



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EAST ASIAN STUDIES CENTER

MARCH 2

Thursday
7:00-8:30pm
Zoom

2023 THE INSTITUTE FOR JAPANESE STUDIES PRESENTS:

"APPROACHES TO MANGA STUDIES AND COMICS STUDIES"

DEBORAH SHAMOON

Associate Professor, National University of Singapore

Manga and comics are perhaps the most creatively rich, diverse, and compelling media in Japan and the US in the past 75 years. Many of the most popular films, television, and animated series began as manga or comics. Yet comics studies lags behind film studies in terms of legitimacy, engagement, and institutional recognition. Why is this? This talk will discuss the current issues and opportunities in comics studies in the US and manga studies in Japan. Given the hybrid nature of comics, combining text and image, one important area for expansion is in formal visual analysis, that is, how form makes meaning and how visual narratives are constructed. This talk will consider two examples of formal analysis in terms of narration and panel division. Looking at techniques of first and third person narration allows for innovative comparisons between shōjo manga, and American alternative and superhero comics. This kind of formal analysis can help break down rigid division of genre and nationality, and brings marginalized genres into the mainstream of comics studies. Looking at the form of *yonkoma* (comic strips) also sheds light on an aspect of manga that is often overlooked. Finally, we will also look briefly at how recent developments in digital comics/webtoons are driving new development of narrative techniques.



Free and open to the public

<https://easc.osu.edu/events/ijs-virtual-lecture-deborah-shamoon-approaches-manga-studies-and-comics-studies>

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