



The Center for Iberian & Latin American Studies

● **Apresentação: Migration from Brazil to Japan - Living in Japan as Japanese-Brazilians and the Impact on their Ethnic Identity**

Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 Time: 4-5 pm Place: Room 4 in the CILAS/Gildred Building, Institute of the Americas Complex, UCSD

From 1908 until the beginning of the 70s, more than 240,000 Japanese emigrated to Brazil. The estimate of the Japanese descendant population living in Brazil now is 1.3 million. In Brazil, the Japanese-Brazilians have maintained the Japanese culture tenaciously, even through today. They maintain their “Japanese” identity, although they are living as members of Brazilian society. They are taught by their parents or grandparents about the “virtuous Japanese”, and make it a positive symbol. On the other hand, the migration from Brazil to Japan grew from the end of the 1980s to the beginning of the 1990s due to the labor shortage in Japan. As a consequence of the partial reform of the Law of Entrance of Foreigners and Refugees in Japan, that allowed the entrance of Japanese descendants up to the third generation with special visas, the Brazilian population in Japan, which was approximately 2,500 in 1987, increased to over 300,000 in 2006, and decreased to 215,000 in 2011. When they move to Japan from Brazil as temporary unskilled workers, the symbolic “Japanese” identity isn’t recognized as advantageous. On the contrary, they are considered to be foreigners by law and also by Japanese society, because of the difference in citizenship, language, customs, culture, and ways of thinking. The only similarities are physical appearances and the fact that they have Japanese blood. Unfortunately, that isn’t enough for them to be accepted by Japanese society. Here, they lose their confidence in being “Japanese”, and the identity of their home country becomes stronger; they feel that they are more “Brazilian” than before.



● **Eunice Akemi Ishikawa** is an Associate Professor in the Department of International Culture at the Shizuoka University of Art and Culture, Hamamatsu city, Shizuoka prefecture, Japan. She teaches Multicultural Society and Ethnicity, International Labor Migration and the second and highest level of the institution’s Portuguese language. In addition to her teaching duties, she conducts research related to the reverse migration of Brazilians of Japanese ancestry to Japan and contributes to a colleague’s research into gender studies. A native of Londrina, in the state of Paraná, Brazil, Ms. Ishikawa earned her BA in International Relations from Tsukuba University, Japan, and MA in International Studies from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. through Ochanomizu University, Japan.

● **Sandwiches will be served.**

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