

# From Fukushima to Katrina:

Furukawa Hideo and the Regionality of Disaster Literature

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10-301, 3F, Building 10, Sophia University

Furukawa Hideo's groundbreaking *Horses, Horses, in the End the Light Remains Pure* (Umatachi yo, sore de mo hikari wa muku de, 2011) is one of the earliest and most experimental works of 3/11 fiction. *Horses* follows the contours of Furukawa's road trip as he traverses the concentric circles of the disaster zone, simultaneously spiraling back through Japan and the Tohoku's history. Furukawa inserts characters and passages from *The Holy Family* (Seikazoku, 2008), his fictional chronicle of another road trip through Tohoku. Drawing on the earlier work, *Horses* moves from the construction of medieval castles to nuclear power plants. It mixes fact and fiction to reveal Tohoku's tributary relationship with the nation, as a means of crafting an alternate history for that region. *Horses* is an early example of regional disaster fiction written while 3/11 was still conceived in national terms. I bring Hurricane Katrina in to reframe the colonial status of Fukushima and the marginality of Tohoku's culture and peoples.

Rachel DiNitto is an associate professor of Japanese Literature at University of Oregon. She works on the literary and cultural studies of Japan's prewar (1910s-1930s), and postbubble eras (1990-2000s). In addition to her monograph, *Uchida Hyakken: A Critique of Modernity and Militarism in Prewar Japan*, publications include articles on depictions of the Asia-Pacific War in the work of manga artist Maruo Suehiro; Kanehara Hitomi, the young female writer whose controversial novel *Snakes and Earrings* won Japan's most prestigious literary award in 2004; cult director Suzuki Seijun's return to the cinema in the 1980s; and the film and literature written after the March 11, 2011 triple disaster in Japan. This talk is part of a book project on 3/11-Fukushima literature tentatively titled: "Writing Fukushima: Literary Voices from Japan's Disaster."

Language: English / No Prior registration necessary

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