



#5

Lecture Series on

# Japanese Society and Culture

## How do you know what an Otaku is?

Speaker : Prof. Rebecca Carlson

(Office of Global Education and Career Development)



Have you heard the word *otaku* before? If you were interested in Japanese popular culture at all before you came to Japan, you probably know what an otaku is. In Japanese, it has many meanings, but since the early 1990s it began to refer to a type of person who is a fan of things like anime and manga. Often, when otaku is used in Japanese this way, it carries a negative connotation just like the word nerd or geek does in English. It suggests a person who is excessive in their fan interests and also somehow anti-social or just weird. But how do we really know what it means to be otaku? How did we learn that otaku are a group of people who cross the line from normal interests into obsession? This lecture will talk a bit about the history of otaku, but more about the media panic that surrounds anime and manga fandom in contemporary Japan.

2015

Nov 10<sup>th</sup> Tue 13:10-14:40

IEC Lounge, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Building #1 West

Open to all university community members!!

Inquiry

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