# Contents

Preface  IX  
Acknowledgements  XV  
List of Tables  XVIII  

1 The Enigma of Japanese Capitalism: An Historical Introduction  1  
   Forging a Reproductive Bargain in Postwar Japan  5  
   State and Society: The Formation of Japanese Capitalism  8  
   The Japanese Employment System: Regulating Labor, Labor Regulations  10  
   Unraveling Bargains: The Crisis of Reproduction  14  
   Conclusion: Precarity in Japan  17  
   The Enduring Enigma of Japanese Capitalism  18  

2 Gendering Work: Deconstructing the Narrative of the Japanese Economic Miracle  24  
   The Japanese Employment System and the Hidden Bargain  26  
   Mapping Nonstandard Employment  30  
   The Reproductive Bargain  37  
   The Political Basis of the Reproductive Bargain  38  
   Conclusion  42  

3 The Logics of Part-Time and Agency Temporary Employment  45  
   Trends and Tendencies  46  
   Parsing Part-time Employment  49  
   Socio-demographics of Agency Temporary Employment  52  
   Making Precarious Employment: Different Trajectories  54  
   National Regulatory Reform  55  
   Precarious Employment: Lessons from Japan  59  

4 Temp(t)ing Bodies: Shaping Gender at Work in Japan  61  
   Feminist Theories of Embodiment  61  
   The Body at Work and the Work on the Body  61  
   Situated Selves: Gender and Embodiment at Work in Japanese Studies  63  
   Appropriate Methods  65
Gender, Bodies and Culture in Late 20th-Century Japan  68
Accounting for Gender Differences: the Rise of Nonstandard Employment  68
Temp(t)ing Options: Embodiment and Gender Regimes  71
Screening for Temp(t)ing Bodies  73
Age as Embodied Capacities and Competencies  76
Dis-placement in the Organizational Body  78
Conclusion  79

5 Compromising Positions: Emergent Neo-Fordisms and Reproductive Bargains  81
Fordism, Regulation and Reproductive Bargains  82
Neo-Fordism: What's in a Name?  82
Compromising Positions: Fordism and Emerging Reproductive Bargains  85
Charting the Connections  86
Neo-Fordism and Bargains in Sweden, Germany and Japan  88
Social Democratic Corporatist Fordism: Sweden’s Third Way  88
Diversified-Quality Fordism: The German Bargain  91
Company Fordism in Japan  93
Alternative Paths to Emerging Neo-Fordisms: Stability and Change  96
Mapping Neo-Fordisms and Reproductive Bargains  100

6 Precarity among Youth: Current Challenges, Future Prospects  103
Introduction  103
Interpreting Youth Unemployment and Precarity  104
New Forms of Precarious Work and Precarity: Creating the Lost Generation?  106
Organizing Unemployed Youth  111
Conclusion: Accounting for and Consequences of Precarity among Youth in Japan  113

7 Another Lost Decade? The Future of Japanese Capitalism  117
The State of the Labor Movement: From Challenges and Opportunities to Precarity  122
Organizational Transformations and New Forms of Labor Activism  127
Unraveling of the Reproductive Bargain in Japan 134
Shifting Boundaries, Shifting Perspectives 136
Toward a New Political Agenda: Concluding Remarks 140

Bibliography 143
Subject Index 164
Name Index 167