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October 15 Oct. - Anna Lughezzani (University of Padova, Italy)
22 Oct. - Maria Römer (University of Leeds, UK)
29 Oct. - William W. Kelly (Yale University, USA)

November 05 Nov. - Daniela Tan (University of Zurich, Switzerland)
19 Nov. - Daniel White (University of Cambridge, UK)
26 Nov. - Shilla Lee (Max Planck Institute, Germany)

December 10 Dec. - Paulina Kolata (University of Chester, UK)
17 Dec. - Nicole Freiner (Bryant University, USA)

Thursdays
18:30~20:00
(Vienna time)

January 07 Jan. - Sarah Terrail Lormel (INALCO, France)
14 Jan. - Asahi Yoshiyuki (NINJAL, Japan)
28 Jan. - Stefan Würrer (ICU & University of Tokyo, Japan)

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Work “like a woman”: The construction of femininity and the female body in the Japanese job hunting (*shūkatsu*)

a virtual lecture by Anna Lughezzani

Shūkatsu (就活), namely job-hunting, is a salient moment in the life of a university student in Japan: if they succeed, they will become *shakaijin*, proper members of society. An anthropopoietic rite of passage in which the Japanese society molds its youth into adults, *shūkatsu* inscribes in them socio-culturally constructed ideas of “right” femininity and masculinity, and normative female/male roles in the enterprise-society and in the family, by molding their bodies through various bodily techniques that set boys and girls apart. Nine months of ethnographic fieldwork in Tokyo informed a research on the ways female university students experience *shūkatsu* and make their first career choice, and on the different ways companies adopt in order to appeal to female and male possible candidates, in the context of Japanese demographic crisis, labor shortage, and Abe’s “Womenomics”, on a national scale, and governor Koike’s “Josei ga kagayaku Tokyo” campaign, on a municipal one.



Thursday
2020-10-15
18:30~20:00
online

就活
メイク
by SHISEIDO

<https://japanologie.univie.ac.at/onlinelectures/>

Anna Lughezzani is a Ph.D. candidate in anthropology at University of Padova, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice and University of Verona (Italy). She has a BA in Japanese Studies and an MA in anthropology both from Ca’ Foscari, Venice. For her master thesis, *Bodies and Identities of Women in the Shushoku Katsudo. An ethnography of job hunting among female university students in Tokyo* she spent nine months doing field research at Waseda University in Tokyo. Now, her research focuses on the *koseki*, the Japanese family register, and the problem of the *mukosekiji*, the unregistered children.





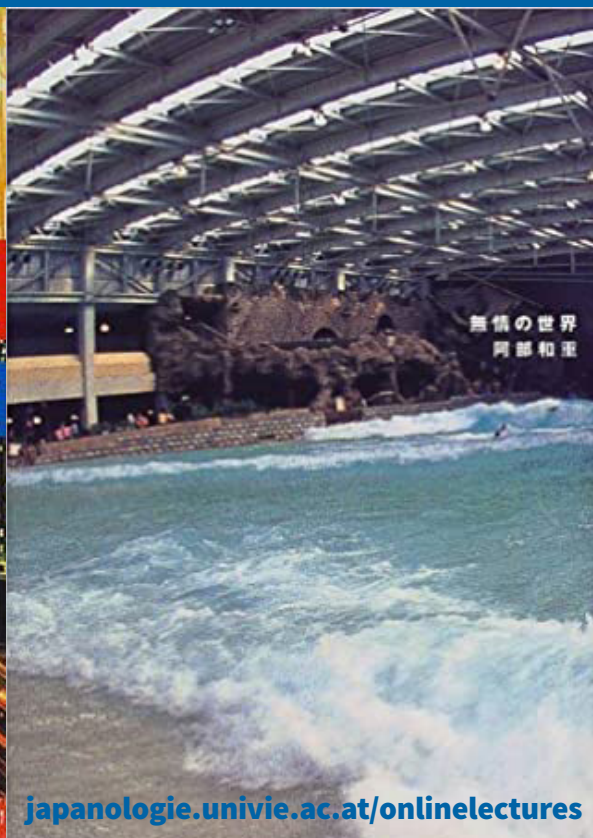
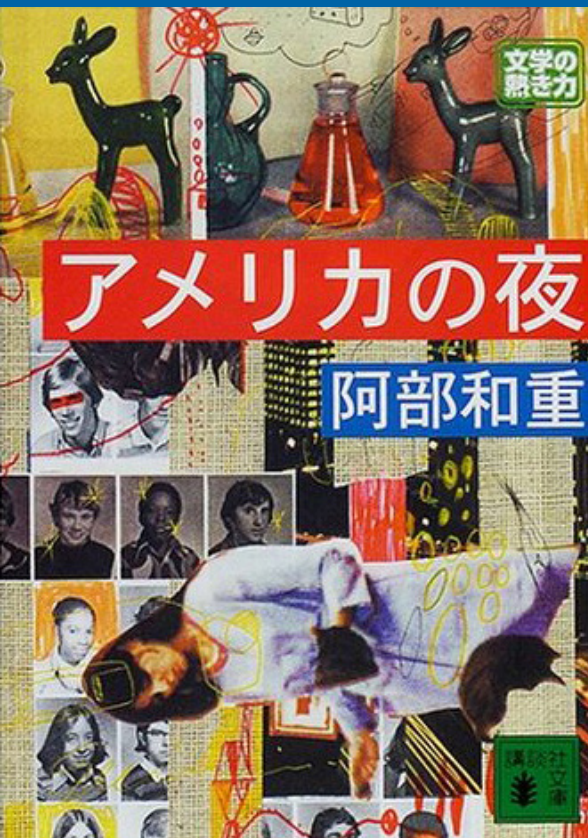
Abe Kazushige's Male Homosocial Worlds

