



Comparative Asian Research Network

Monthly Lecture Series on Issues and Research in the Asian Region

Organized by the Department of Japanese Studies, CUHK

Writing Human Feeling:

Emotionality, Desire, and the Production of Literature in 19th Century Japan



Speaker: Dr. Daniel Poch,

The University of Hong Kong

Date: 7 April 2016 (Thursday)

Time: 14:00 – 15:30

Venue: Room 401, Leung Kau Kui Building

Language: English

Abstract

This talk illumines how notions of emotionality and desire lay at the heart of the production of major literary genres—including late Edo-period ninjōbon (“books of human feeling”) and yomihon (“books for reading”) as well as the Meiji-period novel (shōsetsu)—in 19th century Japan. It shows how both fictional texts and discourses across the historical divide from Edo to Meiji negotiate the ambiguity of “literature” as a medium, which writes potentially problematic emotions and desires—such as sexual desire—but also claims social and political value. I argue that these negotiations fundamentally shaped the emergence of so-called modern literature in late 19th century Japan.

No registration necessary.

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All are Welcome!!