

ALLISON ALEXY

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Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1290

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2021-present Associate Professor, Department of Women's and Gender Studies
Department of Asian Languages and Cultures (2021-22)
University of Michigan
- 2015-2021 Assistant Professor, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures
Department of Women's and Gender Studies (as of Sept. 2017)
University of Michigan
- 2011-2015 Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology
University of Virginia
- 2009-2011 Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology and Sociology
Lafayette College
- 2008-2009 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology and Sociology
Lafayette College

EDUCATION

- 2008 Ph.D. in Anthropology, Yale University
Supervised by: William W. Kelly
- 2003 M.Phil. in Anthropology, Yale University
- 2001 B.A. in Anthropology (with honors) and Sociology (with honors), and with general honors in the College, University of Chicago
Supervised by: Joseph Hopper, Linda Waite, Norma Field, and Susan Gal

RESEARCH SPECIALIZATIONS AND SKILLS

- Cultural anthropology
- Gender
- Kinship and family
- Romance and intimacy
- Legal anthropology
- Contemporary Japan and East Asia
- Advanced Japanese language abilities in speaking, reading, and writing

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- 2020 ***Intimate Disconnections: Divorce and the Romance of Independence in Contemporary Japan***. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Published as cloth, paperback, and also through open access at: <https://bibliopen.org/p/bopen/9780226701004>
 - Japanese translation from Misuzu Publishers (April 2022)
 - Chinese translation forthcoming from East China Normal University Press
 - Reviewed in *Anthropology and Humanism* (2022), *The Japan Times* (2020), *The Journal of Asian Studies* (2021), *The Journal of Japanese Studies* (2022), *New Voices in Japanese Studies* (2021)
 - Japanese translation reviewed in 毎日新聞 *The Mainichi* (2022), 日本経済新聞 *The Nikkei* (2022)

EDITED VOLUMES

- 2019 ***Intimate Japan: Ethnographies of Closeness and Conflict***. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press. Co-edited with Emma E. Cook.
- Chosen by Knowledge Unlatched and published through open access at: <https://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/25933>
 - Paperback published in October 2019
 - Reviewed in *Asian Anthropology* (2019), *H-Japan* (2020), *The Journal of Japanese Studies* (2020), *Pacific Affairs* (2021), *Social Science Japan Journal* (2020)

Sole author contributions:

Chapter 1. "Introduction: The Stakes of Intimacy in Contemporary Japan," pp: 1-34.

Chapter 5. "What Can Be Said? Communicating Intimacy in Millennial Japan," pp: 91-111.

Co-author contribution:

Chapter 13. "Reflections on Fieldwork: Exploring Intimacy," pp: 236-260; (with Emma E. Cook).

- 2011 ***Home and Family in Japan: Continuity and Transformation***. London: Routledge Press. Co-edited with Richard Ronald.
- Paperback published in October 2011
 - Reviewed in *Comparative Sociology* (2012), *Journal of International and Global Studies* (2014), *The Journal of Japanese Studies* (2014), and *Pacific Affairs* (2013)

Sole author contributions:

Chapter 13. “The Door My Wife Closed: Houses, Families, and Divorce in Japan,” pp: 236-253.

Co-author contributions:

Chapter 1. “Introduction: Continuity and Change in Japanese Homes and Families,” pp: 1-24; (with Richard Ronald).

JOURNAL SPECIAL ISSUES

2011 “The Ethics of Disconnection in a Neoliberal Age.” *Anthropological Quarterly* 84(4). Co-edited with Ilana Gershon.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

2021 “Children and Law in the Shadows: Responses to Parental Abduction in Japan.” *positions: asia critique* 29(3): 523-549.

2011 “Intimate Dependence and its Risks in Neoliberal Japan.” *Anthropological Quarterly* 84(4): 897-920.

2011 “Introduction: The Ethics of Disconnection in a Neoliberal Age.” *Anthropological Quarterly* 84(4): 799-808. Written with Ilana Gershon.

2007 “Deferred Benefits, Romance, and the Specter of Later-life Divorce.” *Contemporary Japan* 19: 169-188.

BOOK CHAPTERS

2020 “Talking Through Difficult Topics.” In *Studying Japan: Research Designs, Fieldwork and Methods*, edited by Nora Kottmann and Cornelia Reiher. Baden-Baden: Nomos Press, pp: 204-210.

2020 “Intimacy In and Beyond the Family.” In *The Routledge Companion to Gender and Japanese Culture*, edited by Mark Pendleton, Jennifer Coates and Lucy Fraser. London: Routledge Press, pp: 115-124.

2018 “Family.” In *The Routledge Handbook of Civil Society in Asia*, edited by Akihiro Ogawa. London: Routledge Press, pp: 456-468.

2016 “Laboring Heroes, Security, and the Political Economy of Intimacy in Postwar Japan.” In *Beyond the Cubicle: Insecurity Culture and the Flexible Self*, edited by Allison Pugh. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp: 101-128.