Duels and Complaints

a virtual lecture by **Maria Roemer**

Abe Kazushige's 1990s fiction destabilizes hegemonic notions of manliness. This lecture analyzes how Abe's debut novel *Amerika no yoru* (Day by Night, 1994) and his short story *Minagoroshi* (Massacre, 1998) evoke homoerotic images through depicting male homosocial competition or intimacy in heterosexual erotic triangles. The analysis will highlight how, in both pieces, such affect specifically expresses through *speech*; two men who are opponents by definition of their positions within the triangle, form a union by sharing a common topic of conversation (the women in question). The lecture will theorize these speech patterns as "dueling discourse" according to Roland Barthes on the one hand, and "male complaint" by inverting Lauren Berlant on the other. It finally will debate whether representations of such feminized masculinities relate to the specific historical context of post-bubble Japan.

Thursday
2020-10-22
18:30~20:00
online



▲ *Amerika no yoru* (Day by Night, 1994)

▲ "Minagoroshi" (Massacre, 1998)
first published in *Mujō no sekai*

▲ Abe Kazushige



Maria Roemer obtained her Ph.D. in 2019 from Heidelberg University with a dissertation *Metafiction and Masculinities in Abe Kazushige's 90s Fiction*. Her research focuses on gender and masculinities, precarity, Transcultural Studies, formalism and translation in contemporary Japanese literature and film. She currently teaches at The University of Leeds.

Abe Kazushige, Roemer M [translator]. "License to Kill: The Meaning of 'Massacre' in Dawn of the Dead". *SOAS Occasional Translations in Japanese Studies* 2018, 8.

Roemer M. "Precarious Attraction: Abe Kazushige's Individual Projection Post-Aum". In: Iwata-Weickgenannt, K; Rosenbaum, R, ed. *Visions of Precarity in Japanese Popular Culture*. London and New York: Routledge, 2015, pp.86-101.



85 years of Suye Mura

The life history of a Japanese village—and its anthropology a virtual lecture by William W. Kelly

There have been to date over 250 ethnographic monographs published in the anthropology of Japan, and of those, the one with the most surprising and most enduring afterlife is the very first, John Embree's *Suye Mura* (1939), a study of a village in Kyushu based on his fieldwork in 1935-1936. For a book that is widely ignored by scholars and unread by students, it has been a potent force in local and prefectural politics in debates on land reform, administration amalgamation, local identity, and economic revitalization. In this presentation, I want to revisit the book, its author, and the village to trace something of its remarkable legacy over 85 years and its relevance to the issues that continue to vex contemporary regional Japan.

