

From Fear to Beauty:

The Materiality of Writing and the Early History of Japanese-English Translation

Michael Emmerich

17:30-19:00, 17 July, 2014

Room 301, 3F, Building 10, Sophia University



This talk will offer a somewhat idiosyncratic sketch of the early history of translation from Japanese into English, spanning the second half of the nineteenth century. Setting out from the question of where we might locate the starting point of such a history, it will focus on attempts to deal with the illegibility of Japanese before it came to be generally recognized as a translatable language, and highlight a crucial shift that took place in popular English-language treatments of Japanese writing once it was viewed in this way.

Michael Emmerich is associate professor in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at UCLA. He is the author of *The Tale of Genji: Translation, Canonization, and World Literature*; the editor of *Read Real Japanese Fiction* and *New Penguin Parallel Texts: Short Stories in Japanese*; and the translator of more than a dozen books from Japanese into English, most recently Inoue Yasushi's *Bullfight* and *The Hunting Gun*.

Lecture in English / No prior registration necessary

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