“Marrying Out in Okinawa: Analyzing International Marriage Narratives”

Monday, November 12, 2012
3:30pm – 4:45pm
Location: WC 232

Presenters: Rebecca Forgash, PhD and Tracy Ingram, senior anthropology major

“Marrying Out” is a collaborative research project involving ethnographic data collected by Rebecca Forgash and analyzed by students in the Metro State Ethnography Lab. The project examines changing ideologies of marriage and family in Okinawa, Japan.

In Okinawa, international marriages between local women and U.S. military men are the most visible example of “marrying out.” Yet, historically speaking, marriage to American GIs is a relatively recent phenomenon, and even today, such marriages are not the most common form of “marrying out.” Marriages between individuals from different villages, between the former nobility and commoners, and between islanders and persons from mainland Japan all figure prominently in personal narratives, friendly conversations, and gossip.

As a research assistant in the Ethnography Lab, Tracy coded and analyzed qualitative interview data using the software MAXQDA. She will introduce the software and discuss preliminary findings related to the project.