TRANSLATIONS (PEER REVIEWED)

Forthcoming “On the Masculinization of Deprivation: In a Moment of Changing Industry and Labor Practices.” Translation of Itō Kimio’s 「剥奪(感)の男性化をめぐって—産業構造と労働形態の変容の只中で」. *Contemporary Japan*.

COMMENTS (PEER REVIEWED)

Forthcoming Comment on “We are not Ikumen, We are Self-Reliant Househusbands” by Ofra Goldstein-Gidoni, *Current Anthropology*.

2022 “Japanese Family Law Must Change” *East Asia Forum*.
<https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2022/03/10/japanese-family-law-must-change/>

BOOK REVIEWS

2022 *Gender and the Koseki in Contemporary Japan: Surname, Power, and Privilege* by Linda White. 2018. Routledge.
Social Science Japan Journal 25(2).

2021 *Invisibility by Design: Women and Labor in Japan’s Digital Economy* by Gabriella Lukacs. 2020. Duke University Press.
Journal of Asian Studies 80(3): 750-752.

2016 *Configurations of Family in Contemporary Japan* edited by Tomoko Aoyama, Laura Dales, and Romit Dasgupta. 2015. Routledge.
Pacific Affairs 89(2): 435-437.

2014 *The Japanese Family in Transition: From the Professional Housewife Ideal to the Dilemmas of Choice* by Suzanne Hall Vogel with Steven K. Vogel. 2013. Rowman and Littlefield.
Social Science Japan Journal 17(2): 259-261.

2014 *Precarious Japan* by Anne Allison. 2013. Duke University Press.
Anthropological Quarterly 87(2): 545-557.

2014 *Housewives of Japan: An Ethnography of Real Lives and Consumerized Domesticity* by Ofra Goldstein-Gidoni. 2012. Palgrave Macmillan.
American Ethnologist 41(1): 198-199.

2013 *Fragile Kinships: Family Ideologies and Child Welfare in Japan* by Kathryn Goldfarb. 2012.
Dissertation Reviews. Available online:
<http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/3330>

- 2012 *Lovesick Japan: Sex, Marriage, Romance, Law* by Mark D. West. 2011. Cornell University Press.
Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute 18(4): 914-915.
- 2011 *Manners and Mischief: Gender, Power, and Etiquette in Japan*, edited by Jan Bardsley and Laura Miller. 2011. University of California Press.
Southeast Review of Asian Studies 33: 283-285.
- 2011 *Women and Family in Contemporary Japan* by Susan Holloway. 2010. Cambridge University Press.
Contemporary Sociology 40(3): 313-314.
- 2011 *Tough Choices: Bearing an Illegitimate Child in Japan* by Ekaterina Hertog. 2010. Stanford University Press.
Contemporary Sociology 40(2): 188-189.
- 2010 *Embodying Culture: Pregnancy in Japan and Israel* by Tsipy Ivry. 2010. Rutgers University Press.
Ethos 38(4): 461-463.
- 2007 *The Too-Good Wife: Alcohol, Codependency, and the Politics of Nurturance in Postwar Japan* by Amy Borovoy. 2005. University of California Press.
Southeast Review of Asian Studies 29: 261-264.
- 2004 *Doing Fieldwork in Japan* edited by Theodore Bestor, Patricia Steinhoff and Victoria Lyon Bestor. 2003. University of Hawai'i Press.
H-Japan Online. <https://tinyurl.com/y7zpbjoo>

OTHER PUBLICATIONS (NOT PEER REVIEWED)

- 2011 "Anime." In *The Multimedia Encyclopedia of Women in Today's World*. Mary Zeiss Stange, Carol K. Oyster, J. Geoffrey Golson, eds. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications. Pp: 70-71.
- 2010 "Japan: 1900 to Present." In *Cultural Sociology Encyclopedia of East Asia*, edited by Orlando Patterson. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications. Pp: 297-299.
- 2007 "A Conversation with William W. Kelly." *Anthropology News* 48(8): 59-60.

EDITORIAL WORK

2015-present **Series editor** for *Asia Pop!* published by the University of Hawai'i Press

Daisy Yan Du. 2019. *Animated Encounters: Transnational Movements of Chinese Animation, 1940s–1970s*.

- Reviewed by Association for Chinese Animation Studies (2019), *China Review International* (2019), *Mutual Images Journal* (2019), *Journal of Chinese History* (2020), *Quarterly Review of Film and Video* (2021)

S. Heijin Lee, Monika Mehta, and Robert Ji-Song Ku, eds. 2019. *Pop Empires: Transnational and Diasporic Flows of India and Korea*.

Teri Silvio. 2019. *Puppets, Gods, and Brands: Theorizing the Age of Animation from Taiwan*.

- Reviewed by *Asian Theater Journal* (2021), Association for Chinese Animation Studies (2020), *East Asian Journal of Popular Culture* (2021)

Luke White. 2020. *Legacies of the Drunken Master: Theorizing the Politics of the Body in the Hong Kong Kung Fu Comedy*.

