



Comparative Asian Research Network

Monthly Lecture Series on Issues and Research in the Asian Region

Organized by the Department of Japanese Studies, CUHK

# JAPAN, INKED: BIOPOWER AND THE TATTOOED BODY IN JAPAN



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**Date: 18 January, 2017 (Wednesday)**

**Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (Talk & Q&A Session)**

**Venue: Room 401, Leung Kau Kui Building, CUHK**

**Language: English**

**Abstract:**

***All are Welcome!!***

While Japan boasts a long history of spectacular ink, tattoo artists in the country today continue to find themselves in a legal gray zone, and tattooed individuals often face discrimination. As plastic surgery and other cosmetic body modifications grow more popular, how and by whom are the lines between acceptable and deviant body modification defined? The numerous actors involved in both challenging and reinforcing “biopower” – systems of control over the human body – are elucidated through examination of why people in Japan modify their bodies and the cultural and historical factors behind the stigmatization of tattoos and other decorative body modification.