The Global White Snake
Liang Luo

The Global White Snake examines the Chinese White Snake legends and their extensive, multidirectional travels within Asia and across the globe. Such travels across linguistic and cultural boundaries have generated distinctive traditions as the White Snake has been reinvented in the Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and English-speaking worlds, among others. Moreover, the inter-Asian voyages and global circulations of the White Snake legends have enabled them to become repositories of diverse and complex meanings for a great number of people, serving as reservoirs for polyphonic expressions ranging from the attempts to consolidate authoritarian power to the celebrations of minority rights and activism.

The Global White Snake uncovers how the White Snake legend often acts as an unsettling narrative of radical tolerance for hybrid sexualities, loving across traditional boundaries, subverting authority, and valuing the strange and the uncanny. A timely mediation and reflection on our contemporary moment of continued struggle for minority rights and social justice, The Global White Snake revives the radical anti-authoritarian spirit slithering under the tales of monsters and demons, love and lust, and reminds us of the power of the fantastic and the fabulous in inspiring and empowering personal and social transformations.

Liang Luo is Associate Professor of Chinese Studies at the University of Kentucky.

6 x 9. 360pp. 57 color illustrations.

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Stan Lai (Lai Shengchuan) is one of the most celebrated theatre practitioners working in the Chinese-speaking world. His work over three decades has pioneered the course of modern Chinese language theatre in Taiwan, China, and other Chinese speaking regions.

"The preeminent Chinese playwright and stage director of this generation." (China Daily)

"The best Chinese language playwright and director in the world." (BBC)

Lai’s works include masterpieces of the modern Chinese language theatre like Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land, The Village, and his epic 8 hour A Dream Like A Dream, all of which are in this collection.

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Explores the limitations of sexual expression in Tokyo’s “safe” nightlife district and Japanese media

Regimes of Desire
Young Gay Men, Media, and Masculinity in Tokyo
Thomas Baudinette

Shinjuku Ni-chome is a nightlife district in central Tokyo filled with bars and clubs targeting the city’s gay male community. Typically understood as a “safe space” where same-sex attracted men and women from across Japan’s largest city can gather to find support from a relentlessly heteronormative society, Regimes of Desire reveals that the neighborhood may not be as welcoming as previously depicted in prior literature.

Through fieldwork observation and interviews with young men who regularly frequent the neighborhood’s many bars, the book reveals that the district is instead a space where only certain performances of gay identity are considered desirable. In fact, the district is highly stratified, with Shinjuku Ni-chome’s bar culture privileging “hard” masculine identities as the only legitimate expression of gay desire and thus excluding all those men who supposedly “fail” to live up to these hegemonic gendered ideals.

Exploring the direct impacts of media consumption on the lives of four key informants who frequent the district’s gay bars in search of community, fun and romance, Regimes of Desire reveals the complexity of Tokyo’s most popular “gay town” and intervenes in debates over the changing nature of masculinity in contemporary Japan.

Thomas Baudinette is Lecturer in International Studies, Macquarie University, Australia.

6 x 9. 256pp. 8 illustrations, 9 tables.

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"The major contemporary Asian playwright of his time, perhaps of all time.”
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A rare exploration into the unknown life of Alan Suzuki, the son of Daisetsu and the writer of “Tokyo Boogie Woogie”

Tokyo Boogie-woogie and D.T. Suzuki
Shoji Yamada

Tokyo Boogie-woogie and D.T. Suzuki seeks to understand the tensions between competing cultures, generations, and beliefs in Japan during the years following World War II, through the lens of one of its best known figures and one of its most forgotten. Daisetsu Teitaro Suzuki (D.T. Suzuki) was a prolific scholar and translator of Buddhism, Zen, and Chinese and Japanese philosophy and religious history. In the post-war years, he was a central figure in the introduction of Buddhism to the United States and other English-language countries, frequently traveling and speaking to this end. His works helped define much of these interpretations of ‘Eastern Religion’ in English, as well as shape views of modern Japanese Buddhism. However, against this famous figure is a largely unknown or forgotten shape: Suzuki Alan Masaru. Alan was D.T. Suzuki’s adopted son and, though he remained within his father’s shadow, is mostly known as the lyricist of the iconic pop hit Tokyo Boogie Woogie. Perhaps due to his frequent scandals and the fraught nature of the relationship, he remains unmentioned and unstudied by scholars and historians. Yet by exploring the nature of the relationship between these two, Professor Yamada digs into the conflicting memories and experiences of these generations in Japan.

