

queer theory and Japanese literature

longing for a queer reading

Since their emergence during the 1990s, queer studies have provided an active method for scientific inquiry, opening up new critical frameworks and displaying an array of possibilities. In the field of sociology, queer studies have developed at the intersection with gender studies, whereas, the potentialities of queer reading haven't been fully articulated in a theoretical perspective in the field of literature, despite the consistent presence of queer material in literary texts. In particular, it seems necessary to rethink the application of queer theory beyond the discourse on gay and lesbian studies, to which queer theory has been exclusively associated so far.

As shown by several accomplished literary analyses, queer reading might be an essential and extremely effective key to understand literary texts. Queer reading is not a mere methodological tool : it also functions as a key factor to unveil and make the phenomena embedded in literary texts emerge.

(Shigemi Nakagawa)

**dates: January 9 (Fri) 1:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
January 10 (Sat) 10:00 a.m.-6:15 p.m.**

**venue: Soshikan Conference Room
Kinugasa Campus, Ritsumeikan University**

keynote speech

J. Keith VINCENT, Boston Univ.

**Queer Reading and Japanese Literature:
The Case of Soseki**

dialogue: J. K. VINCENT x Chizuko UENO, Ritsumeikan Univ.

invited speakers

guest lecture Claire MAREE, Univ. of Melbourne

Saeko KIMURA, Tsuda Coll.

Andrew GERSTLE, SOAS

Peichen WU, National Chengchi Univ.

Yuichi KUROIWA, Ferris Univ.

Cécile SAKAI, Université Paris Diderot/The Univ. of Tokyo

presenters

Stephen DODD (SOAS), Maki Michishita, Eri Miyata, Chie Iwamoto, Shun Izutani (Ritsumeikan Univ.), Tom Rigault (Université Paris Sorbonne et Paris Diderot), Philip FLAVIN (Osaka Univ. of Economics and Law), Yukiko HANAWA (New York Univ.), Christophe THOUNY (The Univ. of Tokyo), Yuko IIDA (Nagoya Univ.)

International Conference 2015

queer theory *longing for a queer reading* and Japanese literature

DAY ONE : Jan. 9 (Fri)

- 12:30 Registration
13:00-13:15 Opening remarks
Shigemi Nakagawa (Ritsumeikan Univ.)

Keynote speech [13:15-14:30]

- 13:15-14:15 Queer Reading and Japanese Literature:
The Case of Soseki
J. Keith Vincent (Boston Univ.)
14:15-14:30 Discussant: Chizuko Ueno (Ritsumeikan)
14:30-15:15 Dialogue: J. K. Vincent × C. Ueno
15:15-15:30 Coffee break

Session One [15:30-16:30] Moderator: Jiechun Zhuang

- 15:30-16:00 Queer Desire in Japanese Court Story
Saeko Kimura (Tsuda Coll.)
16:00-16:30 The Representation of Male-Male Sex
of Chikamatsu and Tsukioka Settei
Andrew Gerstle (SOAS)

Session Two [16:30-17:30] Moderator: Yuki Nakai

- 16:30-17:00 Kokoro as a Queer Text: Through the
Lens of Translation Studies
Stephen Dodd (SOAS)
17:00-17:30 Gender and Sexuality in the Seito
School: Along the 1910s
Peichen Wu (National Chengchi Univ.)
18:00-20:00 Reception

DAY TWO: Jan. 10 (Sat)

- 9:30 Registration
Session Three [10:00-12:00]
Panel discussion: Rethinking of sex/act in Japanese
literature
Discussant: Yuko Iida (Nagoya Univ.)
Panelists: Maki Michishita, Eri Miyata, Chie Iwamoto
(Ritsumeikan Univ.)
12:00-13:00 Lunch Break

Session Four [13:00-14:00]

Moderators: Kenshiro Kodama, Masataka Kihara

- 13:00-13:30 Aspects of Contact and Bloodshed:
Physicality in Himeno Kaoruko's
Junan and Images
Shun Izutani (Ritsumeikan Univ.)
13:30-14:00 Yoko Tawada's work — In search of a
neutral gender
Tom Rigault (Université Paris Sorbonne et Paris Diderot)

Session Five [14:00-15:00] Moderator: Lixia Deng

- 14:00-14:30 Yokō Tadanori o utau (Singing Yokō Tadanori)
: humour and the presentation of male
sexuality as critique
Philip Flavin (Osaka Univ. of Economics and Law)
14:30-15:00 carceral body: space-time of voices
Yukiko Hanawa (NYU)
15:00-15:15 Coffee break

Invited talk [15:15-16:00]

- A queer reading of linguistic chaos: text/image/desire
Claire Maree (Univ. of Melbourne)
16:00-16:15 Coffee break

Session Six [16:15-17:15] Moderator: Yuki Takeda

- 16:15-16:45 Queer Theory as Planetary Thinking
Christophe Thouny (The Univ. Of Tokyo)
16:45-17:15 The Depoliticization of Sexual
Politics: Reading Murakami Haruki's
"Chance Traveler"
Yuichi Kuroiwa (Ferris Univ.)

Summary [17:15-18:15] Moderator: Shigemi Nakagawa

Commentator: Cécile Sakai (Université Paris Diderot/
The Univ. of Tokyo)

- 18:15 Closing