

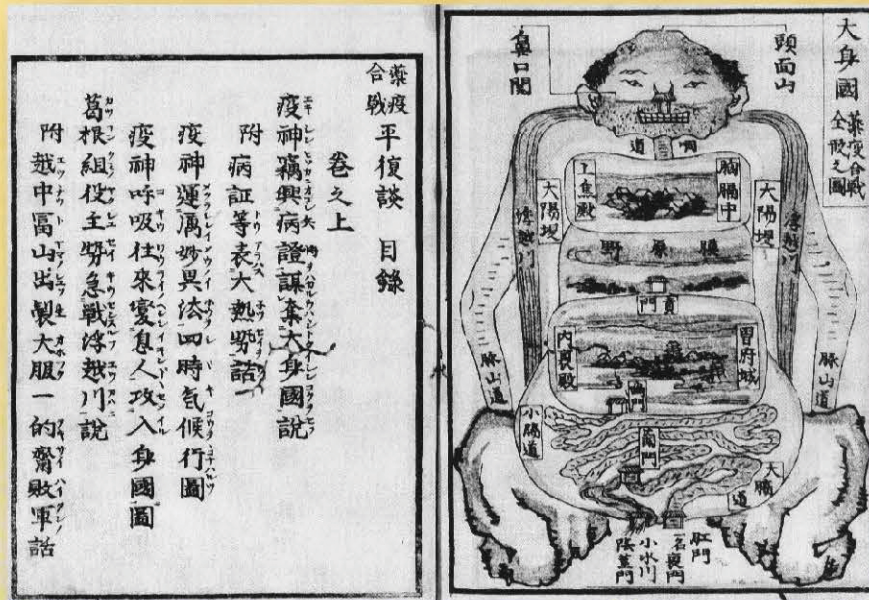


Comparative Asian Research Network

Monthly Lecture Series on Issues and Research in the Asian Region

Organized by the Department of Japanese Studies, CUHK

Historical Interpretations of Epidemic Disease in Early Modern Japan



Speaker: Professor Daniel Trambaiolo,
The Department of Japanese Studies,
The University of Hong Kong

Date: 16 November, 2016 (Wednesday)

Time: 14:00 p.m. – 15:30 p.m. (Talk & Q&A Session)

Venue: Room 401, Leung Kau Kui Building, CUHK

Language: English

Abstract:

All are Welcome!!

Japanese doctors during the eighteenth century were intrigued by the idea that some diseases—smallpox, measles, rabies, and syphilis—were not timeless phenomena, but rather had arrived in their country at specific historical moments. Their inquiries into novel diseases were further encouraged by the arrival of new Chinese treatises by doctors who had written about the epidemics of the Ming-Qing transition. Japanese doctors who read and debated these treatises took them as potential models for their own accounts of Japanese epidemics that were proving difficult to explain using the ideas of older Chinese medical classics. In this talk, I show how early modern Japanese doctors' fascination with the idea of temporal variation in disease encouraged new habits of describing disease that anticipated some of the ways we think about epidemics as historical events today.

No registration necessary.

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