



Potential of Teleopoiesis: Multiple Marginalities and Literary Activities of Indonesian Female Domestic Workers in Hong Kong

In the last few years, more than ten books by Indonesian domestic workers in Hong Kong have been published in Indonesia. Why do only domestic workers in Hong Kong publish literary works amongst the migrant workers in many other countries, and how the specific local elements in Hong Kong affect this phenomenon? To answer these questions, this presentation will discuss the state of activities of a readers' and writers' group by Indonesian domestic workers in Hong Kong. By investigating the way how they try to negotiate their subject positions as much desirable as possible through their activities, it will attempt to look at their own meaning of literature, in coming to term with both empowering and exploitative aspects of globalizing migration.

Speaker: **Shiho Sawai**

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Chair: Prof. Lynne Nakano
Associate Professor
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Chen Kou Bun Building,
Chung Chi College, CUHK

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Shiho Sawai is currently doing PhD study at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies on Indonesian cultures and literatures. Shiho has lived in Indonesia for the last two years to conduct an extensive research on the contemporary state of literary activities, by looking at literary communities (*Komunitas Sastra*), an equivalent of the groups for literary activities that are seen throughout the history of the archipelago. She has attempted to investigate how people make use of literature in collective forms for diverse purposes, for leisure or networking, or even to actualize a better society. In doing this research, Shiho has tried to elucidate transforming roles of literature in Indonesia after the end of authoritarian regime. During her study in Indonesia, she has been invited as a presenter in various literary events, and has published her articles in the journals and newspapers in Indonesian language. At present, Shiho is conducting field research on the literary activities of Indonesian domestic workers in Hong Kong. This presentation is based on her article in Indonesian language *Potensi Teleopoiesis dan Marginalitas Berlipat dalam Karya Buruh Migran Perempuan di Hong Kong*, published in Indonesian Short Story Journal.