Ethan Segal, Michigan State University: “When Demons Attack! Larger Lessons from a Strange Incident in 12th-century Japan”

Demons are common characters in pre-modern Japan’s literary and folktale traditions. Some legends depict them as menacing monsters who devoured innocent people. In other tales, ordinary humans were transformed into demons by the evil in their hearts. But while such stories frequently come to be analyzed from a religious, folkloric, or literary perspective, this paper turns to an intriguing account of demons in a government report. According to an entry in a late Heian period courtier’s diary, demons attacked a coastal community in Izu, destroying property and killing locals before sailing away.

Who were these marauders? Why did the official report refer to them as “demons” rather than pirates or raiders? What did the label “demon” suggest to literate Japanese of the twelfth century? Through close analysis of a fascinating document, the paper attempts to answer these and other questions about this mysterious incident by highlighting connections between demons and the sea, examining aspects of pre-modern East Asian trade and technology, and contextualizing the demon attack through Heian views on foreigners and otherness.

Heather Bowen-Struyk, University of Notre Dame: “Beyond ‘Red Love’ in Japan”

During the Red Decade that swept the globe from the mid-1920s to the mid-1930s, many embraced the notion of “red love” as an alternative to inherited practices of coupling. Red Love (1923), Alexandra Kollontai’s novel re-imagining heterosexual love between comrades in Soviet Russia, was translated into Japanese in 1927, just as Japanese proletarian literature began its rise to position of prominence in literary, intellectual and journalistic worlds. Ideas of “red love” proliferated and took on different meanings among the radical vanguard, authors, and the publishing industry. For some, “red love” was an alternative to repressive patriarchy; for some,
“red love” was a code word for sexual promiscuity; for others, “red love” represented an emergent proletarian sexual morality yet undefined.

The Cold War had a dampening effect on how the Red Decade was remembered. Meanwhile, even those sympathetic to the proletarian movement suppressed the vibrant questioning of love, camaraderie, and sexuality because it was contaminated by a moral panic. Through the nexus of “red love” or the “love question,” we can finally examine the unresolved problem known as the “housekeeper problem,” an issue that remains taboo even today in research on proletarian literature.

**HOTEL:** A block of rooms has been set aside at the Fairfield Inn & Suites Cleveland Beachwood under “JCU Midwest Japan Seminar.” The cost is $95 per night, inclusive of breakfast, parking, and internet access, with taxes added at a rate of 16.5%. The block remains in effect until Sept. 3. To make a room reservation, either call the hotel directly at 216/831-3300 or click on the following block-specific link: [Book your group rate for JCU MidWest Japan Seminar](#). The hotel is located at 3750 Orange Place, Beachwood, OH 44122, just off of I-271 and 10-15 minutes from campus.

**AIRPORT:** CLE (Cleveland Hopkins) is about 30 minutes away from campus while CAK (Akron-Canton) is roughly an hour.

**PARKING:** Due to a football game on campus on Sept. 24, the best options for parking will be those lots closest to the Dolan Center, i.e., those right around the building.

**CAMPUS MAP:** [http://sites.jcu.edu/campus-maps/](http://sites.jcu.edu/campus-maps/)

**DINNER:** Dinner will be at the Pacific East Coventry, located about 15 minutes away from campus. The exact location is: 1763 Coventry Rd., Cleveland Hts., OH 44118. If you would like to take an advance look at the menu to begin pondering what you might order, go to: [http://www.pacificeastcoventry.com/](http://www.pacificeastcoventry.com/).

**LOCAL CONTACT:** Susan Long (long@jcu.edu)

**NOTE:** To receive PDF copies of the papers, please e-mail Betsy Lublin (aj8580@wayne.edu) by Sept. 3. When you do, please indicate if you intend to join for dinner Saturday evening and if you might need local transportation.

**SCHEDULE FOR FALL 2016-SPRING 2017**

**Oct. 15, 2016**     **University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**
Monika Dix, Literature, Saginaw Valley State University
Kari Shepherdson-Scott, Art History, Macalester College

**Nov. 5, 2016**     **Michigan State University**
Luke Franks, History, North Central College
Kazue Harada, Literature, Miami University

Feb. 11, 2017   University of Memphis
David Blaylock, History, Eastern Kentucky University
Anne Sokolsky, Comparative Literature, Ohio Wesleyan University

April 8, 2017   St. Xavier University
Beth Widmaier Capo, English, Illinois College
Tanya Maus, History, Peace Resource Center, Wilmington College

Would you like to present during the 2017-2018 year? If so, then please email Betsy Lublin (aj8580@wayne.edu).

MJS Website: https://wmich.edu/japancenter/seminar

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