

Japanese Studies Faculty Talk



Andrea

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Confronting the “Ends” of Area: Towards an “Undisciplined” Transpacific

What are the limits of the study of “Japan” when it emphasizes its national, regional, linguistic, or ethnic boundedness and separation from its global context? How can we contend with, confront, the geohistorical formation of the discipline we call “Japanese Studies” and its entanglements with (neo)colonialisms, white supremacy, and militarization? And how can examining questions of race and racialization that connect Japan to contexts outside of Anglo-America deconstruct the violence of that geohistorical formation? In this talk, we will consider how transpacific critique for decolonizing the study of the histories and cultural productions that underwrite the connections, disconnections, encounters, nonencounters, and intimacies between Asia and Latin America. Through an emphasis on “undisciplining,” it argues for models--such as Junyoung Verónica Kim’s notion of “Asia-Latin America as method” (2017; 2021), and my own framework of “nonencounters”--that conceive ways to rethink and re-orient the disciplinary models that we use to attend to questions around racism and racial formations, gender and heterosexism, class and capitalist expropriation, and settler colonial and imperial national violence. What might it mean to envision the study of Japan as one that accounts for voices, histories, and experiences often erased or disregarded by Anglo-American disciplinary models?



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