

**Institute for Japanese Studies Lecture Series**

**Gender Flipped, “Cutie,” (Non)Eroticized Subject/Objects of Consumption and Production: The *Manga Comics Tales of Genji***

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**Wednesday, February 21, 2018**

**4:00-5:30 pm**

**Will Eisner Seminar Room**

**Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum (Sullivant Hall)**

**1813 N High St**



**Abstract:** Written a millennium ago by lady-in-waiting Murasaki Shikibu in service to Shôshi, consort to Emperor Ichijô (986-1011), *The Tale of Genji* has captured the imaginations of readers, artists, writers, and even the Japanese government, transposing into woodblock prints, novels, films, a symphony, and even an opera in English. Journeying from an elite, circumscribed courtly society through the domains of warlords, townspeople, and a modern nation state, it has been utilized time and again as cultural and political soft power, appearing in one of its newest iterations—Japanese *manga* comics—in the 1970s. To date, the over thirty *manga Genjis* visually, narratively, and affectively remediate male and female gazes, gently add humor, eroticize, gender flip, queer, and simultaneously re-inscribe and challenge heteronormative gender norms. “Pretty boy” heroes, dazzling, luminous (fe)male objects of desire, young men targeted “eye candy,” and more abound!

**Bio:** A Professor of Japanese and Asian Studies at Pomona College and Core Faculty of the Intercollegiate Department of Asian American Studies at the Claremont Colleges, Lynne K. Miyake received her B.A. from the University of Southern California and her M.A. in Comparative Literature and Ph.D. in Japanese literature from the University of California at Berkeley. She works on Heian prose narratives dealing with issues of narration, gender, and cultural studies, and on the *manga* adaptations of *The Tale of Genji*. She has published articles (in Japanese and English) on the *manga* versions of *The Tale of Genji*, the tale itself, *The Kagerô Diary*, and *The Tosa Diary* as well as on the impact of translation on the formulation of the canon of Japanese literature in the U.S. She received Japan Foundation and National Endowment for the Humanities fellowships to study the performative, interactive role of the reader, text, and narrator in Heian texts and is presently working on a book manuscript on the *manga* versions of *The Tale of Genji*.

**Free and Open to the Public**

*This event is sponsored in part by The Ohio State University Libraries, the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum, and by a U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant to The Ohio State University East Asian Studies Center.*