SERIES FOREWORD

The politics of marriage (and divorce) is an often-used strategic tool in various social, cultural, economic, and political identity projects as well as in symbolic conflicts between ethnic, national, or religious communities. Despite having multiple strategic applicabilities, pervasiveness in everyday life, and huge significance in performing and managing identities, the politics of marriage is surprisingly underrepresented both in the international book publishing market and the social sciences.

The Politics of Marriage and Gender: Global Issues in Local Contexts is a series from Rutgers University Press examining the politics of marriage as a phenomenon embedded into and intensely interacting with much broader social, cultural, economic, and political processes and practices such as globalization; transnationalization; international migration; human trafficking; vertical social mobility; the creation of symbolic boundaries between ethnic populations, nations, religious denominations, or classes; family formation; or struggles for women's and children's rights. The series primarily aims to analyze practices, ideologies, and interpretations related to the politics of marriage, and to outline the dynamics and diversity of relatedness—interplay and interdependence, for instance—between the politics of marriage and the broader processes and practices mentioned above. In other words, most books in the series devote special attention to how the politics of marriage and these processes and practices mutually shape and explain each other.

The series concentrates on, among other things, the complex relationships between the politics of marriage and gender, ethnic, national, religious, racial, and class identities globally, and examines how these relationships contribute to the development and management of social, cultural, and political differences, inequalities, and conflicts.

The series brings together books that provide thought-provoking critical perspectives that are well-balanced between a high degree of theoretical sophistication and empirical richness, and that cross or rethink disciplinary, methodological, or theoretical boundaries. The thematic scope of the series is intentionally left

broad to encourage creative submissions that fit within the perspectives outlined above.

Among the potential topics closely connected with the problem sensitivity of the series are “honor”-based violence; arranged (forced, child, etc.) marriage; transnational marriage markets, migration, and brokerage; intersections of marriage and religion/class/race; the politics of agency and power within marriage; reconfiguration of family: same-sex marriage/union; the politics of love, intimacy, and desire; marriage and multicultural families; the (religious, legal, etc.) politics of divorce; the causes, forms, and consequences of polygamy in contemporary societies; sport marriage; refusing marriage; and so forth.

Through an in-depth investigation of the interplay between transnational, national, and regional trends and processes *The Politics of International Marriage in Japan* offers a path-breaking analysis of the main reasons for and consequences of international marriage migration in contemporary Japan, focusing especially on women coming from the former Soviet Union, from the Philippines, and from North America and Western Europe. The authors offer a nuanced interpretation of how state-level attitudes toward migration, marriage, family planning, and gender shape conjugal power relations of international couples living in Japan; how and why couples' perceptions of (an ideal) marriage as well as of constraints and opportunities change during marriage; how couples use various ethnic, class, cultural, or gender identities and address various structural inequalities in continuous (re)negotiations of their marital relationships; and how the micro-politics of bilingualism and biculturalism work within international couples. Besides meticulously investigating not only the contemporary forms but also the historical roots of transnational marriage migration, the authors convincingly argue why this practice is a gendered phenomenon and highlight the complex web of factors and circumstances that can contribute to divorce among international couples living in Japan.

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The Politics of International Marriage in Japan