



Speakers Series 2012
Friday October 19
12:00-2:00 pm

(with sushi lunch reception)

C.K. Choi Building for The Institute of Asian Research
Conference Room 120

Dr. Jan Bardsley

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Democracy's Poster Girls: Beauty Queens and Fashion Models In Postwar Japan

American-style beauty contests became big business in Japan in the 1950s and were even hailed as displays of women's rights in the new postwar. This talk focuses on one piece of this story: the rise and fall of Itō Kinuko, who captured the Miss Japan crown in 1953, thrilled Japanese by taking 3rd place in the Miss Universe Contest. Her victory also intertwined with U.S. efforts to forge alliance with Japan in the early Cold War.

Dr. Bardsley, Associate Professor and Chair in the Department of Asian Studies, specializes in Japanese women's studies with an emphasis on how women's lives, from geisha to housewives, have been imagined and differently presented in fiction, film and theater, women's magazines, feminist debate, and social institutions. She is the author of *The Bluestockings of Japan: New Women Fiction and Essays from Seitō, 1911-1916* (2007), which was awarded the 2011 Hiratsuka Raichō Prize by Japan Women's University.