- Reviewed by *China Review International* (2019), *Martial Arts Studies* (2020)

James Welker, ed. 2022. *Queer Transfigurations: Boys Love in Media in Asia*.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

2019-present ***Michigan Talks Japan*** podcast at the Center for Japanese Studies
Creator, host, and co-producer with Robin Griffin and Justin Schell
Available at: <https://ii.umich.edu/cjs/podcast>

ETHNOGRAPHIC FIELDWORK

- Ongoing **The United States**
Six months of research exploring “ghosting” and debates about what makes a good breakup.
- 2013-2014 **Japan, the United States, and The Hague**
Thirteen months of research, funded by the Abe fellowship, examining international child custody disputes in the US and Japan.
- 2009 **Tokyo, Japan**
Two months of ethnographic research funded by Japan Foundation investigating prevalence of “later-life divorce” among older couples.
- 2005-2006 **Tokyo, Saitama, Chiba, and Matsuyama, Japan**
Twelve months of ethnographic research funded by Fulbright IIE examining divorce in contemporary Japan.

2003-2004 **Tokyo and Yokohama, Japan**
Eight months of preliminary ethnographic research explored marketing the birth control pill.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

2013-2014 **Abe Fellowship** administered by the Social Science Research Council
Awarded \$100,426 to conduct research project titled "When Citizenship and Kinship Intersect: Comparing Japanese and American Responses to Transnational Child Custody Disputes"

2013 **Japan Foundation** Long-term Research Fellowship
Awarded approximately \$52,900; declined

2013 **Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science** Postdoctoral Fellowship
Awarded approximately \$50,800; declined

2010 **Richard King Mellon** Research Fellowship
Awarded \$5,000 to conduct follow-up research on divorce in Japan

2009 **Japan Foundation** Short Term Research Fellowship
Awarded approximately \$11,200 to research "later-life divorce"

2005-2006 **Fulbright IIE** Dissertation Research Fellowship
Awarded approximately \$46,500 for dissertation research in Japan

INTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

2021 **Proposal Development Grant** UM Humanities Collaboratory
With team of 12 (including faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and a librarian) awarded approximately \$78,000 for project titled "Environmental Activism and Minoritized Languages on Social Media"

2020 **Faculty Seed Grant** UM Institute for Research on Women and Gender
Awarded \$4,455 to conduct pilot project titled "Families Together and Apart: Negotiating Child Custody and Co-Parenting after Separation"

2012 **Ellen Bayard Weedon Travel Grant** from the East Asia Center at the University of Virginia
Awarded \$1,500

2007-2008 **Prize Dissertation Fellowship** Yale University Council on East Asian Studies
Awarded \$30,000 for dissertation writing

2004 **Summer Language Study Grant** Yale Council on East Asian Studies

2003-2004 **Japanese Language Study Grant** Richard U. Light Fellowship

AWARDS AND HONORS

2019 **Toward an Open Monograph Ecosystem (TOME)**
Awarded \$15,000 in subvention funds to support the publication of an Open Access version of Intimate Disconnection

2014 **Cory Family Teaching Award**
Awarded \$25,000 in recognition of excellent and innovative teaching at the University of Virginia

2011 **Distinguished Lecture Series Grant** Northeast Asia Council of the Association of Asian Studies
Awarded funding to organize lectures by Dr. Sabine Frühstück

2011 **Information Literacy Teaching Grant** Lafayette College
Awarded \$1000 to redesign an undergraduate course

2005 **Honorable Mention, Outstanding Graduate Student Paper** Society for East Asian Anthropology's Theodore C. Bestor Prize

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

PANELS AND CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

2019 “Family Conflicts and Solutions: Legal, Familial, and Social Disputes in Northeast Asia” with Takeshi Hamano
Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, Denver, CO

2018 “Rethinking East Asian Families and Family Laws: Critical Legal, Historical, and Ethnographic Perspectives”
Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, Washington DC

2016 “Thinking with Divorce: Family Breakup and the Anthropological Imagination”
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, MN

2014 “Borders, Transgressions, and Legality in the Everyday”
Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities, Charlottesville, VA

- 2010 “Continuity and Transformation in Japanese Houses and Families: The Family, Lived and Imagined, in Contemporary Japan”
Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, Philadelphia, PA
- 2010 “Living Fieldwork: A Panel Discussion on Anthropological Research”
Lafayette College, Easton, PA
- 2009 “Ethnography 2.0: Anthropology of Online Commitments”
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, PA
- 2009 “Intimate Japan: Cultivating Human Relationships in an Era of Neoliberal Independence,” with Katrina Moore
Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, Chicago, IL
- 2007 “Commodified Romance and Intimate Selves”
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC
- 2006 “Stigmatized Kinship in Contemporary Japan”
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, CA
- 2006 “Selves in Contemporary Japan”
Annual Meeting of Anthropology of Japan in Japan, Kyoto, Japan
- 2004 *Reproduction in Modern Japan*, graduate student conference
Yale University, New Haven, CT

