

This event is sponsored by the ARC's Cultural Research Network and CAPSTRANS (Centre for Asia-Pacific Social Transformation Studies) at the University of Wollongong.

JAPANESE TRANSNATIONAL FANDOMS **University of Wollongong, 3-4 July 2008**

This workshop investigates the different ways in which originally Japanese genres, aesthetics and styles have been taken up, deployed and transformed by female fans transnationally. The way in which Japanese products, styles and images are received in different cultures as well as the (sub)cultural ends to which they are deployed will be investigated, as will the impact of the fandom on the changing nature of consumerism, participatory fan culture and particularly gender in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

Of particular interest in this workshop is the 'yaoi' or 'boys' love' (BL) manga/animation fandom popular with girls and young women. Over the last decade there has been a massive boom in interest in this genre (including commercially translated and published volumes as well as amateur fan-authored productions) in Korea, China, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States.

A limited number of places is now available for non-presenting attendees to participate in the workshop. Due to budgetary constraints, attendance is limited to Cultural Research Network members, CAPSTRANS research associates, and postgraduate students enrolled in Australian institutions undertaking related cultural research.

There is some limited funding available for travel subsidy within Australia on a competitive basis. To apply, please send to Mark McLelland and Fran Martin (email addresses below) by May 30 2008:

- 📧 a 300-word summary of the ways in which the workshop's theme relates to your own research
- 📧 a brief academic CV (2-3 pages)
- 📧 an indication of whether you are applying for travel subsidy as well as attendance.

Keynote speaker:

Professor Christine Yano (University of Hawaii) speaking on the global Hello Kitty Fandom

Confirmed speakers include:

- 📧 Dr Kazumi Nagaïke (Oita University) speaking on the history and cultural context of Japanese BL fandom
- 📧 Ms Larissa Hjorth (RMIT) speaking on cosplay and gaming in Australia
- 📧 Dr Fran Martin (University of Melbourne) speaking on the BL fandom in Taiwan
- 📧 Dr Romit Dasgupta (University of Western Australia) discussing the appeal of Japanese popular culture-influenced discourses of romance and beauty in the region
- 📧 Dr Mark McLelland (University of Wollongong) speaking on international yaoi fandom and the regulation of 'virtual child pornography'

Abstracts of the 16 papers to be presented and a provisional program can be downloaded from:

<http://www.capstrans.edu.au/about/projects/japanese-transnat-fandoms-details.html>

The event organisers are:

- 📧 Dr Mark McLelland (markmc@uow.edu.au)
- 📧 Dr Fran Martin (f.martin@unimelb.edu.au)