

Dear all,

We would like to announce two related online events hosted by The Institute of East Asian Art History at Heidelberg University during the week 15-21 March. A four-day seminar on book history in Japan led by Sasaki Takahiro will be followed by an international symposium on the relationship between manuscript and print formats in illustrated narratives in early modern Japan. The details follow below. The times below are CET, with the corresponding JST times in parentheses.

Introduction to Premodern Japanese Books for Art Historical Research and Japanese Studies

Sasaki Takahiro (Institute of Oriental Classics, Keio University)

Description: It is said that books are the mirror of a country, and indeed books preserve and embody cultural traits, knowledge, beliefs and history, technology and aesthetics. Knowledge about premodern Japanese books is therefore a prerequisite to a deep understanding of the culture that produced them. This seminar focuses on the materiality of books and on the information contained therein. Its aim is to convey methods for analysing the “raw materials,” types and processing techniques of paper, the characteristics of each type of binding, as well as the publishing history and characteristics of Japanese books. You are warmly invited to spend four days exploring the world of premodern Japanese books.

Programme: Monday 15th March

8:00-8:45 (16:00-16:45) Overview of the History of the Book in Japan

8:50-9:35 (16:50-17:35) Main Types of Book Binding

9:50-10:35 (17:50-18:35) Book Format Conversion

10:40-11:25 (18:40-19:25) History of Printing in Japan (Temple Prints and Gozan-ban)

11:40-12:20 (19:40-20:20) The Relationship between Manuscripts and Prints

Tuesday 16th March

8:00-8:45 (16:00-16:45) Old Movable-type Printing 1 (The Relationship with Korean Printing)

8:50-9:35 (16:50-17:35) Old Movable-type Printing 2 (The Relationship with Christian Printing)

9:50-10:35 (17:50-18:35) Old Movable-type Printing 3 (Sagabon and others)

10:40-11:25 (18:40-19:25) Edo-period Woodblock Printing Basics 1 (Book Types and Genres)

11:40-12:20 (19:40-20:20) Edo-period Woodblock Printing Basics 2 (Bookstores and Booksellers' Guilds)

Wednesday 17th March

8:00-8:45 (16:00-16:45) Edo-period Woodblock Printing Basics 3 (Reprints)

8:50-9:35 (16:50-17:35) Early Edo Period Woodblock-printed Books 1 (Classics and Kana-zoshi)

9:50-10:35 (17:50-18:35) Early Edo Period Woodblock-printed Books 2 (Ukiyo-zoshi and Booksellers' Catalogues)

10:40-11:25 (18:40-19:25) Early Edo Period Woodblock-printed Books 3 (Illustrations and Tanroku-bon)

11:40-12:20 (19:40-20:20) Mid-Edo Period Woodblock-printed Books 1 (Yomihon)

Thursday 18th March

8:00-8:45 (16:00-16:45) Mid-Edo Period Woodblock-printed Books 2 (Kusa-zoshi)

8:50-9:35 (16:50-17:35) Mid-Edo Period Woodblock-printed Books 3 (Ehon and Nishiki-e)

9:50-10:35 (17:50-18:35) Print Book Covers

10:40-11:25 (18:40-19:25) Colophones – Kanki and Okuzuke

11:40-12:20 (19:40-20:20) Additional Issues and Wrap-up

The seminar will be followed on the next day by the international symposium

In-between Manuscript and Print: Illustrated Books and Scrolls from Early Modern Japan.

Description: This symposium brings together different approaches to the complexities of written artefacts in Japan. Its purpose is to open up discussions on the complex relationship between manuscript and print, how narratives are embedded in various media, and also how writing and visualization practices interact with material characteristics. Although the focus is on the early modern period, while including examples from other periods to put into perspective processes of transmission of texts and images across materials and formats.

Programme: Friday 19th March

8:00-8:45 (16:00-16:45) Ishikawa Tōru (Keio University), Gulliver's Travels and Japanese Illustrated Books and Scrolls

8:50-9:35 (16:50-17:35) Suematsu Misaki (Nagoya University), Embodiment and Text – Focusing on the Story of Shigure

9:50-10:35 (17:50-18:35) Delphine Mulard (Strasbourg University), On Continuous Scenes and Unusual Iconography in Painted Scrolls of the Tale of Bunshō

10:40-11:25 (18:40-19:25) Estelle Bauer (Inalco), The Encounter of Manuscripts and Prints on the Table of Digital Humanities: the Example of the Illustrated Tale of Genji Held by the Bodmer Foundation in Geneva as Part of the Bodmer Lab

11:40-12:20 (19:40-20:20) Final discussion of day 1 with Berenice Möller (University of Hamburg)

Saturday 20th March

8:00-8:45 (16:00-16:45) Sasaki Takahiro (Keio University), In-between Manuscript and Print - Focusing on 17th-18th c. Books

8:50-9:35 (16:50-17:35) Itō Nobuhiro (Sugiyama Jogakuen University), Painted and Printed Versions of Notable Tales Old and New - A Critical Comparison of Seventeenth-century Illustrations

9:50-10:35 (17:50-18:35) Melanie Trede (Heidelberg University), What Was First, Print or Manuscript? A Case Study of the Kan'eiji engi, 1679

10:40-11:25 (18:40-19:25) Radu Leca (Heidelberg University), Negotiations of Print and Manuscript in Ihara Saikaku's Editorial Activity

11:40-12:20 (19:40-20:20) Final discussion of Day 2 with Michael Kinski (Goethe University Frankfurt)

Sunday 21st March

8:30-9:15 (16:30-17:15) Kobayashi Kenji (National Institute of Japanese Literature), Illustrated Books and Scrolls Based on "Dance" Librettos

9:20-10:05 (17:20-18:05) Tanikawa Yuki (Umi-Mori Art Museum), Images of the Tales of Soga – A Comparison of Iconography in Printed Books, Manuscript Books and Scrolls and Folding Screens

10:10-10:55 (18:10-18:55) Aafke van Ewijk (Leiden University), The Yoshitsune Legend as Modern Children's Literature

11:20-12:00 (19:20-20:00) Final discussion with Itō Nobuhiro (Sugiyama Jogakuen University)

Participation to both events is free of charge, but prior registration is necessary. To register your participation for one or both events please contact Emma Shuhui Lin: shuhui.emma.lin@gmail.com

Language: The seminar will be held in Japanese, and will include hands-on demonstrations. Intermediary level Japanese language skills are thus needed, though no other prior knowledge of the topic is necessary.

The symposium will be bilingual, with presentations and discussions both in Japanese and in English.

Organizers: The workshop is organized by Melanie Trede, Radu Leca and the Institute of East Asian Art History at Heidelberg University. The workshop was conceived within the framework and with the generous support of the Collaborative Research Centre 'Material Text Cultures' (SFB 933), funded by the German Research Foundation, DFG <https://www.materiale-textkulturen.de>, as part of the subproject 'Interactive Materialities: Interrelationships between the Written/Painted and the Printed in Japan of the Long 17th Century' <https://en.mtk-online.urz.uni-heidelberg.de/subproject.php?tp=B14&up=>

For further questions please contact Radu Leca: radu_leca@uni-heidelberg.de

We look forward to welcoming you!

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