



China

# Wenjing Weng

Assistant Professor, Admission Center, Kyushu University

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Faculty of Human-Environment Studies, Kyushu University, Japan  
Ph.D., Education, Graduate School of Human-Environment Studies, Kyushu University, Japan  
M.A., Education, Kyushu University, Japan

## My Research Interests

My major research interests focus on gender. My specific interests are in parenting support and child-rearing assistance. Since August 2013, I have studied confinement nurses who provide professional care for nursing mothers and newborn babies in urban China. Drawing on two and a half years of fieldwork in Shanghai, I finished my doctoral thesis entitled *Creation of "Scientific Month" in Urban China-Focusing on the Practice of Confinement Nurses*.

In my doctoral thesis, I described the typical daily routine of a confinement nurse. Whether or not they reside in the mother's household, their duties encompass feeding, clothing, hygiene, and basic medical treatment of newborn babies. I also examined in greater depth the role of confinement nurses by using a cultural understanding of "Scientific Month." I argue that 1) confinement nurses promote the increasing commercialization of confinement care; 2) at times, the nurses adapt new knowledge and techniques, but they often reject these practices in favor of older traditions; and 3) nurses often act as intermediaries between older and younger generations within families.

I recently became very interested in shared homes in Japanese single-parent families and began to study the concept of new, non-traditional family dynamics. There are two goals of the study: 1. to understand the use of shared homes in single-parent families and 2. to share knowledge with others who are examining single-parent families to form a new image of what is considered a family unit. I am currently reading relevant literature and conducting field work.



Observing family dynamics

## My Career and Vision

In my doctoral program, I participated in long-term, active observation of the transformation of the Chinese traditional post-partum health habit called "yuezi (month) and the roles of "yuesao" (confinement nurses) in urban China.

In 1995, I obtained a teacher's license in Shanghai, China and taught at a local elementary school for five years. Since 2004, I have taught Chinese language for Japanese individuals and companies. Since 2008, I have been registered as a foreign teacher in the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation and have taught international communication classes, especially at elementary and middle schools in Fukuoka. Additionally, since April 2012, I have taught pedagogy, development studies, and public anthropology courses as a part-time instructor.

As a researcher on gender issues, I will be evaluating the domestic and

international selection of program entry. As an assistant professor at the Kyushu University Admissions Center, I will participate in activities suggested by the Kikan (Arts and Science) Foundation and will also assist in planning and implementing entrant selection for the entire university. Considering the internationalization of our university and as a pioneer of international students myself, I would like to make a contribution to the university's design to expand the enrollment of international students.



Research scene

## My Lifestyle

During my 15 years in Japan, I have visited many places, but my favorite location is Fukuoka. Fukuoka has been named one of the most livable cities in Japan. It is called the spa town and is rich in vegetables and seafood. I have lived a healthy, happy life here. Fukuoka is not limited to these qualities. There are many kind people that live here. Therefore, foreigners like me can be fully integrated into and participate in a variety of community activities. Recently, a favorite activity I participated in was dancing with other people in the community. If you are interested, please join us.



Dance circle