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 “Representing the Pain I Feel: Left-behind Parents, Child Abductions, and Activism in Japan.”
Annual Meeting of the Law & Society Association, Chicago, IL (online)
- 2019 “I Came Home and They Were Gone: Family Mobility and Parental Abduction in Contemporary Japan”
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Vancouver, BC
- 2019 “In the Child’s Best Interest: Families and Custody after Divorce”
Regional Conference of the Society for East Asian Anthropology, Tokyo, Japan
- 2019 “Families Together and Apart: *De Facto* Shared Child Custody in Japan”
Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, Denver, CO
- 2018 “Negotiating Outside the Law: Tactics and Attitudes in Japanese Family Conflicts”
Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, Washington DC

- 2017 “Reconsidering *amae*: Rhetorics of Affect in Contemporary Japan”
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington DC
- 2017 “Refusing Divorce: Men, Masculinity, and Efforts to Stay Married in Contemporary Japan”
Annual Meeting of the American Ethnological Society, Palo Alto, CA
- 2016 “Why Not Divorce? Disciplinary Turf and Anthropological Attention”
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, MN
- 2015 “The Crisis and Non-Crisis of Abduction in Contemporary Japan”
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Denver, CO
- 2015 “What Can Be Said? Communicating Intimacy in Millennial Japan”
Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, Chicago, IL
- 2014 “Family Law in a Family Nation: International Child Abduction and Legal Disputes in Japan”
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC
- 2014 “Law Transgressing Into Families: International Child Abduction Disputes in Japan”
Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities, Charlottesville, VA
- 2013 “Preliminary Thoughts on Social and Legal Borders Surrounding Japanese Families”
Autumn Meeting for Anthropology of Japan in Japan, International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan
- 2012 “Parenting in the Shadows of the State: International Child Custody Disputes in Japan”
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, CA
- 2011 “Trash”
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Montreal, QC
- 2010 “International Norms, Citizenship, and the Limits of Kinship”
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, LA
- 2010 “Virtual Communities and Collective Narratives: From Tokyo to Mercedes, Buenos Aires;” with Osvaldo Cleger
Electronic Literature Organization Conference, Providence, RI

- 2010 “The Door My Wife Closed: Houses, Families, and Divorce in Contemporary Japan”
Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, Philadelphia, PA
- 2009 “An Aura of Virtuality: Moving Marital Support Groups On- and Off-line in Contemporary Japan”
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, PA
- 2009 “Three Words to Save Your Marriage? Articulated Emotions and Divorce Risk in Contemporary Japan”
Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, Chicago, IL
- 2008 “The Popular Logics of Demographics in Japan”
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, CA
- 2008 “Balancing Disconnect in Contemporary Japanese Marriages”
Annual Meeting of the Society for Cultural Anthropology, Long Beach, CA
- 2007 “Wives as Mothers, Divorce Risk, and Professional Counseling in Japan”
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC
- 2007 “But He’s Still my Kids’ Father: Post-divorce Parenting in Contemporary Japan”
Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, Boston, MA
- 2007 “When I got Divorced, My Single Friends Said, ‘Welcome Home!’”
Annual Meeting of the Japan Anthropology Workshop Series, Oslo, Norway
- 2006 “Living as an X: Toward a Theory of the *batsu ichi*”
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, CA
- 2006 “On a First Name Basis: Identity and Marital Problems in Contemporary Japan”
New York Regional Meetings of the Association of Asian Studies, Canton, NY
- 2006 “Divorced from the Ideal”
East Asian Anthropology/Anthropology in East Asia Conference, Hong Kong
- 2006 “The Business of Divorce”
Anthropology of Japan in Japan Spring Meetings, Kyoto, Japan
- 2005 Poster: “Malinowski’s American Homes;” with Nathaniel Smith
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC

- 2004 “Selling (Responsible) Sex to Young Women: Marketing the Birth Control Pill in Japan”
Anthropology of Japan in Japan Spring Meetings, Sendai, Japan
- 2004 “An Unpopular Pill: Modernity, Globalism, and Japanese Birth Control”
Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, San Diego, CA
- 2004 “Acknowledging Reproduction”
Reproduction in Modern Japan graduate student conference, New Haven, CT

INVITED LECTURES

- 2022 “Cultural and Legal Perspectives on International Divorces in Japan”
As part of panel on International Divorce in Japan
Osaka University, Osaka, Japan (via zoom)
- 2021 “Divorce and Child Custody in Contemporary Japan”
University of Copenhagen, Denmark (via zoom)
- 2021 “The Legacy of Ezra Vogel's Work: Sixty Years After *Japan's New Middle Class*”
Institute of East Asian Studies
University of California - Berkeley, Berkeley, CA (via zoom)
- 2021 “Families Together and Apart: Divorce and Child Custody in Contemporary Japan”
Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX (via zoom)
- 2020 “Family Law in a Family Nation: Custody, Conflicts, and Activism in Contemporary Japan.”
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (via zoom)
- 2020 “Intimacy and Neoliberalism: Perspectives from Japan”
University of the Philippines, Diliman, the Philippines (via zoom)
- 2019 “Families Together and Apart: Divorce, Child Custody, and Contested Disconnection in Contemporary Japan”
The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- 2018 “Children and Law in the Shadows: Responses to Parental Abduction in Japan”
Brown University, Providence, RI
- 2016 “Gender, Fantasy, and the Price of Divorce”
Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan

