Shifting Perspectives on Media and Materials (London, 4-5 Jul 15)

University of London, SOAS, Russell Square - College Buildings, Djam Lecture Theatre, London, Jul 4–05, 2015

Doreen Mueller

Shifting Perspectives on Media and Materials in Early Modern Japan
International Symposium

This is the first international symposium in the UK that highlights the diversity of the cultural production of early modern Japan – 17th through 19th centuries. It seeks to refocus attention on how researchers define their approaches to sourcing and interpreting a large variety of research materials that include prints, illustrated and printed books as well as ephemera such as topical prints and broadsheets. Senior and early career researchers from the disciplines of history, art history, literature, and media studies will explore the possibilities of highlighting selected research materials as media that shaped the discourse and cultural production of early modern Japan. We will consider issues such as media, text, discourse, text, materiality and the framing of research through taxonomies and archival research.

The flourishing and intersecting textual and visual cultures of the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries are the sources of substantial archives of research materials in and outside Japan. There is a pressing need to refocus attention on these research materials as sources for uncovering the many facets of early modern Japan and for reconsidering the position of researchers as interpreters. The modernity of early modern Japan needs to be more fully understood by realising the roles these materials played in the shaping of public discourse as equivalents to social media. Narrow disciplinary frameworks have created problems in interpreting certain materials that fall between the cracks of conventional categories. The aim is to stimulate debate by discussing issues such as:

- How can interdisciplinary perspectives make approaches to interpreting these research materials more effective?
- How can the recent proliferation of international early modern manuscript reading workshops be used to improve our understanding of research materials as sources for uncovering early modern Japan?
- How can we develop a better understanding of the direct impact the acquisition of skills can have on our approaches to interpreting research materials?

The first day of the symposium focuses on the agency of research materials as media in the production of discourse in early modern Japan. The second day deals with issues of framing research through categories, taxonomies and archives. Overall, particular attention will be paid to

regional contexts that transcend the usual focus on urban centres.

To register and for further information please go to:
https://www.soas.ac.uk/jrc/events/04jul2015-shifting-perspectives-on-media-and-materials-in-early-modern-japan.html#Programme

Target Audience
- senior and early career researchers specialising in early modern Japanese history, art history, media studies
- postgraduate students and research students with a particular interest using primary sources and in fieldwork

Keynote Speakers:
Professor Peter Kornicki (Cambridge University) and Professor Yabuta Yutaka (Kansai University, Osaka, Japan)

PROGRAMME

Day 1 (04/JULY/2015), SOAS, Djam Lecture Theatre (DLT)

10.00 – 12.00
PANEL 1: Perspectives on Media: Text, Images and Discourse

Suzuki Hiroyuki (Tokyo Gakugei University)
A Pair of Camels of 1821: Image and Discourse in the Late Edo Period

Yokota Fuyuhiko (Kyoto University)
Reader Cultures and National Consciousness in Early Modern Japan

Yamana Junko
Transposing Theatre into Vernacular Literature – The Case of Santo Kyoden

1.00 – 3.00
PANEL 2: Perspectives on Media: Place and Identities

Ewa Machotka (Leiden University)
Cultural Geographies of Meisho-e: Representation of Land in the Late Edo Period

Radu Leca (SOAS)
Ihara Saikaku's Regional Allegiances

Morihiro Satow (Kyoto Seika University)
The Mission to Visualise: Yokohama Photographs

3.30 – 4.30
Keynote Speech
Yutaka Yabuta (Kansai University)

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Early Modern Japan – History and Art History – Text and Image

4.30 – 5.00 Discussion

Day 2 (05/JULY/2015) SOAS, Djam Lecture Theatre (DLT)

10.00 – 12.00
PANEL 3: Framing Research: Taxonomies of Research Materials

Susan Burns (University of Chicago)
Medical Ephemera and Medical Culture in Early Modern Japan

Niels van Steenpaal (Kyoto University)
Fashion, Food, Finances, and Filial Piety: Kawase Y?zan and the Value of Free Print in the Late Edo Period

Doreen Mueller (SOAS)
Framing Documentary Representation: The Category of Kirokuga and the Practices of Recording Disaster in Nineteenth Century Japan

1.00 – 3.00
PANEL 4: Framing Research: Sourcing Research Materials and Archives

Hans B. Thomsen (Zurich University)
Uncovering the Lives of Early Modern Japanese Artists – The Case of Utagawa Hiroshige

Ken'ichiro Aratake (Tohoku University)
Reading Kuzushiji (Early Modern Manuscripts) and Interdisciplinary Research Perspectives

Maki Fukuoka (Leeds University)
Archives and Sites of Knowledge Production for Early Modern Japan

3.30 – 4.30
Keynote Speech
Peter Kornicki (Cambridge University)
Taking Manuscript Cultures of Edo Period Japan Seriously – New Perspectives on Using Regional Archives and Materials in Japan

4.30 – 5.30
Roundtable Discussion

Organisers: Christopher Gerteis, Doreen Mueller, Radu Leca.

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Reference:
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