

BEING JAPANESE: HISTORIES, IDENTITIES AND MODERNITIES

A FACULTY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

April 14-17, 2011

Seattle, WA

Hosted by the Asian Studies Development Program
A Joint Project of the East-West Center and the University of Hawaii
In collaboration with Central Washington University

Funded by the Japan Foundation

Thursday, April 14

4:45pm **Registration**

6:30pm **Workshop Introduction**
Peter Hershock and Betty Buck, ASDP/EWC

6:45pm **Opening Talk: *Collective Identity and Modernity***
Peter Nosco, University of British Columbia

The question of who we are as a people—where did we come from and how did we get here—is fundamental to our understanding of ourselves. However, our primary points of identification, i.e., the ways in which this identity is constructed—change with the onset of modernity, when to varying degrees many of us are called to leave village and family behind, and to replace them with neighborhood and nation. Coincident with this new identity may also be the emergence of new levels of individuality and agency, and we will consider this possible interplay. The presentation will introduce some common understandings of the terms *modernity*, *early modernity*, *collective identity*, *individuality*, and *post-modernity*, all of which are likely to figure prominently in our weekend's discussions.

Friday, April 15

9:00am ***Identity in Early Modern and Modern Japan***
Peter Nosco, University of British Columbia

If one were to be asked the question, “What are Japanese people like,” how would one answer? The answer, both inside and outside Japan, would vary from one age to the next. This presentation will examine the construction of two eighteenth-century understandings of Japaneseness from the earliest poetic and mytho-historic texts; the ideological refashioning of Japanese identity in the service of the modern state; the emergence of yet another familiar Japanese identity in the immediate post-WWII decades; and the contemporary phenomenon of *Nihonjinron* (日本人論) or “theories of Japaneseness.” We will consider which understandings of Japanese identity are more consistent with the broader historical experience.

12noon Lunch

1:30pm ***From Queen Himiko to Princess Mononoke, and All the Women In Between***
Hitomi Tonomura, University of Michigan

Being a woman of Japan means living with the country's past that begins with Queen Himiko, one of the "best known" of all historical figures and an icon of what some have mistakenly called "matriarchy." This session aims at understanding Japan's past in ways useful to gaining insight into today's gender relations, and will highlight a range of issues that women face in the twenty-first century by linking them to the diverse roles women experienced in Japan's past. How do we understand, for example, the predominance of female characters in Miyazaki's animé alongside the work place hierarchies and "old boy's" networks that continue to inhibit women's political participation and economic equality? By examining gender roles in today's socio-cultural and economic reality, but also through layers of transformation, we can put to rest a "Madame Butterfly"-style one-dimensional caricature that still seems surprisingly potent in some circles.

4:30pm End of session

Saturday, April 16

9:00am ***Forging Identity: Two Case Studies in the Representation of Modern Japan's Past***
Adam Kern, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Comic books (*manga*) and haiku pictures (*haiga*) are often invoked as part of the modern Japanese construction of national identity. Both of these media are enlisted in arguments about the transhistorical nature of Japanese visual culture and thus of Japan itself. Given the slipperiness of visual media as well as of the state, and given the irresistible temptation to mistake invented tradition for historical veracity, this talk focuses on the question of the validity of such transhistorical arguments.

12noon Lunch

1:15pm **Panel Discussion**
Peter Nosco, Adam Kern, Hitomi Tonomura

2:45pm Break

3:00pm **Curriculum Development Session**
Peter Nosco and Peter Hershock

5:00pm Program Ends

Logistical Information:

Venue: Silver Cloud Inn, Lake Union
1150 Fairview Avenue North,
Seattle, WA 98109
Reservations: 800.330.5812
206.447.9500
Fax: 206.812.4900
Website: <http://www.silvercloud.com/11features.php>

Located on the south end of scenic Lake Union in a neighborhood with a number of restaurants the Silver Cloud Inn - Lake Union is two miles from downtown Seattle's fine shops and restaurants, less than a mile from the Space Needle, the Music Experience, and just three miles from both Fremont and the University of Washington campus.

Most of the guestrooms have spectacular waterfront views of Lake Union and Seattle. All rooms have 42" plasma TV's, complimentary high-speed wired and wireless Internet access, microwaves, and refrigerators.

A complimentary Silver Cloud Breakfast is offered daily. The hotel features a fitness center, an indoor pool and spa, and free covered parking. The hotel also supplies a free shuttle service to the Space Needle, Pike Place and Pioneer Square, and is located a short walk from a stop on the South Lake Union Streetcar route. http://ridetheslut.com/streetcar_map.html.

Room rates are: \$119 for non-view single/double occupancy (King or double Queen); \$139 Lakeview single/double (King or double Queen). Reservations can be made directly with the hotel at 1-800-330-5812, and registrants should provide the ASDP group name and ask for the group rate.

Local Arrangements Information:

Dr. Jeffrey Dippmann
Phone: (509) 963-1830
Email: Jeffrey.Dippmann@cwu.EDU