

# Kyoto Journal **Unbound** Gender in Asia



## **Announcing the Kyoto Journal 2006 Special Issue “Unbound: Gender in Asia”:**

How does gender exist in the Asian context, with all its traditions, negotiations and challenges?

In this special issue of *Kyoto Journal*, “**Unbound: Gender in Asia**”, we aimed to explore gender as a social and cultural construction, including all the variations that surround and subvert the dominant binary system. Gender is both a deeply ingrained and contested concept, revealing ambiguities, contradictions and a surprising amount of fluidity in the Asian context.

**Unbound** encompasses many perspectives, and we offer no unified definition or conclusion. Instead, through reportage, essays, interviews, poetry, photography, art and fiction we have sought to dissolve assumptions and focus on the more celebratory and progressive aspects of gender in Asia.

This issue showcases the increasing number of Asian contributors to *Kyoto Journal* writing in English, and a diverse array of writing in translation, including fiction from Bangladesh, poetry from the Philippines, as well as essays and reportage from Japan, Korea and China. **Unbound** also includes interviews with Japan-based gender therapist Kim Oswalt, a Korean *Ajossshi* (or middle-aged company employee), Indonesian celebrity Dorce Gamalama, Taiwanese academic and activist Josephine Ho, and Zaitun Kasim of the Malaysian Islamic Feminist group Sisters in Islam, and photo essays by Miyamoto Takeshi, Matthias Ley, Komatsubara Midori, Laurie Toby Edison, Ahn Young-sang, Saito Hiroshi, and John Ashburne.

**Unbound Online**, on the KJ website, augments the print edition with an additional selection of pieces on topics ranging from women and Buddhism, host clubs, the female imperial succession debate in Japan, masculinity in Philippine visual culture, India’s late Bandit Queen and the gay community in Jakarta.

**For full details of contents, see:** <http://kyotojournal.org/kjcurrent/kjcurrent.html>

**Unbound Online:** <http://www.kyotojournal.org/gender/index.shtml>

KJ #64 has been mailed to subscribers and contributors, is already in bookstores in Japan, and is being shipped for retail distribution in the USA, courtesy of Ingram Periodicals Inc.

**Subscriptions:** Inside Japan, a full year’s subscription (4 issues) is just 3,200 yen, including direct mail to your door. Elsewhere in Asia, US\$39; beyond Asia, US\$50. <http://kyotojournal.org/subscriptions.html>

Online subs here: <http://www.redwingbooks.com/products/books/KyoJouJapSub1.cfm>

Sincere thanks once again to all KJ’s friends, supporters, contributors, and volunteer staff.

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