

979 Views | 5 CrossRef citations to date | 0 Altmetric

Original Articles

Gendering the Japanese political system: The gender-specific pattern of political activity and women's political participation

Hiroko Takeda

Pages 185-198 | Published online: 23 Jan 2007

Cite this article <https://doi.org/10.1080/10371390600883594>

Sample our Area Studies Journals

>> [Sign in here](#) to start your access to the latest two volumes for 14 days

Full Article | Figures & data | References | Citations | Metrics

We Care About Your Privacy

We and our 880 partners store and access personal data, like browsing data or unique identifiers, on your device. Selecting I Accept enables tracking technologies to support the purposes shown under we and our partners process data to provide. Selecting Reject All or withdrawing your consent will disable them. If trackers are disabled, some content and ads you see may not be as relevant to you. You can resurface this menu to change your choices or withdraw consent at any time by clicking the Show Purposes link on the bottom of the webpage. Your choices will have effect within our Website. For more details, refer to our Privacy Policy. [Here](#)

We and our partners process data to provide:

Use precise geolocation data. Actively scan device

I Accept

Reject All

Show Purposes



the reasons
al activity in
examines
s political
d nature of
political

The author would like to thank Glenn Hook, Tim Kelly and June McCready for their comments on earlier drafts of this paper; two anonymous reviewers for their invaluable comments; and the Japan Foundation Endowment Committee for research grants which enabled the collection of material relating to case studies one and three.

Notes

¹ [UNDP](#), Human Development Report 2004.

² [Norris and Inglehart](#), 'Cultural Barriers to Women's Leadership', 7.

³ To name but a few, [Kubo and Gelb](#), 'Obstacles and opportunities: women and political participation in Japan'; [Christensen](#), 'The impact of electoral rules in Japan'; [Martin](#), 'Alienated, independent and female: lessons from the Japanese electorate'; [Pharr](#), Political Women in Japan.

⁴ Two examples among many are [Sievers](#), Flowers in Salt, and [Mackie](#), Creating Socialist Women in Japan.

⁵ [Young](#), 'Impartiality and the civic public'.

⁶ The typical example of this kind of work is [Held](#), *Citizenship: Feminist Perspectives*.

⁷ For example, [Young](#), 'Impartiality and the civic public', and [Young](#), 'Inclusion and Exclusion'.

⁸ In Japan, [Young](#) and [Pharr](#) have studied the impact of the policy-making process on women's participation in the political process. [Young](#) and [Pharr](#), 'The Political Society in Japan', in [Young](#) and [Pharr](#) (eds.), *Women and Politics in Japan*, 1999.

⁹ [Young](#) and [Pharr](#), 'The Political Society in Japan', in [Young](#) and [Pharr](#) (eds.), *Women and Politics in Japan*, 1999.

¹⁰ [Young](#) and [Pharr](#), 'The Political Society in Japan', in [Young](#) and [Pharr](#) (eds.), *Women and Politics in Japan*, 1999.

¹¹ [Lewis](#), 'The Political Society in Japan', in [Young](#) and [Pharr](#) (eds.), *Women and Politics in Japan*, 1999.

¹² [Folbre](#), 'The Political Society in Japan', in [Young](#) and [Pharr](#) (eds.), *Women and Politics in Japan*, 1999.

¹³ A number of authors, including [Young](#) and [Pharr](#), have tracked the number of female MPs in Britain over time, and have published their research outcomes in such

journals as Parliamentary Affairs and the British Journal of Politics and International Relations. For example, see [Lovenduski and Norris](#), 'Westminster women', and [Childs](#), 'Having the target'.

¹⁴ Equal Employment Opportunity Committee v Sears, Roebuck and Company. See e.g. [Milkman](#), 'Women's history and the Sears case'.

¹⁵ [Gilligan](#), In a Difference Voice.

¹⁶ [Randall](#), 'Gender and power'.

¹⁷ [Scott](#), 'Deconstructing equality-versus-difference'; [Bacchi](#), Same Difference.

¹⁸ For Phillips's account on the equality/difference dilemma issue, see [Phillips](#), 'Universal presentations in political thought'.

¹⁹ On the dissociation of the 'politics of recognition' from redistributive politics, see [Fraser](#), Justice Interruptus, in particular, 13-16.

²⁰ [Lister](#), 'The dilemmas of pendulum politics'.

²¹ For example, see [Okano](#), Shiteizunshippu no seijigaku; [Tamura](#), 'Seijigaku to jendā'.

²² [Yokoyama](#), Sengo nihon no josei seisaku.

²³ [Macki](#)

²⁴ To name a few, see [Macki](#), 'Political women in Japan: the case of the "sewife"; [Uno](#)

'The dea

²⁵ As made clear by [Uno](#), 'Mother and

wives: history and politics of constructed in

history, see [Uno](#)

'The dea

kokumin

Econom

²⁶ Accord

respond

rural cor



²⁷ Besides autobiographies by Katō, for example, see [Hopper](#), *New Women of Japan*.

