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It's a (Gentle)Men's World Gendered Communities within Tenjin Matsuri

A hybrid *u:japan* lecture by Carmen Săpunaru Tămaș

Thursday
2023-03-23
18³⁰~20⁰⁰



Photo Source:
Carmen Săpunaru Tămaș



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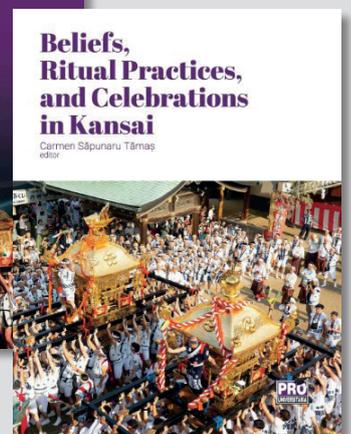
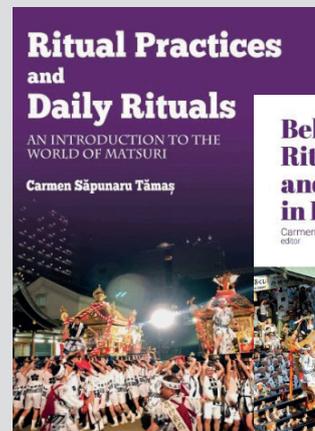
This lecture is a brief overview of one of Japan's three greatest festivals, Tenjin Matsuri, from the perspective of the first scholar/ non-Japanese national/ female who was allowed to attend all the annual events (from organizational meetings and formal shrine visits to budget reviews and drinking parties) of Otori Mikoshi Group. Tenjin Matsuri is supported by 24 active groups (*kô*), but the most significant ones are exclusively male: Gohoren *Kô*, Otori Mikoshi *Kô*, Taiko Naka *Kô*. Tenjin *Kô* is one of the

six groups who make the major decisions related to the festival, they do have numerous female members, but those members, however, do not become *kômoto* (group leaders). This presentation will focus on the role each traditional gender plays in the management and performance of the festival, in an attempt to provide a better understanding of the social and sacred mechanisms at play, as well as the changes (if any) that have occurred in contemporary society.



Carmen Săpunaru Tămaș

is a professor and the coordinator of the Japanese language and culture program at the University of Hyogo. Her most recent publications include: "Ritual Practices and Daily Rituals. Glimpses into the World of Matsuri" (Pro Universitaria 2018), "Beliefs, Ritual Practices and Celebrations in Kansai" (Pro Universitaria 2019, 2022, 2023), "Forms of the Body in Contemporary Japanese Society, Literature, and Culture" (edited with Irina Holca, Lexington Books 2020), and "Epidemics and Ritual Practices in Japan" (edited with Kathryn M. Tanaka, Pro Universitaria 2022).
<https://carmenamas.com/>



<https://japanologie.univie.ac.at/ujapanlectures>
ujapanlectures.ostasien@univie.ac.at