

From Exotic Demon to Queer Savior:

The Textual Transformations of Amakusa Shirō

Rebecca Suter (The University of Sydney)

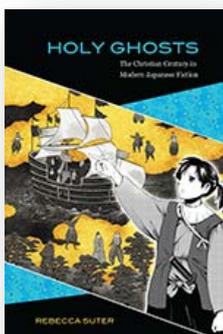
May 19th, 2015 (Tue), 6:30 pm-8:00 pm

Room 301, Building 10, Sophia University Yotsuya Campus

Lecture in English / No RSVP required

The Christian Century of Japan (1549–1638) has fascinated modern authors as different as Akutagawa Ryūnosuke, Endō Shūsaku, and Takemoto Novala, as well as manga and anime producers. Looking back at a time when the Japanese interacted with Europeans in ways that were both similar to and different from modern times enabled them to reflect critically on Japanese and Western social and political formations.

In this talk, Dr. Suter will focus on one case study, the rise to pop icon status of Amakusa Shirō, the leader of the last Christian rebellion of 1637-8, and his reconfiguration as a “beautiful boy” figure in postwar Japan. By tracing the textual transformations of Shirō and his shifting role in the Japanese collective imaginary, she examines the way in which the Christian century is used as a metaphor for contemporary cultural negotiations and as an alternative to the mainstream model of globalisation.



Rebecca Suter is senior lecturer in Japanese Studies at the University of Sydney and author of *Holy Ghosts: The Christian Century in Modern Japanese Fiction* (Hawai'i University Press, 2015)

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