



University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Center for Japanese Studies
日本研究センター

"Contending with the Modern West: Japanese and Yiddish Satires in the Era of High Imperialism"



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August 30, 2022 (Tuesday)

12 noon to 1:30 pm

Moore Hall 258

*Hybrid presentation, in-person (masks required) and
via Zoom Webinar* (registration required)*

*Register in advance for the webinar: <http://go.hawaii.edu/23K>

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In the later nineteenth century, many Japanese and East European Jews, respectively, perceived their polities to be under threat from Western governments, even as some also found hope in humanitarian idealism. To understand this mixed atmosphere, we will examine two satirical works: Japanese democratic activist Nakae Chomin's *A Discourse by Three Drunkards on Government* (1887) and classic Yiddish novelist Sholem Abramovitch's *The Mare* (1873). Each story features an idealist figure—in some measure, the author's younger self—who is assailed by a realist and a cynic, respectively, for his naivete. Reflecting contrastive trajectories, the Japanese novel inclines to comedy, while the Yiddish one inclines to tragedy.

Seminar co-sponsored with UHM Department of History

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