

Title: Contemporary East Asian Studies: Japanese Popular Culture and the Transnational

Abstract: Japanese anime and manga are no longer the sole privilege of Japanese fans. When Japanese popular culture extends beyond Japan's national borders it leaves behind its own politics, regulations, and enters into new and, sometimes, unknown social and legal contexts with which it must engage and adapt to. This is particularly the case in the digital age when popular culture can be accessed readily and easily online by fans across the globe, often bypassing official regulations, censorship, and established dissemination routes such as publishing houses. This transnational flow of Japanese popular culture draws attention to the possible socio-legal and cultural conflicts that media can face when it leaves one cultural context and enters another. Today's talk will examine these issues with particular attention paid to channels of media flows from Japan such as online fan sites and some of the potential issues that must be addressed when fans access Japanese popular culture on the internet.

Bio: Simon Turner is currently a Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Research Fellow at the University of East Anglia affiliated Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures (SISJAC). He completed his PhD in Japanese Cultural Studies from Birkbeck College, University of London, with a thesis that examined the queer affect in online Boys' Love manga fandom.

His main research interests are located within studies of Japanese popular culture from transnational perspectives. His current research project is examining the socio-legal ramifications that occur when fans outside of Japan access unlicensed Boys' Love manga online with particular attention paid to issues of pornography and obscenity laws in the West. He also continues to tackle topics related to comparative media research within the East Asian region. He has a forthcoming chapter in Intellect Press' latest release of the series *Fan Phenomena* which examines intercultural reception of Stephanie Meyer's *Twilight Saga* and is also examining issues of self-censorship, monarchy and military in Thailand in relation to the 2014 military coup and release of *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2* film.