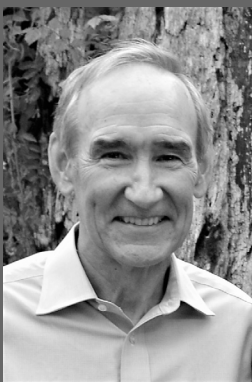


207 調査中のエンブリー夫妻 Mr. & Mrs. Embree doing field work
熊本日日新聞社撮影 [the Kumamoto Nichinichi Shinbun 1935]

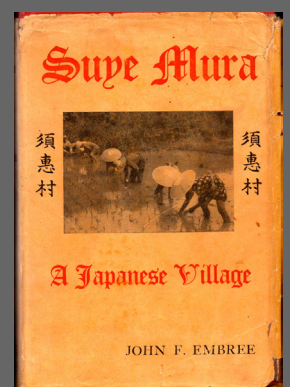
Thursday
2020-10-29
18:30~20:00
online



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William W. Kelly is professor emeritus of anthropology and the Sumitomo Professor Emeritus of Japanese Studies at Yale University, where he has taught continuously since 1980. A principal research interest has been the historical dynamics of regional society in Japan, based on extended fieldwork in the Shōnai area of Yamagata Prefecture that began in the 1970s and continues at present. He has also explored sport and body culture and their significance in modern Japan. Among his recent publications is *The Sportsworld of the Hanshin Tigers: Professional Baseball in Modern Japan* (2018). He is presently writing a book on the history of Japan anthropology and its importance for Japan studies and for sociocultural anthropology.



Menstruation und Konzeptionen von Weiblichkeit im japanischen Mittelalter

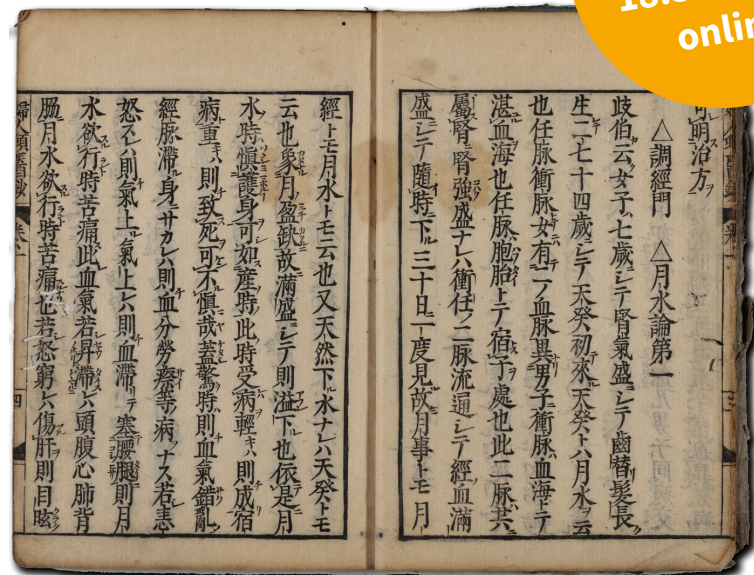
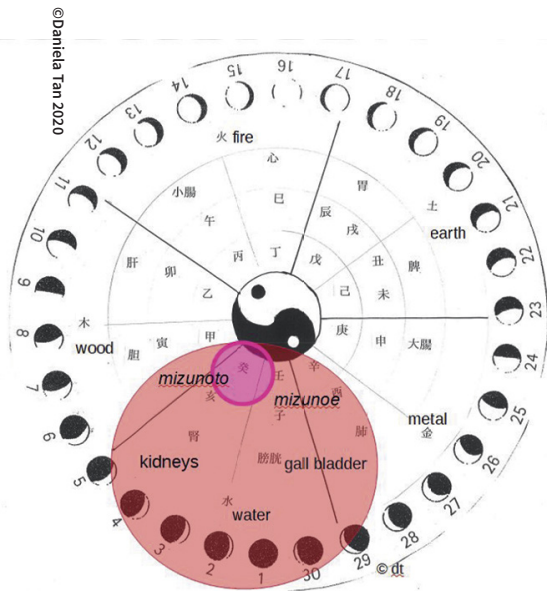
a virtual lecture by Daniela Tan

Das Mittelalter als Epoche grosser politischer und sozialer Veränderungen in Japan brachte einen Wandel des Frauenbildes, was sich auf die rechtliche und gesellschaftliche Stellung der Frauen auswirkte.

