

QUEER transfigurations



International Symposium on Boys Love Media in Asia

Location: Building 3, Room 305, Yokohama Campus,
Kanagawa University

Language: English

Inquiries: (Eng./日本語) blmediainasia@gmail.com

Webpage: <http://human.kanagawa-u.ac.jp/BLinAsia/index.html>

Free and open to the public. Preregistration is not required but strongly encouraged.

参加費無料。当日の登録も可能ですが、なるべく事前登録をお願いいたします。

JULY
1-2

0930 - 1700

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KU 神奈川大学

Queer Transfigurations: International Symposium on Boys Love Media in Asia

トランスフィギュレーション

クィアな変容・変貌・変化：アジアにおけるボーイズラブ(BL) メディアに関する国際シンポジウム

Created by and for adolescent girls and women, boys love (BL) media, which depicts romantic and sexual relationships between males, emerged in commercial *shōjo* manga (girls' comics) magazines in Japan in the early 1970s. BL rapidly began to spread into other commercial and fan-produced media starting with *dōjinshi* (fanzines). Today BL in Japan circulates as manga, anime, *dōjinshi*, "light novels," "drama CDs," live action films, video games, and related collectible figures and other goods.

As part of a broader "Cool Japan" boom, by the early 2000s BL media was making strong headway toward becoming a global media phenomenon, encompassing pirated translations and locally-produced commercial and amateur works in many languages around the world. Owing perhaps to cultural and geographic proximity, BL media has found a particularly receptive home in many parts of Asia, where it has often taken on new meanings and had different fanbases and cultural effects from in its country of origin.

Queer Transfiguration: International Symposium on Boys Love Media in Asia brings together two dozen scholars researching BL media and its diverse fandoms in twelve countries in and beyond Asia.

This symposium will include five panels and one roundtable discussion across two days:

- Local BL Texts, Local BL Fandoms
- Conflict and Contention within and beyond BL Fandoms
- BL in Cross-Cultural Circulation
- Reading BL Fantasies, Re-Reading LGBT Lives
- BL and Local Masculinities
- Roundtable: BL and Japan's Socio-Cultural Impact on Asia



The seventeen papers to be presented will cover a diverse range of media and fandoms, variously illustrating how BL media has been

- forming the core of rich new fan cultures in **Thailand** (*Poowin Bunyavejchewin*) and **Indonesia** (*Kania Arini Sukotjo*);
- helping female fans negotiate their attitudes towards sex and sexuality in **India** (*Lakshmi Menon*);
- serving as a lens through which to critique hegemonic masculinities in **the Philippines** (*Tricia Abigail Santos Fermin*), and transforming gender norms for young men in urban **China** (*Wei Wei*);
- functioning as a medium of cultural exchange among **China, Japan, and Taiwan** (*Asako Saito*), **the Philippines, Malaysia, and Australia** (*Kristine Michelle Santos*), and fandoms in **China and the Anglophone world** (*Yanrui Xu and Ling Yang*);
- serving as a tool through which to insist on freedom of expression in **Hong Kong** (*Katrien Jacobs and Holly Lixian Hou*) and **South Korea** (*Hyojin Kim*);
- affecting the sexual fantasies of male BL fans (*fudanshi*), both homo- and heterosexual, in **East Asia** (*Kazumi Nagaïke*) and **Singapore** (*Aerin Lai*);
- (re)shaping the representation of gay men in popular culture in **Thailand** (*Kang Byung'chu Dredge*);
- influencing beliefs about the LGBT community among strongly religious BL fans in **Indonesia** (*Gita Pramudita Prameswari*);
- motivating gay men in **China** to travel to **Japan** (*Thomas Baudinette*); and
- affecting attitudes about LGBTQ rights (*Feichi Chiang*) and same-sex marriage (*Peiti Wang*) in **Taiwan**.

Five prominent scholars of BL and fan cultures in Japan, *Patrick W. Galbraith*, *Akiko Hori*, *Mark McLelland*, *Akiko Mizoguchi*, and *Naoko Mori*, will serve as discussants for the panels, while *James Welker* will emcee the symposium and serve as chair of the closing roundtable discussion.

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