

We are pleased to announce the first in a series of three Zoom workshops on the theme of “QUEERING THE STRAITS: UNRULY SUBJECTS ACROSS MODERN KOREAN AND JAPANESE STUDIES” to be held in 2021. These workshops are intended to facilitate greater communication and collaboration among scholars of Japan and Korea who work on issues of gender and sexuality, often in isolation from one another. We believe that such “queer” dialogues across borders and cultures offer a challenging yet vital opportunity to forge new intellectual and institutional bonds at a time when powerful forces continue to silence, erase, and marginalize seemingly minor subjects and their important points of view.

The first workshop of the series, “REMEMBERING THE ‘MODERN BOY’: GENDER, EMPIRE, AND NOSTALGIA,” will take place over the weekend of 19–21 February 2021. (See below for a detailed schedule.) The initial workshop offers a context for tracing the normative operations of gender across the past century of Korean and Japanese history by examining contending formations not of homosexual but of heterosexual masculinity. It focuses on the figure of the “modern boy” (known locally by such names as *modan bōi*, *modōn ppoi*, and *mobo*), a prominent challenger to early twentieth-century codes of orthodox masculinity and a ubiquitous presence in stereotypical depictions of imperial Japan and colonial Korea alike. Compared to such female contemporaries as the “modern girl” and “new woman,” this conspicuous male performer of non-normative gender remains remarkably understudied, a silence that the present workshop seeks to explain as well as to fill. A panel of five speakers and six distinguished commenters will approach the “modern boy” from a variety of chronological and disciplinary perspectives, addressing such questions as the role of mass media in circulating gender stereotypes, the isomorphisms and asymmetries of gender hegemony and state power, and the functions of colonial nostalgia.

Preregistration is required for this event. We particularly invite the participation of scholars whose work focuses on gender and sexuality in East Asia. Subsequent workshops will address the themes of “Cross-Strait Cultures: Performance, Media, and History” (April 2021) and “Development and Desire Across Uneven Spaces” (Fall 2021).

To register, please fill out our RSVP form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfGvd3xskvEUDnQh4y4rcN-_APsMgwmAXUc0HDdsleSLCzQag/viewform?usp=sf_link

A few days before the start of the workshop, we will send an email to all registered participants with a link to the event. If you have any questions or trouble with registration, please email us at queeringthestrains@gmail.com.

This series of workshops is funded by the Academy of Korean Studies; the Center for Korean Research at Columbia University; the Columbia University Alumni Association of Korea; the Donald Keene Center of Japanese Culture (Columbia); the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures (Columbia); the Hajime Mori Chair in Japanese Language and Literature at the University of California, San Diego; Transnational Korean Studies (UCSD); and the Weatherhead

East Asian Institute (Columbia). The organizers thank these institutions and individuals for their generous support.

Todd Henry
Greg Pflugfelder

QUEERING THE STRAITS: UNRULY SUBJECTS ACROSS MODERN KOREAN AND JAPANESE STUDIES
A Zoom Workshop Series for 2021

Workshop #1
REMEMBERING THE 'MODERN BOY': GENDER, EMPIRE, AND NOSTALGIA
19–21 February 2021

SESSION A
Saturday, 20 February, 9:00 - 11:45 AM, Seoul/Tokyo time *

9:00 - 9:10
Todd A. Henry
Associate Professor, Department of History, University of California, San Diego
Introductory Remarks

PRESENTATIONS

9:10 - 9:30
Monica W. Cho
PhD Candidate, Department of East Asian Studies, University of California, Irvine
"Tracing the *Modŏn Ppoi*: Bodies of Consumption and Hysteria in Colonial Korea"

9:30 - 9:50
Debbie Chan
PhD Candidate, Department of Asian Studies, University of Western Australia
"The Modern (Girl's) Boy: Negotiating Power in the *Moga Mobo* Dynamic"

9:50 - 10:10
Gregory M. Pflugfelder
Associate Professor, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures & Department of History, Columbia University
"The Yoyo Boy: Between Metropolitan and Colonial Masculinities"

RESPONSES

10:10 - 10:25
Mark Driscoll

Associate Professor, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

10:25 - 10:40

Hyaeweol Choi

C. Maxwell and Elizabeth M. Stanley Family and Korea Foundation Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of Iowa

10:40 - 10:55

Barbara Sato

Professor Emerita, Faculty of Humanities, Seikei University

10:55 - 11:45

General Discussion

SESSION B

Sunday, 21 February, 9:00 - 11:45 AM, Seoul/Tokyo time *

9:00 - 9:15

Vera Mackie

Senior Professor of Asian and International Studies, University of Wollongong

Response to Session A

PRESENTATIONS

9:15 - 9:35

Katherine Capuder

PhD Student, Department of History, University of California, Los Angeles

“Marx and Modernity: Models of Masculinity in Interwar Japan”

9:35 - 9:55

Keung Yoon (Becky) Bae

Postdoctoral Fellow, Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University

“Colonial Critique and Nostalgia in *Modern Boy* (2008) and *The Handmaiden* (2016)”

RESPONSES

9:55 - 10:10

Elise Tipton

Honorary Associate Professor of Japanese Studies, University of Sydney

10:10 - 10:25

Tani Barlow

George and Nancy Rupp Professor of Humanities, Rice University

10:25 - 11:45

General Discussion

* Equivalent times for other time zones:

New York – Friday & Saturday, 7:00–9:45 PM

Chicago – Friday & Saturday, 6:00–8:45 PM

Los Angeles – Friday & Saturday, 4:00–6:45 PM

Honolulu – Friday & Saturday, 2:00–4:45 PM

Sydney – Saturday & Sunday, 11:00 AM–1:45 PM

Hong Kong / Perth – Saturday & Sunday, 8:00–10:45 AM

London – Saturday & Sunday, midnight–2:45 AM

Berlin / Paris / Rome – Saturday & Sunday, 1:00–3:45 AM