Die Menstruation als physiologischer, zyklischer Ablauf steht zum einen im direkten Zusammenhang mit der Phase der biologischen Reproduktion. Ein regelmässiger und beschwerdefreier Zyklus gilt als Zeichen für Gesundheit einer Frau in der reproduktiven Phase zwischen Menarche und Menopause. Zugleich steht das Thema Menstruation mit tabuisierten Themen wie Blut, menschlichen Ausscheidungen und Fortpflanzung im Zusammenhang, an denen sich die ambivalenten Vorstellungen über Weiblichkeit in jeder Epoche - auch heute - aufzeigen lassen. Das komplexe Zusammenspiel der Vorstellungen und Weiblichkeitskonzepte lässt sich anhand verschiedener Bereiche wie Religion, Medizin und Literatur aufzeigen.

Die medizinischen Sammlungen *Ton'ishō* und *Man'anzō* des Mönchsarztes Kajiwara Shōzen dokumentieren das Wissen über Menstruation, religiöse Texte wie das Blut-Sutra belegen die buddhistischen Vorstellungen über Weiblichkeit im Buddhismus, und in den Tagebüchern kommen die Frauen selbst zu Wort. Am Beispiel der Menstruation werden die rechtlichen und sozialen Auswirkungen auf Frauen und die Veränderungen der Weiblichkeitskonzepte aufgezeigt und diskutiert.

Thursday
2020-11-05
18:30~20:00
online



japanologie.univie.ac.at/onlinelectures

婦人頓医抄 7卷
<https://rmda.kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp/item/rb00004968>



Dr. Daniela Tan ist als Dozentin für Literatur und Religionen Japans am Asien-Orient-Institut der Universität Zürich (UZH) tätig und verfasste diverse Publikationen zur Gegenwartsliteratur Japans. Im ERC-Projekt TIMEJ „Time in Medieval Japan“ forscht sie zum weiblichen Zyklus und erschliesst mittelalterliche medizinische, religiöse und literarische Quellen.

Tan, Daniela (2020). “The Body as Place in Time(s): Concepts of the Female Body in Medieval Japan”, *KronoScope* 20, 1: 17-40, doi: 10.1163/15685241-12341452.

Tan, Daniela (2019). “Telling Time: Literary Rituals and Trauma”, In: Montemayor, Carlos; Daniel, Robert. *Time's Urgency*. Leiden: Brill, 198-211.



Model Emotion: Android Perspectives on Affect in Japan

a virtual lecture by **Daniel White**

Since at least the 1980s, robotics engineers in Japan have explored not only what robots can teach us about being human, but also how robots might serve humans' emotional needs. Toward this end, engineers engage in practices of "emotion modeling" when designing social robots by building psychological, mechatronic, algorithmic, and even ethical models of artificial emotion. Because these affective capacities implemented in robots draw on social as much as machine models for emotion, practices of emotion modeling produce complex agents with novel perspectives on affect. Considering findings from both human and robot interlocutors, this talk asks how so-called "androids" understand affect in human-robot interactive settings. Based on ethnographic observations of engineers building robots with emotional intelligence, as well as of the application of robots in public, pedagogical, and religious settings, the lecture explores what robotic perspectives on affect contribute to anthropological research on the emotions in contemporary Japanese technocultures.



Thursday
2020-11-19
18:30~20:00
online

<https://japanologie.univie.ac.at/onlinelectures>

Daniel White is a visiting scholar in the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge. Currently he investigates practices of emotion modeling in the development of affect recognition software, social robots, and artificial emotional intelligence in Japan and the UK.