Shoji Yamada is Professor in the Research Department of the International Research Center for Japanese Studies.

6 x 9.216pp.8 illustrations, 1 table

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Paper June 2022
978-0-472-05530-2
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Sōjiji
Discipline, Compassion, and Enlightenment at a Japanese Zen Temple
Joshua A. Irizarry

Sōjiji is one of the two head temples of Sōtō Zen, the largest sect of Japanese Buddhism. The temple is steeped in centuries of culture and tradition, but it is very much rooted in the present and future, performing functions and catering to needs that reflect the changing demographic, social, and religious landscapes of contemporary Japan.

Based on more than fifteen years of fieldwork, interviews, and archival research, Sōjiji: Discipline, Compassion, and Enlightenment at a Japanese Zen Temple immerses the reader in the lives and experiences of the different groups that comprise Sōjiji’s contemporary religious community. Through clear and accessible prose, ethnographically-grounded analysis, and emotionally compelling stories, the reader will explore the rich pastiche of daily life and ritual activity at a major Japanese Zen temple in institutional, historical, and social context through the lived practices of its community of clergy, practitioners, parishioners, and visitors.

Joshua Irizarry is Visiting Associate Professor of Anthropology at Bridgewater State University.

6 x 9.320pp.18 illustrations.

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New Global Cities in Latin America and Asia: Welcome to the Twenty-First Century

Pablo Baisotti, Editor

New Global Cities in Latin America and Asia: Welcome to the Twenty-First Century proposes new visions of global cities and regions historically considered “secondary” in the international context. The arguments are not only based on material progress made by these metropolises, but also on the growing social difficulties experienced (e.g., organized crime, drug trafficking, slums, economic inequalities). The book illustrates the growth of cities according to these problems arising from the modernity of the new century, comparing Latin American and Asian cities.

This book analyzes the complex relationships within cities through an interdisciplinary approach, complementing other research and challenging orthodox views on global cities. At the same time, the book provides new theoretical and methodological tools to understand the progress of “Third World” cities and the way of understanding “globality” in the 21st century by confronting the traditional views with which global cities were appreciated since the 1980s. Pablo Baisotti brings together researchers from various fields who provide new interpretative keys to certain cities in Latin America and Asia.

Pablo Baisotti is an External Researcher at the University of Brasilia, Department of Latin American Studies (ELA).

6 x 9. 364pp. 33 tables, 14 photos, 25 charts.
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Touching the Unreachable
Writing, Skinship, Modern Japan
Fusako Innami

Fusako Innami offers the first comprehensive study of touch and skinship—relationality with the other through the skin—of modern Japanese writing. The concept of the unreachable—that is, the lack of complete ability of characters to touch what they try to reach for—provides a critical intervention on the issue of intimacy. Touch has been philosophically addressed in France, but literature is an effective, or possibly the most productive, venue for exploring touch in Japan, as literary texts depict what the characters may be concerned with but may not necessarily say out loud. Such a moment of capturing the gap between the felt and the said—the interaction between the body and language—can be effectively analyzed by paying attention to layers of verbalization, or indeed translation, by characters’ utterances, authors’ depictions, and readers’ interpretations. Each of the writers discussed in this book—starting with Nobel prize winner Kawabata Yasunari, Tanizaki Jun’ichirō, Yoshiyuki Junnosuke, and Matsuura Rieko—presents a particular obsession with objects or relationality to the other constructed via the desire for touch.

Fusako Innami is Assistant Professor in the School of Modern Languages and Cultures at Durham University.

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Rediscovering Korean Cinema
Sangjoon Lee, Editor

This groundbreaking collection of thirty-five essays by a wide range of academics situates current scholarship on Korean cinema within the theoretical debates in contemporary global film studies. Chapters explore key films such as Sweet Dream, Madame Freedom, and Train to Busan, and major directors such as Shin Sang-ok, Kim Ki-young, and Lee Chang-dong, providing a detailed and multidimensional presentation of Korean cinema's history and broader significance.

Sangjoon Lee is Assistant Professor of Asian Cinema at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

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Hyunjoo Park is Korea Foundation Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania.
Hyeyoung Woo is Associate Professor of Sociology at Portland State University.

6 x 9. 350pp. 15 figures, 37 tables.
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Regimes of Desire
Young Gay Men, Media, and Masculinity in Tokyo
Thomas Baudinette

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