

# Women and Religion in Contemporary Japan



## Guest Lecture Series

1 and 8 June, 2022

1:30pm – 3:00pm JST

School of Human Sciences, M44, Osaka University

Lectures will be held online. Participants can join in person or via Zoom.  
To register: <https://forms.gle/efgH55kRkg2mKdUq7>



Course instructor: Dr Paola Cavaliere

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**DAY 1: June 1, 2022**

**Dr Bixia Chen**

Subtropical Science Field Center, Faculty of Agriculture, University of the Ryukyus

***Women, Spirituality, and Plants in Okinawa***



**DAY 2: June 8, 2022**

**Dr Dana Mirsalis**

Harvard University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

***Two Stories of the Gendered Priesthood  
in Postwar Japan***



# Guest Speakers



*June 1*

**Dr Bixia Chen**

Subtropical Science Field Center  
Faculty of Agriculture  
University of the Ryukyus

Dr. Bixia Chen is an associate professor at Faculty of Agriculture, University of the Ryukyus, Japan. She has been working on the Fengshui village landscape, and Fengshui trees in Okinawa, Japan, from a comparative perspective with the other regions in East Asia, Mainland China, Hong Kong, and Korea. She is the co-editor of *“Traditional Rural Landscapes in Island Topography in East Asia.”* She also works on the sacred forests in Okinawa and other Asian regions and coedited with Prof. Chris Coggins the book of *“Sacred Forests of Asia: Spiritual Ecology and the Politics of Nature Conservation.”* She is also interested in rural tourism and regional development in East Asian Countries, seeking for an appropriate strategy to sustain rural communities and environment.

*June 8*

**Dr Dana Mirsalis**

Harvard University  
Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Dana Mirsalis received her PhD in East Asian Languages and Civilizations from Harvard University. Her doctoral dissertation explores how the introduction of women to the Jinja Honchō-affiliated Shinto priesthood in 1946 has precipitated the formation of a gendered priesthood.

