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“The Waste of Society as Seen through Women’s Eyes”: waste, gender, and national belonging in Japan

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Curriculum Vitae

Rebecca Tompkins was born on April 7, 1989 in Nashville, Tennessee, United States of America. She attended Pope John Paul II High School in Hendersonville, Tennessee from 2003-2007. In 2011, she received a bachelor's degree from Trinity College (Hartford, Connecticut, USA) in International Studies and Political Science with a minor in Japanese. Her B.A. thesis was titled "Working for Change: Gender Inequality in the Labor Force in Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan." She received a master's degree in Regional Studies – East Asia from Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Science (Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA) in 2013 with the master's thesis "Birth Control Policy and the Politics of the Pill in Japan." While earning her master's degree, she studied Japanese intensively at the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies in Yokohama, Japan from 2012-2013, and passed the N1 level of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test in 2013. In 2013, she enrolled as a PhD student at Leiden University, studying waste in Japan as a social and cultural phenomenon as a member of the Garbage Matters Project, supervised by Professor Katarzyna Cwiertka. From 2014-2016, she conducted field research in Japan for her doctoral dissertation with institutional support from the National Institute for Environmental Studies and Kobe University, and financial support from the Japan Foundation. She is currently employed as a lecturer at Senshu University in Kawasaki, Japan.