

Asian Anthropology >  
Volume 16, 2017 - Issue 4

4,248

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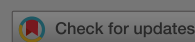
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# Gender inequality and family formation in Japan

Robert Marshall 

Pages 261-278 | Published online: 22 Sep 2017

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## Abstract

The way Japanese culture forms families (ie) has historically provided women with great autonomy. The formation of the ie as a perpetuating, corporate, stem family with impartible inheritance raises the successor's wife's status in the ie above that of the successor's brothers, who leave the ie. The ie's succession of generations functions most smoothly with one son, or a daughter and then a son, the pattern typical of

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