- 2014 “Families in Law: Ethnographic Perspectives on Contested Family Norms in Japan’s Family Court System”
Abe Foundation, Tokyo, Japan
- 2014 “I Love You, But Not Too Much: Contested Ideals of Intimacy in Contemporary Japan”
University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- 2014 “Comparing Families in Japan and the United States: Images, Ideals, and Practices”
University of Kitakyūshū, Kitakyūshū, Japan
- 2014 “Constructing Mutuality: Family Law Process and Divorce in Contemporary Japan”
Institute of Social Science, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
- 2014 “Abduction, Child Custody, and International Law in Contemporary Japan”
Waseda University Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, Tokyo, Japan
- 2013 “What Do We Owe and What Do We Owe Ourselves? Education, Debt, and Learning for its own Sake;” with Rick Heisterman and Natasha Oladokun
Institute for Humanities and Global Cultures, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
- 2011 “Families and Child Custody in Japan: Cultural Context for Recent International Disputes”
Asia Policy Point, Washington, DC
- 2010 “What Makes it OK to Leave: Explaining Divorce in Contemporary Japan”
German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo, Japan
- 2010 “Kinship, Citizenship, and the Problems of International Custody in Japan”
Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan
- 2010 “What Can Be Said? Communication and the Intimacy of Ethnographic Fieldwork”
Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan
- 2010 “Changing Marital Norms and the Risks of Naming in Contemporary Japan”
The Japan Society of Northern California, San Francisco, CA
- 2009 “The Frightening Possibilities of Pop Cultural Desire between South Korea and Japan”
Lafayette College, Easton, PA

- 2008 “Gender, Race, and the Race: The State of the Presidential Campaign,” with Saladin Ambar
Lafayette College, Easton, PA
- 2007 “Talking Technology: Technological Strategies for Scholarship and Fieldwork,” with William Kelly and Gavin Whitelaw
Ethnography and Social Theory Colloquium, Yale University, New Haven, CT
- 2004 “Supplemented Bodies: Vitamins, *Kampoyaku*, and the Pill in Modern Japan”
Harvard University Graduate Student Conference, Cambridge, MA
- 2004 「広告なしマーケティング：日本における避妊のピル」 [Marketing without Advertising: The birth control pill in Japan]
Waseda University’s Workshop on Cultural Anthropology, Tokyo, Japan

WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- 2017 “Negotiating the Spaces in Between: Strategies to Solve Family Conflicts in Contemporary Japan”
University of Indiana, Bloomington, IN
- 2017 “Family”
Civil Society in Asia workshop
University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia
- 2016 “Family Law in a Family Nation: Familial Conflicts and Parental Abductions in Japan”
University of Indiana, Bloomington, IN
- 2015 “Family, Nation, and “Abduction” in Contemporary Japan”
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL
- 2013 “Divorce and the Romance of Independence in Contemporary Japan”
Family Law in East Asia workshop
University of Maryland, College Park, MD
- 2013 “Global Humanities and the Risks of Empathy”
The 3rd International Symposium on Humanities in the World – The Value of Humanities Research: Cross-Cultural and Inter-disciplinary Dialogues
Nanjing, China
- 2006 “Obligation, Romance, and the Specter of Middle-Aged Divorce”
Modern Japan History Workshop, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan

- 2005 “Two Spouses, Two States: Considering Inter-Asian Divorce”
Southeast Asian Studies Regional Workshop, Chiang-Mai, Thailand
- 2005 “Divorce and Family Change in Contemporary Japan”
Society for East Asian Anthropology’s “Reports from the Field” Workshop,
Chicago, IL

PANEL DISCUSSANT PRESENTATIONS

- 2017 “The Good Life”
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington DC
- 2016 “Changing Meanings of Family and Gender”
Perspectives on Contemporary Korea 2016 Conference. University of Michigan,
Ann Arbor, MI
- 2016 “Mental Health and Illness in Contemporary Japan”
Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, Seattle, WA
- 2015 “The Neoliberalization of the Worker: Emotional Care and Affective Labor in
East Asia”
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Denver, CO
- 2013 “Multiple Selves: Social Identities in Globalizing Japan”
Annual Meeting of the Japan Anthropology Workshop Series, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2011 “Discursive Masculinities in Contemporary Japan”
Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, Honolulu, HI
- 2008 “Re-reading Ethnographies of Japan and Korea”
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco,
CA
- 2004 「タイに向かう日本人の若者たち」 [Young Japanese people headed for
Thailand]
Modern Anthropology Doctoral Workshop, Tokyo University, Tokyo, Japan

