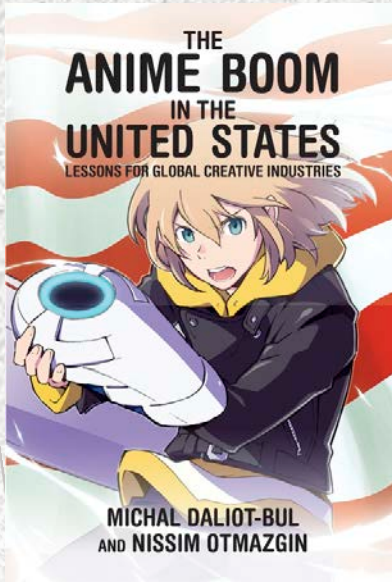


Public Lecture Series on Japan-Hong Kong Cultural Exchange

「港日文化交流」公開講座系列

Organized by the Department of Japanese Studies, CUHK

Stories for the Nation: Rewriting History in Manga



Speaker: Professor Nissim Otmazgin (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Date: 24 January 2019 (Thurs)

Time: 10:30am – 11:30am

Venue: Rm 101, Leung Kau Kui Building, CUHK

Language: English

All are welcome!!

Abstract:

In recent decades, Japan's manga market has become an alternative stage for historical and political debate. Two highly publicized examples are Yamano Sharin's *Manga Kenkanryū* (Hating the Korean Wave) and Kobayashi Yoshinori's popular *Sensōron* (Theory of War) series, which portray Chinese and Koreans as enemies to the state and urge their readers to refute the conventional "masochist" version of Japan's modern history. In this talk, I will examine the way in which the past is being evoked—not in the traditional form of textbooks, museums, monuments, and state rituals but rather as a past that is insinuated in the surroundings through the experience of manga. The investigation focuses on Japan's manga industry as a medium for political and historical expression and debate, and its role in propagating new perceptions of Japan's wartime history. As part of this investigation, the talk will introduce the concept of "banal memory" to analyze the way in which everyday popular culture—such as reading manga—becomes part of the construction of national memory.

Speaker:

Prof. Nissim Otmazgin is a Professor of Japanese Studies at the Department of Asian Studies and Director of the Institute for Asian and African Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is also a member of Israel's Young Academy. A political scientist in training, his research interests include Japan-Southeast Asian relations, Japanese and Korean media industries, Japanese popular culture in Asia, and popular culture and regionalization in East and Southeast Asia. His PhD dissertation (Kyoto University, 2007), which examines the export of Japan's popular culture to Asia, won the Iue Asia Pacific Research Prize in October 2007 for outstanding dissertation on society and culture in Asia. He is the author of *Regionalizing Culture: the Political Economy of Japanese Popular Culture in Asia* (University of Hawaii Press, 2013), and (together with Miki Daliot-Bul) *The Anime Boom in the US: Lessons for Global Creative Industries* (Harvard Asia Center, 2017).

No registration necessary. Enquiries: Misaki Nagaoka (mnagaoka@cuhk.edu.hk)