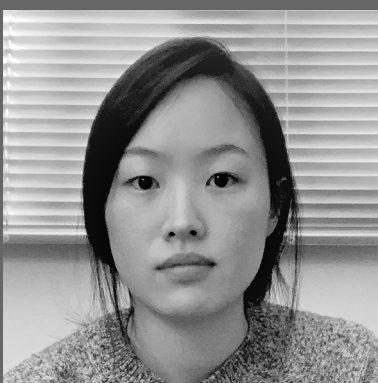


‘Creativity’ in rural Japan: *Sōzō nōson* and its implications in regional revitalization policies

a virtual lecture by **Shilla Lee**

In public discourse today, rural Japan is growingly described in diverse perspectives. Not limited to urban centers anymore, popular magazines such as Forbes Japan refer to rural areas as ‘creative’ and ‘innovative’. In a similar manner, recent scholarship highlights cases of entrepreneurs and migrants starting innovative businesses or building new lifestyles in the countryside. These findings broaden our perception of rural Japan beyond the image of *furusato* – the native place – to more progressive views. In this presentation, I would like to explore municipal policies, a subject usually lacking closer attention in discussions. Based on ethnographic fieldwork on the revitalization policy of *sōzō nōson* (creative village) in Tamba Sasayama (Hyogo prefecture), I show how the idea of ‘creativity’ is fostered by collective initiatives led by the local government and discuss how this could contribute to our understanding of Japan’s changing rurality.

Thursday
2020-11-26
18:30~20:00
online



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Shilla Lee is a PhD candidate at Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle, Germany. Her research focuses on the notion of creativity in regional revitalization policies and the cooperative activities of traditional craftsmen in Japan. She conducted fieldwork in Tamba Sasayama (Hyogo prefecture) in 2018-2019 and is currently working on her dissertation.



Storehouses of value: materiality of belonging in Japanese Buddhist temples

a virtual lecture by **Paulina Kolata**

What, how, and why people “store” at local Buddhist temples? Can biographies of things deposited at a local temple tell a story of a community? How do people’s individual material histories become matters of communal concern? While walking a fine line between memory and abandonment, we will discover and map out the material and affective networks of community preservation in Japan’s depopulating regions. We will travel to rural Hiroshima Prefecture to imagine Japanese Buddhist temple communities as storehouses of value and consider Buddhist institutions’ role as anchors of people’s belonging in contemporary Japan. By stepping into the shoes of a local Buddhist priest at Myōkoji temple, we will walk down the corridors of donated artwork, photo albums, plane propellers, Buddhist altars, people’s ashes, and entire households to reveal physical, karmic, and emotional connections people strive to maintain and, in turn, make sense of the anticipated decline in their communities.



Thursday
2020-12-10
18:30~20:00
online



Paulina Kolata obtained her PhD in 2019 from The University of Manchester. She is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Manchester Metropolitan University and an Early Career Research Fellow at The University of Manchester. Her doctoral work investigated the religious, economic, and social impact of depopulation and demographic ageing in Buddhist temple communities in regional Japan. Currently she is developing a book manuscript based on her doctoral research.

<https://japanologie.univie.ac.at/onlinelectures/>



Ceding Control: Politics, the Environment and Japan's Food System

a virtual lecture by **Nicole L. Freiner**

For decades, Japan's Seed Law had been the bulwark of a seed preservation, storage and maintenance system that kept control over staple crops in local hands. The Seed Law and the policies that support it, played a vital role in managing agricultural policy and Japan's food system. The Seed Law was revised in 2018 and the effects of these revisions are already reverberating across the agricultural policy arena, down to local level actors who have responded by creating prefectural level laws to resist the weakening of Japan's decades old agricultural policy framework, the bulwarks of which are a public institution: the Ministry for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (MAFF) and a semi-public institution: Japan's National Union of Agricultural Cooperatives also known as JA Zenchu. The two institutions together were responsible for maintaining a small-scale rice growing system in rural areas across the country.

Toyama prefecture is situated in the Toyama plain. Every spring when the snow melt begins to gush downward from the nearby Japanese alps, farmers begin readying their fields for rice planting. The clear, cold mountain water is thought to make rice grown here especially delicious and it is a matter of pride for the farmers in this region of Japan. Since first living here as an exchange student in the 1990s, I have returned here every year. This prefecture provides a window into local public policy efforts in one corner of Japan, that relates to extensive nation-wide changes vis-a vis policymaking within national level ministries such as the MAFF. My research focuses on how the revision of the Seed Law, the declining relevance of JA Zenchu and shifting demographics are remaking Japan's food system.

