

Behind the Camera カメラの後ろで: Gender, Power, and Politics in the History of Japanese Photography

Introduction

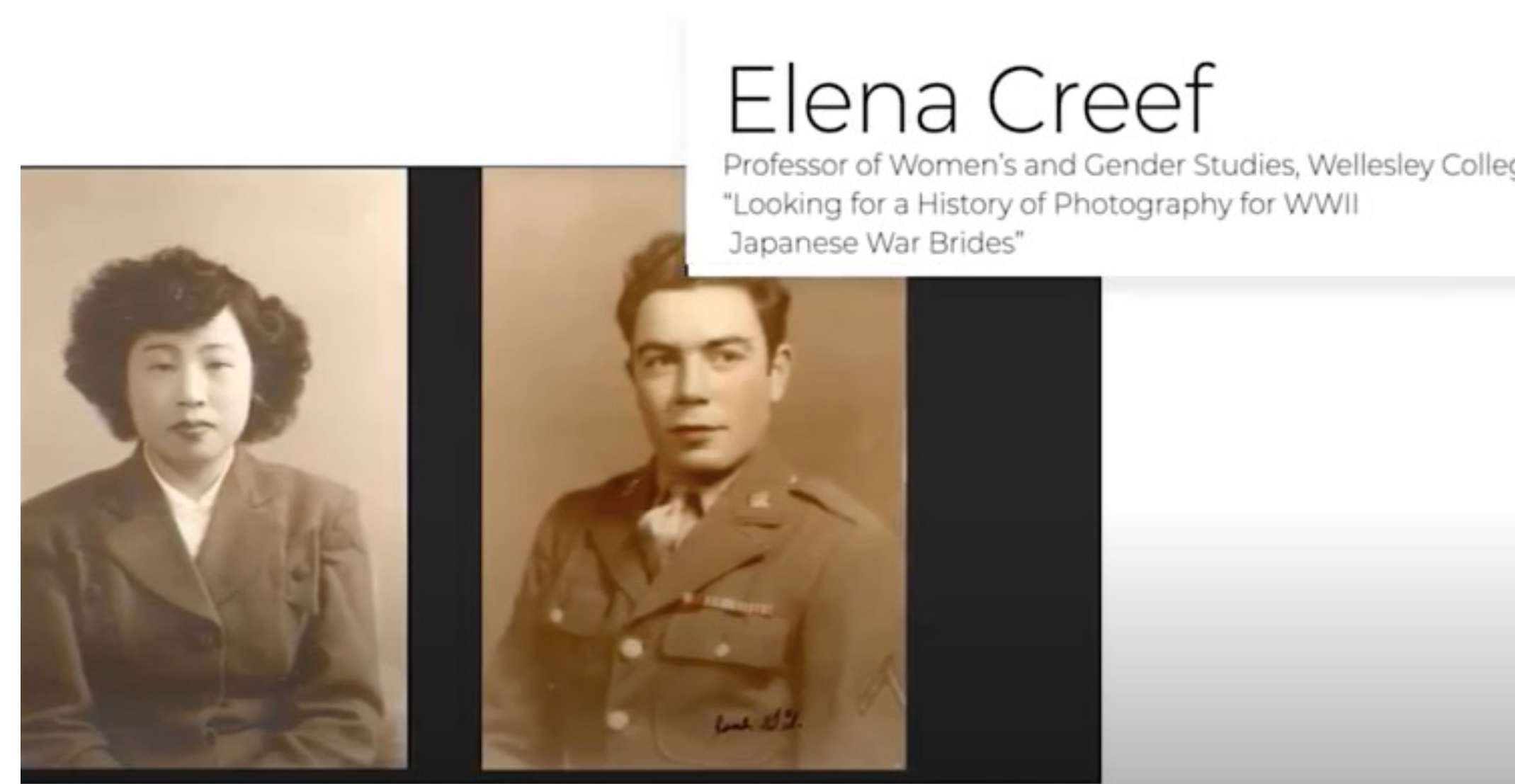
Behind the Camera is an open-source website that creates new critical directions on the history of photography, feminist art history, and the history of modern Japan. It is a pedagogical tool for the growing global investment in diverse and expanded histories of photography and gender studies.

Part database, part teaching module, the website's primary resource is a series of short lecture videos created by experts in the field, each re-examining an aspect of the history of photography from a feminist lens. The videos are a part of exploration modules that include translated primary source materials, annotated bibliographies, and high-resolution images that make research opportunities available to a wider audience. These resources are linked to an interactive timeline that charts the activities and accomplishments of women photographers alongside major events in Japanese and photo history. The result of five years of collaborative information gathering from libraries around the world, these resources bring together disparate information on women and photography in Japan, so that scholars and students can use it to draw connections and produce new scholarship on this important, understudied subject.

How to Use

Designed to reach a broad audience, including but not limited to scholars, photography professionals, art enthusiasts, amateur historians, and students of all ages, there are many ways for visitors to engage with Behind the Camera.

Lecture Video + Digitized Image Archive + Annotated Bibliographies + Interactive Timeline



Instructors Can:

- Assign a video as a “reading” to accompany course lectures. The related photographs, bibliographies, and primary resources can be analyzed in relation to course content, or used to teach students how to analyze visual and textual sources.
- Use the modules to diversify classes in history, art history, and gender studies with perspectives on Japan.

Students Can:

- Watch individual modules to learn more about the histories of photography, gender dynamics, the politics of visual representation, lens-based technologies, and more.
- Use Behind the Camera as the starting point for research projects and essays. The annotated bibliographies provide students with an analysis of foundational texts related to the issues introduced in each module.
- Develop their own modules by making connections between photographs and points of resonance across history.

Researchers Can:

- Explore major topics in the history of Japanese photography and gender studies and acquire new scholarly perspectives.
- Cite modules as secondary sources in their own research.
- Participate in Behind the Camera by proposing their own modules.

Interactive Timeline

A unique research tool designed specifically for [Behind the Camera \(カメラの後ろで\)](#), this interactive timeline makes information related to Japanese women photographers visible and legible across different historical registers. By working vertically, users can select a name on the timeline to unveil a brief biography and chronological record of an individual's contributions to the world of photography. Working horizontally, users can track the lifespan and career of individual figures in relation to major events in Japanese history and the global history of photography. Compiled from a variety of archives, exhibition catalogues, and online resources, each individual photographer's timeline concludes with a selected bibliography to inspire further research.

Acknowledgement

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Search Photographers

Type in the field below to search across the content of photographers' biographies, birth region, and death region by free text.

Legend

