



# CUHK Japan Forum

Department of Japanese Studies  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



## Some Odd Things I Witnessed in the Field of Japanese Studies over Three Decades

### Prof. Heung Wah WONG

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6 March 2024 (Wednesday)

11:00 am – 12:00 noon

Room 401, Leung Kau Kui Building, CUHK  
In English. No registration required.

*All are welcome!*

Drawing inspiration from Wu Jianren's renowned novel, *Bizarre Happenings Eyewitnessed Over Two Decades*, published during the Qing Dynasty in China, this talk presents the author's observations of peculiar occurrences witnessed over three decades in the field of Japanese Studies. The speaker explores three distinct categories of odd happenings. Firstly, the evaluation system within universities and academic communities is examined, demonstrating its influence on the form and character of academic work in Japanese Studies. Secondly, the talk investigates absurd interpretations found in academic publications within the field of Japanese Studies, highlighting not only their illogical nature but also their acceptance as common sense within academia. Lastly, the talk analyzes the structure of academia as an industry, revealing its impact on the worldview of practitioners. By shedding light on these bizarre phenomena, this talk aims to elucidate the reasons behind the declining readership of practitioners in the field of Japanese Studies, as well as the broader academic world.

**Heung Wah WONG** is Associate Professor of Global Creative Industries Program at The University of Hong Kong. His research interest lies in the globalization of Japanese popular culture, anthropology of business, and cultural policies in East Asia.

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