Thursday
2020-12-17
18:30~20:00
online



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Nicole L. Freiner is Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Global Studies Program at Bryant University where she teaches courses on Asian and Japanese Politics and Society, Comparative and Environmental Politics and Policy and Global Politics. She is the author of two books on Japanese Politics: *The Social and Gender Politics of Confucian Nationalism: Women and the Japanese State* (2012), and *Rice and Agricultural Policies in Japan: The Loss of a Traditional Lifestyle* (2019), both published by Palgrave MacMillan. Alongside the two books, she is the author of numerous articles including "Mobilizing Mothers: The Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Catastrophe and Environmental Activism in Japan" (AsiaNetworkExchange, Fall 2013) and others published in *The Japanese Studies Association Journal* and *The Diplomat* among others. Most recently, she was the recipient of a research grant from the Northeast Asia Council (NEAC) of the Association for Asian Studies to study Japan's Seed Law and Biotechnology Policy.



The fear of others — *taijinkyōfu*: Emergence, development and demise of a psychiatric diagnosis a virtual lecture by Sarah Terrail Lormel

During a period that roughly coincides with the Shōwa era, *taijinkyōfu* 対人恐怖症 or “interpersonal phobia”, has been a common diagnosis for Japanese psychiatrists, defined as a form of anxiety that develops in the presence of other people and leads to the avoidance of interpersonal relationships. Although it closely resembles what contemporary international classifications call “social anxiety disorder” and “social phobia”, *taijinkyōfu* has attracted much attention in Japan at a time when this condition was virtually absent of psychiatric and psychological literature elsewhere. How is *taijinkyōfu* different from mere shyness? Can it be cured or does one have to learn to live with it? Are there delusional forms of shyness? Is Japanese society a particularly fertile ground for this condition? These are the questions that have driven Japanese psychiatrists for decades. Proposing a clinical deconstruction of this diagnosis, this lecture will analyze the theoretical, institutional and intellectual factors underlying the fortune of pathological shyness in Japanese psychiatry, from its first becoming the object of medical scrutiny in the 1930s, through its success during the high economic growth era as a typically Japanese neurosis, until its slow demise from the 1990s.

Thursday
2021-01-07
18:30~20:00
online



pictures from left to right: *Asahi shinbun* cut outs from 1964, 1935, 1939, 1975 and a photograph showing Shoma Morita (1874–1938).



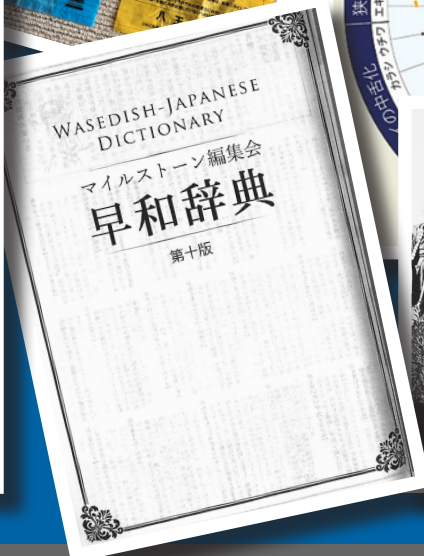
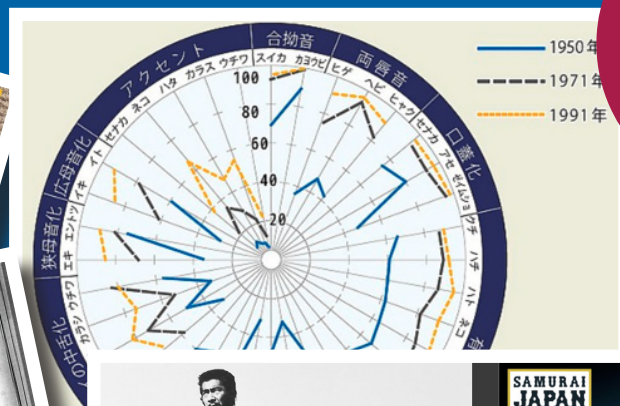
Sarah Terrail Lormel is lecturer in Japanese studies at INALCO (Paris) since 2019. She holds a PhD in Epistemology & History of Science from INALCO with a dissertation on *A Japanese History of neurosis - Interpersonal phobia (taijinkyōfu) 1930-1970* (2018). She was Junior Fellow of the Japan Foundation in 2012-2013 at Keio University. Her field of research is the history of psy disciplines in modern and contemporary Japan, focusing on the evolution of nosology and therapies, and the global circulation of concepts and practices.



