



The Waseda Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies WIAPS Colloquium Series presents

## *Crafting Japanese Immigrant Nationalism(s) in 1930s Hawai'i*

Professor Mire Koikari  
Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Monday, May 20, 4:30 p.m., Building 19 Room 713

Co-sponsored by the "History, Memory, and Narrative in Contemporary Japanese Politics" Research Group

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Prior to WWII, Japanese immigrant nationalism flourished in Hawai'i. At the center of this little-known phenomenon were imon bukuro (comfort bags), handmade by immigrant women and gifted to Japanese soldiers—those aboard the navy training vessels calling Hawai'i as well as troops deployed in the distant battlefields in China. The gendered patriotic campaign was part of the larger tale of Japan's empire-building in which island and homeland, gunboat and sewing needle, and territorial conquest and seaborne expansion all played crucial roles.