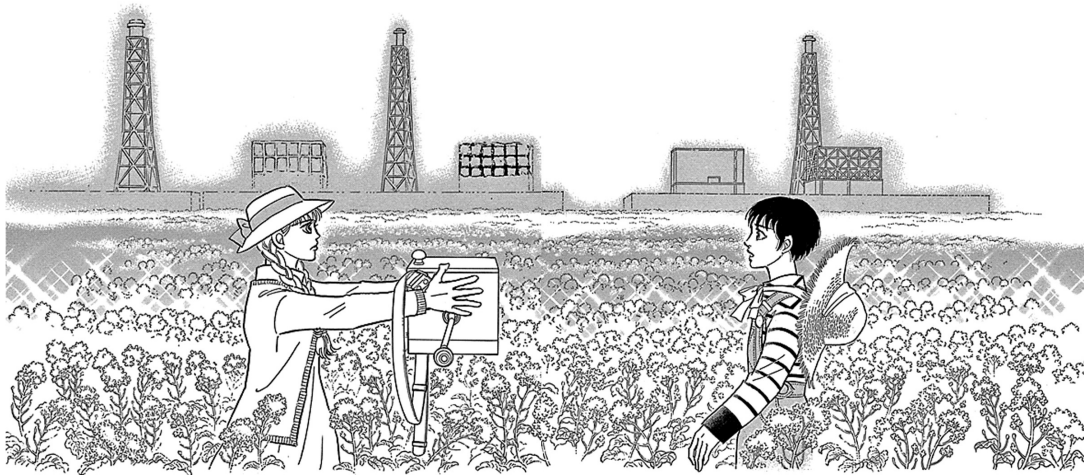


Department of Languages and Cultures
2017 Research Seminar Series

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**Situating Shōjo Manga in Japanese Culture: an
Overview of the Genre and its Historical Development**



The aim of this paper is to offer an overview of Japanese shōjo (girls') manga with a focus on its history and specificity in order to contextualize my analysis of shōjo manga artists such as Moto Hagio, Yumiko Oshima and Ryoko Yamagishi. The selected manga artists have gained a wide readership since their debut in the late 1960s, and played a significant role in the recognition of shōjo manga as “high literature”. In contrast with the mainstream shōjo manga characterized as centering on romantic relationship with the emphasis on characters’ feelings, these manga artists explored diverse and complex themes with much wider range of relationships and emotions. In doing so, they incorporated a variety of narrative and visual techniques. In my presentation, I will make a comparison between the work of selected manga artists and that of mainstream counterparts, particularly from the genre’s beginning of the late 1950s to the 1970s. My aim is to illustrate how the selected manga artists are situated within the larger historical context of Japanese shōjo manga, and how they have contributed to the formation of shōjo manga as well as the expansion of its limits.

Tuesday: October 3, 2017 12:00pm A3N7 (3rd Floor Arts Building)