

いい兄貴ーわるい弟

gender dynamics in an early modern family

Just as women in Tokugawa Japan were subjugated to men, so too did most men suffer discrimination and subjugation based on status 身分, class 階級, and birth order 誕生順. If masculinity is seen as a system of power relations among men, the family is a good place to start. Inequitable kinship relations with a system of primogeniture fostered a kind of harmonious rivalry among siblings with differing consequences for each. For samurai girls, Yamakawa Kikue has argued, femininity was acquired through obedience and self-sacrifice. For samurai boys, the acquisition of masculinity meant finding wives and thereby reaching their masculine potential as household heads. This was more difficult for second sons for whom heading a household was not a given.

For this study of gender dynamics within an early modern family, I examine the case of Hirata Kaneya, whose trials and tribulations are well documented in the records left by Hirata Atsutane and his descendants. Kaneya did not always follow the path of a respectable samurai boy; instead he drank, fought, and insulted his father.

The lecture will be in English with some Japanese; the documents are in Japanese.

講師

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日時

12月16日(水) 14:00 ~ 16:00

会場

本館 127 室