²⁸ It is misleading to say that birth control was completely at odds with the governmental pro-natal policy. I have discussed this at length in [Takeda](#), *The Political Economy of Reproduction in Japan*, 59–66.

²⁹ [Kitaoka](#), *Waga omoide no ki*, 278.

³⁰ The quote is from the eulogy given by Fukuda Yasuo, son of Fukuda Takeo and then Chief Cabinet Secretary to the Koizumi cabinet. [Fukuda](#), ‘Chōji’.

³¹ For her explanation, see [Katō](#), *Futatsu no bunka no hazama kara*; [Katō](#), *Katō Shizue: aru josei seijika no hansei*; [Ashino](#), ‘Ripurodakuteibu herusu/raitsu no kiso o kizuita hito’.

³² On the New Life Movement, see [Garon](#), *Molding Japanese Minds*; [Takeda](#), *The Political Economy of Reproduction in Japan*, Chapter 5. Tsunematsu has detailed activities of local organizations of the New Life Movement, though she does not discuss the functions and implications of the movement to the then national political economy due to the scope of the discussion. See [Tsunematsu](#), ‘Gender power under female leadership’.

³³ By discussing the work of Hiratsuka Raichō, Furukubo has pointed out that the emphasis on “josei-shugi” or “women’s rights” is not the same as “josei-shugi” or “women’s rights” in the political economy of the time. See [Furukubo](#), *The Political Economy of Reproduction in Japan*, 100–101.

³⁴ [Tsuge](#), *Abortion and the Body*, 100–101.

³⁵ [Kansha](#), *Is the Body a Site of Power?* (Kansha, *Is the Body a Site of Power?*), 100–101. It is worth noting that Kansha’s remarks are based on the work of Furukubo.

³⁶ [Kansha](#), *Is the Body a Site of Power?*

³⁷ The right to control one’s own body was a central theme of the women’s movement in the 1970s. The women who were exposed to the hormone therapy were the women who were exposed to the hormone therapy.

³⁸ [Kanō](#), 'Han-genpatsu undō no nakano bosei', 185.

³⁹ [Tsutsumi Aiko](#), 'Myūtanto no kigu'.

⁴⁰ [Shiota](#), 'Gendai feminizumu to nihon no shakai seisaku', 31.

⁴¹ Information on the case of the water protection movement in Ōno is based on research on 'governance through the family' funded by the Japan Foundation Endowment Committee. See [Takeda](#), 'Governance through the family'.

⁴² [Fukuiken Ōno no Mizu o Kangaeru Kai](#), Yomigaere Inochi no Mizu, 10–11.

⁴³ [Fukuiken Ōno no Mizu o Kangaeru Kai](#), Yomigaere Inochi no Mizu.

⁴⁴ [Takeda](#), 'Governance through the family'.

⁴⁵ For example, the Shufuren (the Housewives' Confederation), mothers' conventions, post-war peace movements, a residents' movement in Zushi against the construction of US military facilities, the Seikatsu Club cooperative and the Seikatsusha net. These political movements/activities are discussed in the literature mentioned in footnote 24. Also, see [Mackie](#), *Feminism in Modern Japan*.

⁴⁶ For definition of gender, see [Delphy](#), 'Rethinking sex and gender', 3; [Kimmel](#), *The Gendered Society*, 1.

⁴⁷ It is not clear from the text whether the women's movement was an opportunity for women to oppose the patriarchal system, or whether men have been the main force in gender. The text also mentions that women and wives have to succeed in running the household from a male perspective. See

[LeBlanc](#),

⁴⁸ [Takeda](#)

⁵² [Hasegawa](#)

⁴⁹ [Skocpol](#)



⁵⁰ [Bock and Thane](#), *Maternity and Gender Policies*; [Koven and Michel](#) (eds), *Mothers of a New World*; [Folbre](#), *The Invisible Heart: Economics and Family Values*.

⁵¹ [Bock and Thane](#), *Maternity and Gender Policies*, 7.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, 82.

⁵⁴ [LeBlanc](#), *Bicycle Citizens*, 197.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, 202.

⁵⁶ [Fraser](#), *Justice Interruptus*; also [Fraser and Honneth](#), *Redistribution or Recognition?*

Related research

People also read

Recommended articles

Cited by
5



Information for

- Authors
- R&D professionals
- Editors
- Librarians
- Societies

Opportunities

- Reprints and e-prints
- Advertising solutions
- Accelerated publication
- Corporate access solutions

Open access

- Overview
- Open journals
- Open Select
- Dove Medical Press
- F1000Research

Help and information

- Help and contact
- Newsroom
- All journals
- Books

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email

 Sign me up



Copyright

Accessib

Registered
5 Howick Pl

or & Francis Group
orma business

