as a National Security Issue: Japan's Demographic Crisis", Robert Alden Ellsworth Annual Lecture, Johnson State College, Johnson, Vt. April 14, 1998.

Lecture, "Treats and Treatments: Food and Identity Among Japanese Women" Boston University: Women's Studies Program Special Lecture, February 3, 1998.

Lecture, "Japanese Society Today" First General Assembly of Japan-America Societies in New England, Boston, November 8, 1997.

Lecture, "Education Reform: Views from Japan and the United States," Japan External Trade Organization, New York, May 1, 1997.

Lecture, "Not Your Usual Problem : Population Issues and Social Change in Japan," University of Texas at Austin, April 14, 1997.

Lecture, "Education and Social Change In Japan." Trinity University, San Antonio, April 10, 1997.

"Values, Identity and Social Change in Japan: A Grounded Discussion," seminar on Models of Public Philosophy, East and West, Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs, New York, November 13, 1996.

"Myths and Realities: Teenage Japan." Keynote address at "Japan Today: Images and Realities." Conference, Concord, New Hampshire, October 28, 1996.

"Continuity and Change in Asia: Beyond the Tradition/Modernity Dichotomy," Keynote Address, Asia Society, New York, April 18, 1996.

"Population Issues and Social Change in Japan," Center for Japanese Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, February 29, 1996.

"Adolescence and Social Change in Japan" and "Population Issues and the Construction of Women's Power in Japan," lectures at Colorado College, Colorado Springs, January 20 21, 1996

"Materialism and Adolescence in Japan," Institute for Social Engineering, Tokyo, July 7, 1993.

"Family and Social Change in Japan and America," National Institute for Research Advancement, Tokyo, July 6, 1993.

"Adolescence in Japan and America" (in Japanese), Tokyu Cultural Center, Tokyo, June 25, 1993.

"Adolescent Sexuality in Japan," Japan Anthropology Workshop, Banff, Alberta, Canada, April 6, 1993.

"The Material Child: Adolescence in Japan," Mansfield Freeman Center for East Asian Studies, Wesleyan College, Middletown, CT., September 24, 1992.

"The Material Child: The Social Construction of Adolescence in Japan," School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, May 27, 1992.

"Japan's Education: Learning at Home and at School," Harvard Alumni College, April 12, 1992.

"The Education Gap: America's and Japan's Education Systems in a Competitive Global Economy," (with Thomas Rohlen), The Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, D.C., March 23, 1992.

"Growing Up in Modern Japan," New Hampshire Council on World Affairs, Japan Program, St. Paul's School, Concord, New Hampshire, February 12, 1991.

"Considerations of Japanese Education: Asian Views," University of Hong Kong, Department of Education, November 10, 1991.

"Early Childhood and Elementary Education in Japan and the United States: What Can We Learn From Each Other?" Pacific Rim Education Forum, University of San Francisco, October 31, 1991.

"Rethinking the Life Course: Adolescence and Social Change in Japan," Japan Studies Association of Australia, Seventh National Conference, July 11-13, 1991, Canberra.

"Internationalization and the Returnee Child," Ministry of Education, Tokyo, January 10, 1991.

"Basic Education and Employment Patterns in Japan," International Conference on Education and Employment, Club de Poitiers, Futuroscope, Poitiers, France, November 28 and 29, 1992

HONORS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

NEAC (Northeast Asia Area Council, Association for Asian Studies) Grant for field work in Japan, 2015-2016. Title of study: Tools, Techniques and Culture in Japanese Food Work

Government of Japan, Imperial Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays and Neck Ribbon, announced April 2013.

John E. Thayer III Award, Japan Society of Boston, "For Significant Contribution to the Advancement of Understanding Between Japan and the United States of America" 2012

Japan Foundation Fellowship. Grant to study urban social spaces in Japan, Kyoto Spring 2008

Gitner Award for Distinguished Teaching, Boston University 2004

Kikkoman Institute for International Food Culture, 2000-2001, Grant to study Japanese American Foodways, research conducted at Japanese American National Museum and Library, Los Angeles.

Ministry of Education, Japan. Grant. "Culinary Globalization and Japan" Bologna, Italy, 1997- 1999.

Northeast Asia Council Grant, Association for Asian Studies. Research Project on Population Issues in

Japan, June 1993.

American Council of Learned Societies, Research grant for Study of Social Construction of Adolescence in Japan, 1990-1991.

Social Sciences Research Center, Research Grant for the Study of Cultural Concepts of Adolescence in Japan, May 1988 - January 1989

CONSULTANCIES

Editorial Board, New Studies of Modern Japan Series, Lexington Books.

Board of Advisors, LinkAsia Television, a weekly television news magazine focused on news from Asia.

Consultant and Academic Advisor, "From Time to Time," Exhibition Project on Boston Neighborhoods, Children's Museum, Boston, 2011 –

Consultant and Academic Advisor, to-be-named Exhibition on Children and Food, Boston Children's Museum, 2012—

Co-editor, special issue, *Gastronomica* (on Julia Child) 2004-5

Consultant to University of Cambodia, Phnom Penh, on collaborative exchange programs with Boston University, July 2003 - 2004

Advisor, HaruFest, Japan Society of Boston, Spring 2002

Consultant and Advisory Board Member, Traveling Exhibition on contemporary Japan, Children's Museum Boston and Capitol Children's Museum Washington D.C. 2002 - 2003.

Advisor, Peabody Essex Museum Exhibition, "Exhibiting Geisha" planned for 2004

Consultant, Japanese Families Project, The Children's Museum, Boston, 2000-2002

Consultant, *Wired*, "Cuteness Sells in Japan" July 1999

Consultant, Rolling Stone Online, preparation and coverage, Mt. Fuji Rock Festival, Japan, April July 1997.

Advisor and Consultant to Tanabata Project, multimedia CD ROM teaching programs on Japanese language and culture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1995 present.

Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Relations, Board of Trustees, May 1994 present.

Bernard van Leer Foundation, The Hague, Netherlands, 1992 present.

Okinawa, Japan: Consultant and Evaluator, Community Center Project (Bunko), 1994 present.

The Hague: Consultant and Director, Workshop on Chinese Childrearing and Family, March 1995.

Keimei International Education Foundation, Board of Advisors, 1978 present

Massachusetts Committee on Educational Telecommunications, consultant and on camera discussant, 1993-5

Boston Filmmakers Collaborative, Board of Directors, 1989-2006

Cambridge Arts Council, Board Member, 1999 - 2002

International Group for the Study of Women, Tokyo, founding member, 1976- present

University of Cambodia, Phnom Penh, International Board of Advisors, 2003 - present

MEDIA

<http://www.bu.edu/experts/profiles/merry-white/>