Women’s MANGA Research Project (JSPS KAKENHI No. 24320047) & Hong Kong Arts Centre Joint International Symposium

Modern Women and Their Comics: Changing Local Identities from the 1960s to the 2000s

Dates: 22-24 March, 2014
Venue: 2nd floor of Comix Home Base, 7 Mallory Street, Wanchai, Hong Kong
*all sessions will be scheduled in the afternoon*

Overview

In 1966, Hong Kong comics artist Lee, Wai Chun Theresa launched her 13-Dot series, featuring an independent, trendy and modern heroine who was to enjoy significant popularity among female readers throughout East Asia, especially in the 1970s. In recent years, 13-Dot has not only seen different forms of revival and continuation; it has also been related to shōjo manga, the genre of graphic narratives created by and for women which originated from Japan and established itself as a transnational medium in the 2000s. In honour of 13-Dot, this symposium invites papers on the multifaceted role of comics (manhua, manga, and graphic narratives in a more general sense) for women—as artists, characters, and readers.

What similarities and differences of reading (and appropriating) “girls’ comics” can be observed when comparing the late 1960s to the late 2000s? How do different generations of women communicate via comics? What are potentials and limitations of gendered comics genres? Where does the particular affinity of ‘women’s comics’ for fashion spring from? In which way has the depiction of fashion in women’s comics actually influenced fashion designers and consumers? How do female comics readership and cosplay interrelate? And most importantly, how have women’s comics been engaged in the societal changes of their specific locales in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan and so forth? In addition to addressing more general critical issues topical within comics/manga studies, media studies, and cultural studies, discussions of individual artists and works are also welcome.

Keywords:
comics/manga/manhua, local modernizations, women, gender, consumer culture, fashion

KEY NOTE Lecture on March 22:
Wendy Siuyi Wong (Swinburne University of Technology, Australia)

HK ARTISTS on March 22:
Lee, Wai Chun Theresa
[13 点 — Miss 13 Dot]

Stella So
(The Old Girl Base)

Presenters on March 23 and 24: (alphabetical order)

Jaqueline Berndt (Kyoto Seika U, Japan)
Monica Chiu (U of New Hampshire, USA)
Lee Hwa-ja (Kongju National U, Korea)
Katrien Jacobs (Chinese U of Hong Kong, HK)
Emerald L King (Victoria U of Wellington, New Zealand)
Kazumi Nagaike (Oita U, Japan)
Kotaro Nakagaki (Daito Bunka U, Japan)
Fusami Ogi (Chikushi Jogakuen U, Japan)
John M. Skutlin (Chinese U of Hong Kong, HK)
Lucia Sorbera (U of Sydney, Australia)
Akiko Sugawa-Shimada (Kansai Gaidai U, Japan)
Rebecca Suter (U of Sydney, Australia)
Yanrui Xu (Zhejiang University, P. R. China)
Ling Yang (Xiamen University, P. R. China)
Yukari Yoshihara (U of Tsukuba, Japan)