This talk explores how adult Japanese women working in Tokyo's legal sex industry understand the intimate labors that they offer to their customers. These women value the care they provide for what they see as its contributions to the productivity of male white-collar workers. Their services center on iyashi (healing), a carefully constructed performance of intimacy that commingles maternal care with sexual gratification. Sex workers view iyashi as a form of women's socially necessary care of men. The value of their healing rests on sex workers' successful enactment of the very assumptions of naturalized femininity that justify their exclusion from the full-time labor market. This healing labor demonstrates how ideas about who plays a productive role in the economy shape how sex workers imagine and engage their customers' desires.

**Dr. Gabriele Koch** is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Yale-NUS College. Her research examines how globalizing human rights and labor rights discourses intersect with longstanding histories of gender, labor, and care in urban Japan. She is currently working on a book project, entitled, Healing Labor: Japanese Sex Workers and the Gender of the Economy.