CLASS VISITS

- 2021 “Love, Loyalty, and Friendship in East Asian History” with Prof. Yi-Li Wu
University of Michigan
- 2021 “Contemporary Japan” with Prof. Glenda Roberts
Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan

- 2021 “Marriage, Family, and Kinship Systems” with Prof. Xinyan Peng
Shandong University, Jinan, China
- 2021 “Japanese Language in Society” with Prof. Noriko Sugimori
Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, MI
- 2021 “Introduction to Anthropology” with Prof. Jude Fokwang
Regis University, Denver, CO
- 2020 “Modern Japanese History” with Prof. Robin Kietlinski
LaGuardia Community College (CUNY), New York, NY
- 2020 “The Family” with Prof. Sangyoub Park
Washburn University, Topeka, KS

COURSES TAUGHT

Syllabi for all courses available at www.allisonalexy.com/teaching

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Undergraduate Seminars

- Race, Gender, and Nation (WGS 250)
- Fantasizing Japan (ALC 252 / WS 150)
- Love and Intimacy in Asia (ALC 285 / WS 285)
- Family in Japan (ALC 310 / WS 377)
- Feminist Thought (WS 330)

Undergraduate Mini-courses

- LGBTQ+ Asia (ALC 297 / WGS 213)
- Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Japan (ALC 397 / WGS 313)

Undergraduate Lecture Courses

- Gender and the Law (WS 270 / SOC 270)
- Introduction to Women’s Studies (AC 240 / WS 240)
- Society and Culture in Contemporary Japan (ALC 201)

Graduate Seminars

- Academic and Professional Writing (ALC 503 / WS 698-003)
- Beyond the Samurai Student: Education in Contemporary Japan (ALC 480)

AT PREVIOUS INSTITUTIONS

Undergraduate Seminars

- Fantasy (Lafayette College)
- Gender and Popular Culture (Lafayette College)

- Gender in Contemporary Japan (Lafayette College)
- Love and Romantic Intimacy (Lafayette College, the University of Virginia)
- Transnationalism (Lafayette College)
- Qualitative Methods (Lafayette College)
- Co-organizer and instructor of “Interconnections in Northeast Asia,” a study abroad course to China, North Korea, and South Korea (Lafayette College)

Undergraduate Lecture Courses

- The History of Theory in Anthropology (the University of Virginia)
- Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (the University of Virginia)
- Sex and Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective (Lafayette College)

Graduate Seminars

- Kinship and Citizenship (the University of Virginia)
- Legal Anthropology (the University of Virginia)
- Neoliberalism (the University of Virginia)

STUDENT ADVISING

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

- 2022-present **Honors thesis advisor** for Adrian Beyer
 “Thai Boys Love TV Dramas”
 Departments of Women’s and Gender Studies & Asian Languages and Cultures (UM)
- 2021-present **Honors thesis advisor** for Thomas Profitt III
 “Ainu Culture in Contemporary Japan”
 B.A. in Anthropology (UM)
- 2021-2022 **Honors thesis advisor** for Xiyu Ceciel Zhong
 “Playing Romance an Exploration of Fantasy, Agency, and Imagination through *Otome* Games”
 Department of Women’s and Gender Studies (UM)
- 2021-2022 **Second honors thesis reader** for Nadia Shebli
 ““When’s the Toulbe?!” Deconstructing the Gendered Binary of Cultural Identity Through Arab-Muslim American Women’s Experience with Marital Traditions”
 Department of Women’s and Gender Studies (UM)
- 2020-22 **Primary advisor** for Xiyu Ceciel Zhong
 “Students’ Perception of College Campus Restorative Justice Programs in Community Healing from Gender-Based Violence”
 Grants for Research on Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based Violence.
 Department of Women’s and Gender Studies (UM)

- 2021 **Second honors thesis reader** for Kimiko Varner
 “The End of the Mitsubishi Zaibatsu: A Study of SCAP Policy and Opposition”
 B.A. with Honors in Asian Languages and Cultures (UM)
- 2020 **Honors thesis advisor** for Sommer Albert
 “Mad Girl’s Love Song: A Heuristic Inquiry into the Intrapersonal Experience of Having a Crush”
 B.A. with Highest Honors in Gender & Health and Psychology with a Minor in LGBTQ* Studies and Sexuality (UM)
- 2020 **Honors thesis advisor** for Zari Smith
 “Localization of Japanese Video Games”
 B.A. with Highest Honors in Asian Studies focusing on Japanese Studies (UM)
- 2019 **Second honors thesis reader** for Mari A. Alvarez
 “TRANSforming Healthcare: An Examination of Cisnormativity in Patient-Provider Interactions”
 B.A. with High Honors in Women’s Studies (UM)
- 2014 **Honors thesis advisor** for Chelsea Jack
 “Understanding the Relationship between Law and Subjectivity in the Honor System at the University of Virginia”
 B.A. with Honors in Anthropology and Political & Social Thought (UVA)
- 2013 **Honors thesis advisor** for Xinyan Peng
 “‘Korean Wave’ in Taipei: The Construction of Beautiful Women”
 B.A. with Honors in Anthropology and Economics (UVA)

