

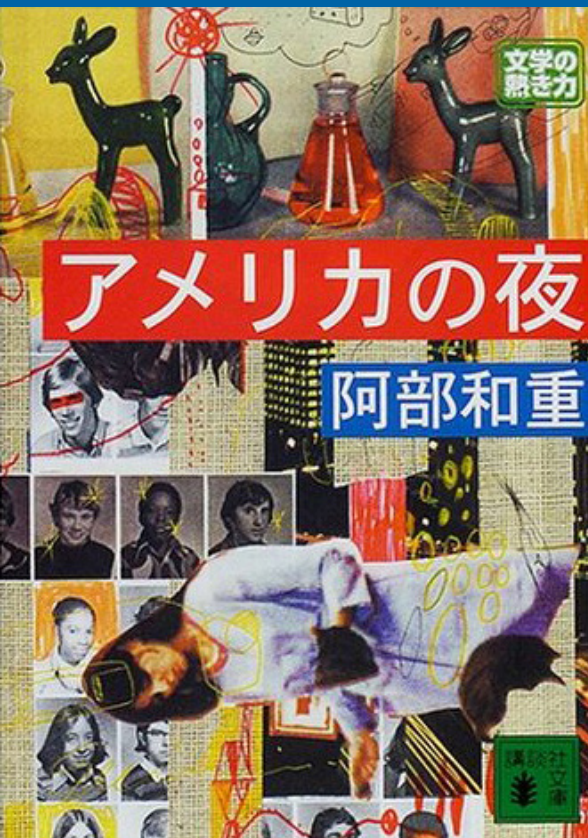
Abe Kazushige's Male Homosocial Worlds

Duels and Complaints

a virtual lecture by **Maria Roemer**

Abe Kazushige's 1990s fiction destabilizes hegemonic notions of manliness. This lecture analyzes how Abe's debut novel *Amerika no yoru* (Day by Night, 1994) and his short story *Minagoroshi* (Massacre, 1998) evoke homoerotic images through depicting male homosocial competition or intimacy in heterosexual erotic triangles. The analysis will highlight how, in both pieces, such affect specifically expresses through *speech*; two men who are opponents by definition of their positions within the triangle, form a union by sharing a common topic of conversation (the women in question). The lecture will theorize these speech patterns as "dueling discourse" according to Roland Barthes on the one hand, and "male complaint" by inverting Lauren Berlant on the other. It finally will debate whether representations of such feminized masculinities relate to the specific historical context of post-bubble Japan.

Thursday
2020-10-22
18:30~20:00
online



▲ *Amerika no yoru* (Day by Night, 1994)

▲ "Minagoroshi" (Massacre, 1998)
first published in *Mujō no sekai*

▲ Abe Kazushige



Maria Roemer obtained her Ph.D. in 2019 from Heidelberg University with a dissertation *Metafiction and Masculinities in Abe Kazushige's 90s Fiction*. Her research focuses on gender and masculinities, precarity, Transcultural Studies, formalism and translation in contemporary Japanese literature and film. She currently teaches at The University of Leeds.

Abe Kazushige, Roemer M [translator]. "License to Kill: The Meaning of 'Massacre' in Dawn of the Dead". *SOAS Occasional Translations in Japanese Studies* 2018, 8.

Roemer M. "Precarious Attraction: Abe Kazushige's Individual Projection Post-Aum". In: Iwata-Weickgenannt, K; Rosenbaum, R, ed. *Visions of Precarity in Japanese Popular Culture*. London and New York: Routledge, 2015, pp.86-101.