Abstract

Microhistory and global history are often seen as opposing approaches to historical inquiry, with irreconcilable research methods, central questions, and strategies of narration. This talk combines both approaches, telling the story of an Edo period Japanese woman both as a microhistory and as a global history. The protagonist, Tsuneno, was a divorced woman from a small village in Echigo Province who ran away to Edo and worked as a maidservant. By placing her story of urban migration and service work in a global context, this talk considers how we might find a place for Japanese women in the history of global early modernity.