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March 21 (Sun.) , 2021

FEMINIST/QUEER UTOPIAS & DYSTOPIAS — ALTERNATIVE WORLDS

IMAGINED THROUGH NON-NORMATIVE DESIRES AND BODIES

- 09:00-09:10** Opening Remarks
- 09:10-10:00** Keynote Lecture  
**Nishant Shahani** (Washington State Univ.)  
“Sensing Another World: A Materialist Critique of Utopia through a Dystopian Present”
- 10:00-10:20** Coffee Break (5 min.) & QA (15 min.)
- 10:20-11:10** Research Presentations I  
**Natsumi Ikoma** (International Christian Univ.)  
“From Frankenstein to The Handmaid’s Tale: Reproduction and Feminist Dystopia”  
**Asami Nakamura** (Rikkyo Univ.)  
“Queer Nostalgia in ‘San Junipero’ (2016)”
- 11:10-11:40** Coffee Break (15 min.) & QA (15 min.)
- 11:40-12:30** Research Presentations II  
**Stefan Wuerrer** (Univ. of Tokyo, ICU)  
“Transcending the Gendered Body? Revisiting the Utopian Horizons of Shōno Yoriko’s Uramizumo Dorei Senkyō (2018)”  
**Mayu Iida** (Goldsmiths, University of London)  
“30 Years on: Revisiting the Utopian Legacy of Cyberfeminism”
- 12:30-13:10** Lunch Break (25 min.) & QA (15 min.)
- 13:10-13:40** Round Table (Chair: Akiko Shimizu)

Recent years have been witnessing an increase in the number of popular cultural works that present themselves as feminist or queer. Curiously enough, many of these works are set in alternative utopian or dystopian worlds. Even more interesting is the fact that queer and feminist representations in these genres seem to be respectively coagulating around two separate poles: queer representations tend to be the locus of utopian hope, rather than dystopian despair, as seen for instance in *Sense8* (2015-2018), or the two Black Mirror episodes “San Junipero” (2016) and “Striking Vipers” (2019); while representations of feminist issues within alternative worlds tend to be set in dystopian rather than utopian frameworks, with *The Handmaid’s Tale* (2017-) being a prominent example.

This raises some important questions: Is the inclusion of queer issues as utopian horizon merely the result of market-oriented image politics and political correctness? Or do these utopian representations of queer issues offer us new ways of imagining alternative, better futures? If so, how? And for whom? How do dystopian representations of feminist issues correspond to the present reality of intersectional feminist politics? Addressing these questions, this symposium aims to critically reflect on how feminist/queer perspectives intersect with utopian and dystopian imagination in recent works of popular fiction.

**Hosted by:** Culture and Representation Course, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Tokyo (JSPS KAKENHI No. 19H01205; No. 16K13134), Asami Nakamura (JSPS KAKENHI No. 19K13119), Center for Gender Studies, International Christian University



**Language:** English (With Japanese interpretation)

**Location:** Zoom Webinar / Registration: [https://icu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_rnVQGlG-SZyrQdIHh7OEPA](https://icu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rnVQGlG-SZyrQdIHh7OEPA)

**Organization:** Asami Nakamura, Stefan Wuerrer