

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Fabric of society hot topic at kimono conference

An exhibition of beautiful Japanese kimono and a free public lecture will kick-start an upcoming conference at UTAS.

*Technologies of Gender: Shaping Women's Bodies through Kimono and Costume in Post-Meiji Japan* will run from **Sunday 9 to Tuesday 11 February** in Hobart.

The conference is organised by UTAS' Dr Barbara Hartley, School of Humanities, with sponsorship from The Japan Foundation and the University.

The exhibition, public lecture and conference presentations will examine topics concerning the social and cultural significance of traditional Japanese dress.

A range of local, national and international speakers will present on topics including:

- Gender and the Kimono
- Cosplay and Technology
- Dress in wartime Japan
- Transnational Style in the Tokyo Art World

Dr Hartley said all aspects of the event are open to the public and visitors are encouraged to come along and see the kimono exhibition and to hear the public lecture.

"Our speakers will also be bringing examples of kimono with them, and part of the public lecture will be a demonstration of how to properly tie a kimono."

Dr Hartley said kimono design was much more than aesthetics and tended to reflect historical events and social mores in interesting ways.

"We will have some fascinating examples of kimono created for formal events such as weddings and we also have some hand-sewn and hand-woven garments which help us understand women's labour in Japan.

"As well as being significant culturally and historically, kimono are very beautiful - they are like works of art and the exhibition will be an excellent way to showcase the garments," Dr Hartley said.

## **Conference details**

**Who:** All are welcome to attend.

**What:** Technologies of Gender: Shaping Women's Bodies through Kimono and Costume in Post-Meiji Japan.

**When:** Monday 10 - Tuesday 11 February 2014.

**Where:** Room 312, level three of the Humanities building, Sandy Bay campus, Churchill Avenue, Hobart.

## **Exhibition details**

**Who:** All are welcome to attend this free public exhibition.

**What:** Kimono Style in Modern Japan exhibition. This is a free exhibition of kimono and items of Japanese accessory and clothing.

**When:** Sunday 9 February 2014, 9am - 5pm.

**Where:** The Studio Lounge, Henry Jones Art Hotel, Hunter Street, Hobart waterfront. Entry via Art Hotel foyer.

## **Public lecture details**

**Who:** All are welcome to attend this free public event.

**What:** Kimono Style in Modern Japan. This is an informal event for anyone who has an interest in kimono, fabrics or other aspects of costume and clothing in Japan.

**When:** 5-6pm, Sunday 9 February 2014.

**Where:** Dechaineux Lecture Theatre, Tasmanian School of Art, Hunter Street, Hobart waterfront.

## **Public lecture speakers and topics:**

- *Official Opening, introduction to and brief history of the kimono*  
Dr Barbara Hartley, UTAS
- *Indigo Garments and Garments from a Country at War*  
Jan Ochi, Wafu-Works, Kingston
- *Kimono Undergarments and Women Re-claiming Kimono*  
Sheila Cliffe, Jumonji University, Saitama
- *Dressing in Kimono*  
Minako Stewart, Bujinkan Tasmania Dojo

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