MASTERS ADVISING

- 2021-present **Committee chair** for Isaac Wittenberg
 “Queer Intimacy in an Age of Low Birthrates”
 M.A. in International and Regional Studies, Japanese Studies (UM)
- 2022-present **Committee chair** for Christian O’Keefe
 “Good Wives and Patriotic Mothers: The Intersection of *Nihonjinron* Discourse and Ideals of Patriotism on Korean Women’s Bodies in Postwar-Japan”
 M.A. in International and Regional Studies, Japanese Studies (UM)
- 2021-present **Committee chair** for Alexandria Molinari
 “Imagery and Activism in Postwar Japanese Anti-Art Regarding War and Nuclear Disarmament”
 M.A. in International and Regional Studies, Japanese Studies (UM)

- 2021-present **Committee chair** for Chiara Gerding
 “Legal and Social Responses to Sexual Violence in Contemporary Japan”
 M.A. in International and Regional Studies, Japanese Studies (UM)
- 2018 **Committee chair** for Alice Register
 “Destination Okinawa: Representation as Practiced in Contemporary Okinawan Society”
 M.A. in Japanese Studies (UM)
- 2018 **Committee chair** for Karin Tompkins
 “Goals and Motivations of Students Studying Japanese as a Second or Foreign Language”
 M.A. in Japanese Studies (UM)
- 2018 **Committee member** for Gal Lahav
 “LGBTQ+ Pride and Representation in Contemporary Tokyo”
 M.A. in Japanese Studies (UM)
- 2012 **Committee member** for Catherine Madeo
 “The New *Mammoni*: Why the Cultural Perception of Italy’s Mama’s Boys has Changed”
 M.A. in Anthropology (UVA)

DOCTORAL ADVISING

- 2021-present **Committee member** for Sheng Long
 “Numbering Land: The Ethical Measures of Geography and Subjectivity in Rural China”
 Doctoral student, Anthropology (UM)
- 2014-2021 **Committee chair** for Kunisuke Hirano
 “Refusing the Mainstream: Strategizing for Uncertain Futures through Educational Choices in Contemporary Japan”
 Ph.D. in Asian Languages and Culture (UM)
- 2021 **Outside examiner** for Ashley Miranda Wright Ross
 “A Culture of Effort: Social Poetics and the Transnational Parkour Community”
 Ph.D. in Japanese Studies, the Asia Institute (University of Melbourne, Australia)
- 2016-2021 **Committee member** for Whitney Hegseth
 “Comparing to Uncover: The Whys, Hows, and Whats of Schooling”
 Ph.D. in the School of Education (UM)
- 2018-19 **Fourth Term Review committee member** for Allura Casanova
 “Brotherhood Runs Deep: The Sexual Harassment of Men in the Military”
 Doctoral student, Psychology and Women’s Studies (UM)

- 2017-19 **Committee member** for Swarnim Khare
 “Tihar Jail: Writing Innocence, Writing Torture”
 Doctoral student, Asian Languages and Culture (UM)
- 2012-19 **Committee member and previously chair** (2012-15) for Macario Garcia
 “In Here for a Reason: Mobility, Animacy, and Becoming Human in Correctional
 America”
 Ph.D. in Anthropology (UVA)
- 2013-2017 **Committee member and previously chair** (2013-15) for Dannah Dennis
 “Re-Imagining the Nation: Citizens in the New Nepal”
 Ph.D. in Anthropology (UVA)
- 2014-15 **Outside reader** for Anand Rao
 “Self-Help or Self-Destruction? Immigration Politics in Germany, Italy, and
 Japan”
 Ph.D. in Politics (UVA)
- 2011-12 **Outside reader** for Jessica Starling
 “A Family of Clerics: Temple Wives, Tradition, and Change in Contemporary
 Jodo Shinshu Temples”
 Ph.D. in Religious Studies (UVA)

DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

- 2021-present **Director of Undergraduate Studies**
 Department of Women’s and Gender Studies
- 2017-present **Director of Undergraduate Studies**
 Center for Japanese Studies
- 2021-22 **Committee Member**
 Third year review committee member
 Department of Women’s and Gender Studies
- 2021-22 **Committee Member**
 LEO Lecturer Major Review
 Department of Asian Languages and Cultures
- 2020-21 **Committee Member**
 Launch committee member
 Department of Women’s and Gender Studies

