

Japanese Studies Lecture Series: Male-Male Eroticism in Japanese Visual Culture

“A Third Gender: Beautiful Youths in Japanese Prints”

Dr. Asato Ikeda, Fordham University

This talk will introduce the exhibition *A Third Gender: Beautiful Youth in Japanese Prints*, which Dr. Ikeda curated at the Royal Ontario Museum (Toronto, Canada). The exhibition showcases visual representations of male youths (*wakashu*), who were the object of sexual desire for both women and adult men during the Edo period (1600-1868). By examining the unique gender structure and sexual relationships in early modern Japan, the exhibition invites viewers to think differently about sex, gender, and sexuality. In addition to explaining the content of the exhibition, Dr. Ikeda will offer tentative answers to the following theoretical questions she encountered in the process of the exhibition production: How do we understand Edo-period culture in relation to contemporary LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Queer) culture? How do we deal with the sensitive topic of sexualization of youths, which can be problematic and controversial?



“The Early Boys Love Manga in Japan: Queering the Heteronormative World”

Dr. Kazue Harada, Miami University

In the 1970s a pioneer of "boys love" manga—*shōnen ai*—emerged within the genre of girls' comics (*shōjo manga*). It came out of The Forty-Niner group of women manga artists who since then have experimented with works that center on male-male romantic narratives and delve into the characters' psychological struggles with their sexualities. One of the most prominent Forty-Niners, Hagio Moto (b.1949), employs boys love scenarios with science fiction themes to challenge heteronormativity and gender binarism through representations of ambiguously gendered identities. This presentation will explore the ways in which Hagio's boys love manga has impacted the establishment of the boys love subgenre in girls' comics and science fiction, and examine gender-fluid representations in her work titled *The Poe Clan* (*Pō no ichizoku*, 1972-76).



Free and open to the public

September 20, 2016 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm Max Kade Center (Old Chemistry Building, 7th Floor)

Organized by **Asian Studies Program**, University of Cincinnati
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