**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What do these personal stories by trailblazing women teach us about the construction of the field of Japanese Studies? About gender and inclusion in the academy?
2. What did you learn about Japanese Studies between 1950 and 1980? How is the field then different and similar to how it is today?
3. How do these trailblazing women’s careers represent changes in Japan-US relations?
4. How are the formation of academic fields affected by both global politics and personal choices?
5. How have women faced different challenges than people of other genders?
6. Which chapters in particular did you find more compelling, educational, or instructive? Why?
7. What are memorable pieces of advice you have learned from this book? How will you use this advice in your life and career?
8. What can we learn by writing and reading memoirs? How do they differ from other kinds of writing?
9. If you could write your own scholarly memoir, what events, encounters, and people would you feature? How would you write the account? Would it be straightforward? Poetic? Funny? Serious? Who would you like to read it?
10. What is your favorite quote from the book? Why is this quote so impactful?
“This unique collection testifies to the strength, creativity, and sheer grit of thirty-one women who changed the face of Japanese Studies in North America and Japan. They created new pathways and possibilities, modeling ways to forge ahead with the help of mentors and despite roadblocks. An invaluable resource, Women in Japanese Studies will have you cheering on each remarkable author.”

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“This volume represents a labor of love - on the part of the editor and organizers, on the part of those women gathered together to share their stories, on the part of AAS in recognizing the importance of individual lives in telling a broader tale of scholarship shaped through relationships and resistant histories. In these pages we feel the very human and institutional costs that have been part of the blazings of intellectual trails. With gender as a critical frame, this volume shines a spotlight upon Japan as a textured object of study, wrought through these women’s experiences.”

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