

'A Moral Firestorm:' The Politics of Translating Manga Today

Patrick W. Galbraith

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Building 10, 3F, Room 301 Sophia University Yotsuya Campus

Manga are among not only Japan's most successful cultural exports, but also its most controversial. In 2015, an envoy from the United Nations called on Japan to do more to ban 'extreme' manga, in particular depictions of sexual violence against underage characters. That same year, a contributor to an English-language collection of academic essays advocated refusing to translate such material to stop its global spread – alongside an inspiring historical episode of burning objectionable content. This talk examines the work of translators and researchers in the current moment of heightened concern about manga. It focuses on the fraught publication of an interview with, and

drawings by, Uchiyama Aki and the commercial publisher who decided to excise the interview and drawings when threatened with 'a moral firestorm.'

Patrick W. Galbraith received a Ph.D. in Information Studies from the University of Tokyo, and is currently pursuing a second Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology at Duke University. He is the author of books such as *The Otaku Encyclopedia: An Insider's Guide to the Subculture of Cool Japan* (Kodansha International, 2009), *Otaku Spaces* (Chin Music Press, 2012) and *The Moe Manifesto: An Insider's Look at the Worlds of Manga, Anime and Gaming* (Tuttle, 2014), and the co-editor of books such as *Idols and Celebrity in Japanese Media Culture* (Palgrave, 2012), *Debating Otaku in Contemporary Japan: Historical Perspectives and New Horizons* (Bloomsbury, 2015) and *Media Convergence in Japan* (Kinema Club, 2016).