早稲田大学スポーツ科学学術院スポーツ科学研究センター 主催 早稲田大学スーパーグローバル大学創成支援事業 スポーツ健康科学拠点 共催

第78回東伏見スポーツサイエンス研究会

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Japan's Soccer Diplomacy in Asia and the World

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■ Abstract: For over a century, Japanese leaders have sought to take advantage of the diplomatic benefits of international sports competitions. When Japan's national team began qualifying to play at the AFC Asian Cup in 1988 and the FIFA World Cup a decade later, soccer was added to the inventory of sports (along with baseball, judo, and volleyball, among others) in Japan's cultural diplomacy toolbox. Since then, in the lead-up to these two quadrennial sports megaevents, policymakers and pundits alike have invariably anticipated broad benefits from both, but the regional and the global playing fields are not equally useful. The contrast between, for example, the brief warming of Japan's relations with World Cup co-host South Korea in 2002 and the tense aftermath of the 2004 Asian Cup final shows how the scope of the event can make the difference between diplomatic success and disaster. A comparison of Japan's participation in these two tournaments illuminates the impact of differences in organizational logistics, audience, and structure of the competition on the dynamics of sports diplomacy on the regional and global levels.

■Bio: Jessamyn R. Abel is College of the Liberal Arts Endowed Fellow, Associate Professor in the Asian Studies Department, and Affiliated Faculty of the School of International Affairs at Pennsylvania State University. She is a historian of modern Japan with interests in cultural history, technology, infrastructure, sports, and international relations. Her recently published book, Dream Super-Express: A Cultural History of the World's First Bullet Train, views the 1960s through the window of the Tōkaidō Shinkansen, showing how infrastructure operates beyond its intended use as a means of transportation to perform cultural and sociological functions. Her first book, The International Minimum: Creativity and Contradiction in Japan's Global Engagement, 1933-1964, examines the transwar development of Japanese internationalism. Other publications include articles on the bullet train, technology, the Tokyo Olympics, cultural diplomacy, textbooks, and the history of whaling in the 19th and 20th centuries.