Japanese in the Age of Post-Standardization: Language Trends in the 21st Century

a virtual lecture by Asahi Yoshiyuki

Language standardization was the most prominent linguistic Japanese phenomenon in the second half of the 20th century. It became widespread across the country, resulting in a linguistic landscape where Japanese speakers nowadays find it easier to communicate with those who live on the other side of the country. Around the turn of the century, we also witnessed the rise of new social network devices and services such as smartphones, e-mail, texting, and so forth, which have impacted our social and life and language. Another trend is the influx of non-native speakers especially into the large Japanese cities, which has contributed to a multilingual and multicultural Japanese society. This talk will focus on how these changes have impacted Japanese, touching on subjects such as de-standardization, new-honorifics, emojis or dialect cosplay as well as linguistic diversity in local administration. I will bring in a sociolinguistic research perspective to explain the current situation, referencing research projects at the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics.



Thursday
2021-01-14
18:30~20:00
online



Yoshiyuki Asahi is Associate Professor of Sociolinguistics, Division of Language Variation, Department of Research at National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics. After completing his PhD in Japanese Linguistics at Osaka University, he has worked on language variation and change through dialect contact. He is the author of "Synchronic and diachronic variation in the use of spatial frames of reference: An analysis of Japanese route instruction" *Journal of Sociolinguistics* (with Kuniyoshi Kataoka) (vol. 19-2, pp.133-150, 2015), the editor of *Sociolinguistics illustrated* (2nd edition) (Akiyama Shoten, 2010), and *Handbook of Japanese Sociolinguistics* (Mouton, in preparation, expected completion 2022). He also serves as an editorial board of *Asia-Pacific Language Variation* (John Benjamins) and *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* (De Gruyter).

The Single-Gender Worlds of Suzuki Izumi, Kurahashi Yumiko and Shōno Yoriko – A Short History of Ambivalence Towards All-Female Worlds in Japanese Speculative Fiction

a virtual lunch lecture by Stefan Würrer

Thursday
2021-01-28
LUNCH LECTURE
12:30~14:00
online



In this talk I will take a closer look at three speculative novels by Japanese woman writers that negotiate the utopian potential of all-female worlds: Suzuki Izumi's 鈴木いづみ (1949-1986) "Onna to onna no yononaka" 女と女の世の中 (Women's World, 1977), Kurahashi Yumiko's 倉橋由美子 (1935-2005) *Amanon-koku ōkanki* アマノン国往還記 (Record of a Voyage to Amanon, 1986) and Shōno Yoriko's 笙野頼子 (1956-) *Suishōnaisendo* 水晶内制度 (World Within the Crystal, 2003). What these texts have in common is the fact that the all-female worlds they portray are not so much the locus of utopian hope – as, for instance, 'Whileaway' in Joanna Russ's epochal *The Female Man* (1975) – but rather the object of ambivalent dis-identification. What to make of this ambivalence?

Locating these texts within the broader context of utopian thought, feminist speculative fiction and feminism in Japan, I will demonstrate that, while these texts do constitute a critical negotiation of sexism and patriarchy in Japan, their ambivalence towards all-female worlds also bespeaks a systemic problem within the feminist discourses they reference. That is, by taking a closer look at the sexual politics of these texts (as opposed to their gender politics), I attempt to show that this ambivalence is not simply an expression of doubt about 1) the political potential of feminist separatism or 2) utopianism more generally, but 3) must also be understood as an effect of heteronormativity.



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Stefan Würrer is a graduate student (Ph.D.) at Tokyo University's Department for Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies, Research Institute Assistant at International Christian University's Center for Gender Studies and Lecturer at Musashi University. In his Ph.D. project he explores the utopian potential of self-construction in Shōno Yoriko's work from a feminist/queer perspective. His research interests include modern and contemporary Japanese literature, feminist/queer theory, and the cultural history of gender & sexuality in Japan.