In the 1920s and 1930s, the Japanese media erupted with sensational tales of the "abduction" and "enslavement" of Japanese women who moved with their Chinese husbands from Japan to the coastal hinterland of Fujian, in South China. Today, right-wing Japanese websites are showering their fury on the descendants of those women who are seeking to obtain Japanese nationality and gain residence in Japan. In this talk, Professor Ambaras will explore the history of the interethnic intimacies and regional migrations at the core of these developments, and consider the geopolitical contexts that have informed these evolving ideologies of a Chinese menace in Japan.

DAVID AMBARAS is Associate Professor of History at North Carolina State University. His research explores the social history of Japan and its empire, particularly through a focus on deviance and marginality. He is the author of Bad Youth: Juvenile Delinquency and the Politics of Everyday Life in Modern Japan (University of California Press, 2006). His current book project is entitled Empire of Drifters: Life and Death on the Margins of Japan's Asia.