- 2021-present **Committee Member**
Herman Family Internship Program
Department of Women’s and Gender Studies
- 2021 (winter) **Search Committee Member**
Japanese Language Program Director
Department of Asian Languages and Cultures
- 2020-2021 **Faculty Advisor**
Michigan Journal of Asian Studies
Relaunched journal led by and for undergraduate students
<https://sites.google.com/umich.edu/mjas/>
- 2020 **Organizer and Presenter**
“Online Assessment / Assignment Workshop for Big Lecture Courses and
Language Courses”
Department of Asian Languages and Cultures
I designed an interactive workshop for faculty teaching large courses online.
- 2020 **Co-organizer and Presenter**
“Jobs Seekers Workshop” Series
Department of Women’s and Gender Studies
With Dr. Megan Sweeney, I designed and lead a series of four workshops
outlining the hiring process in the academy and in alt-ac positions.
- 2020 **Panelist**
Book Proposal Workshop (online)
Institute for Research on Women and Gender
- 2019-2020 **Executive Committee member**
Department of Women’s Studies
- 2020 **Co-organizer and Moderator**
Sexual Citizens: A Landmark Study of Sex, Power, and Assault on Campus
Panel included the authors Jennifer Hirsch and Shamus Khan, as well as Abdul
El-Sayed (epidemiologist, activist) and Kamaria B. Porter (UM Sociology).
- 2020 **Faculty mentor in the MICHHERS program**
Department of Women’s Studies
- 2016-2019 **Executive Committee member**
Center for Japanese Studies
- 2019 **Committee member**
LEO Lecturer Major Review
Department of Women’s Studies

- 2017-2018 **Undergraduate Advisor**
Department of Women’s Studies
- 2017 **Faculty mentor in the MICHHERS program**
Department of Women’s Studies
- 2015-2017 **Curriculum Committee member and Undergraduate Advisor**
Department of Asian Languages and Cultures
- 2015-2017 **LSA IT Faculty Advisory Committee member**
- 2015 **Committee member**
LEO Lecturer Major Review
Department of Asian Languages and Cultures

AT PREVIOUS INSTITUTIONS

- 2014-2015 Co-organizer of “The Intimacy Lectures,” a year-long lecture series
University of Virginia
- 2011-2015 Institute of Humanities and Global Cultures Advisory Board member
University of Virginia
- 2011-2015 Global Development Studies Program Faculty Advisory Board member
University of Virginia
- 2011-2013 Graduate Admissions committee member, Dept. of Anthropology
University of Virginia
- 2012-2013 Mellon Graduate Teaching Seminars for Excellence in the Humanities
Organizing Committee member, University of Virginia
- 2010-2011 Curriculum and Educational Policy committee member
Lafayette College

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

- 2020-present **International Editorial Board Member**
Social Science Japan Journal
- 2020 **Prize Committee Member**
Outstanding Graduate Paper Prize
Society for East Asian Anthropology

2020 **Co-organizer and Presenter**
“Writing a Book Proposal” panel
Association of Asian Studies Webinar series
Available at: <https://www.asianstudies.org/jobs-professional-resources/aas-digital-dialogues/>

Book Manuscript Reviewer for: Bloomsbury Publishing; Duke University Press; Oxford University Press; Palgrave Macmillan; the University of Chicago Press; and the University of Hawai’i Press.

Journal Article Reviewer for: *American Ethnologist*; *Anthropological Quarterly*; *Anthropology and Humanism*; *Asian Anthropology*; *Australian Journal of Anthropology*; *Cultural Anthropology*; *Current Anthropology*; *Economic Anthropology*; *Hau: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*; *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*; *Japan Forum*; *Japanese Studies*; *Journal of Women and Aging*; *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*; and *U.S.-Japan Women’s Journal*.

Grant Reviewer for: Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship program at the Social Science Research Council; and the Israel Science Foundation.

MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

2022 **Quoted Expert**
“Academics ‘reluctant’ to recommend Japan as borders stay shut” by Pola Lem
Times Higher Education
<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/academics-reluctant-recommend-japan-borders-stayshut>

2021 **Guest**
“Intimate connections and exit strategies in a changing Japan”
Ear to Asia podcast
<https://arts.unimelb.edu.au/asia-institute/ear-to-asia>

2021 **Guest**
“Intimate disconnections”
New Books Network, Japan Studies podcast
<https://newbooksnetwork.com/intimate-disconnections>

2020 **Guest**
“#CovidDivorce and Changing Intimacies in Japan”
Japan on the Record podcast
<https://jotr.transistor.fm/28>

2018 **Quoted Expert**
 "Inside Japan's 'suicide forest'" by Michael Nedelman
 CNN
 <https://www.cnn.com/2018/01/03/health/japan-suicide-forest-intl/index.html>

2018 **Quoted Expert**
 "Can 'Sick-Cute' Fashion Break Japan's Silence on Suicide?" by Kati Chitrakorn
 The Business of Fashion
 <https://www.businessoffashion.com/articles/global-currents/how-sick-cute-fashion-is-surfacing-japans-mental-health-issues>

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Anthropological Association
Association of Asian Studies
Association for Feminist Anthropology
Association for Political and Legal Anthropology
Society for East Asian Anthropology