

Institute for Japanese Studies Lecture Series

Hired to be Overheard: Resonances of Chindon-ya on the Streets of Osaka

2020-2021

IJS
LECTURE
SERIES

Monday, February 1

4:00-5:30 pm

Online



Marié Abe

Boston University

Chindon-ya, dating back to the 1840s, are ostentatiously costumed street musicians who publicize a business by parading through neighborhood streets in Japan. Against the background of long-term economic downturn, growing social precarity, and nuclear anxiety, Abe's recently published book investigates how this seemingly outdated means of advertisement has recently gained traction as an aesthetic, economic, and political practice after decades of inactivity. Drawing on the book, this presentation will address the central analytic hibiki (resonance), which highlights the processes in which chindon-ya's sound is designed to elicit an affective response from a listener who simply "overhears" chindon-ya in public spaces. By examining the distinct mode of listening and sounding cultivated by chindon-ya, Abe will explore how ethnographic attention to the locally grounded form of audition reveals the limits of Western conceptions of listening that have normalized the way we think about the relationship between sound, space, history, and listening subjects.

Marié Abe is Associate Professor of Music in the Department of Musicology and Ethnomusicology at Boston University. Broadly speaking, her scholarship explores the intersection of sound, space, and sociality, bridging sound studies and cultural human geography. She is particularly invested in the politics of sound in social movements.

Please register for this event on our website:

<https://easc.osu.edu/events/ijs/mabe>



Free and open to the public

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