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# KYOTO LECTURES

Tuesday, June 10th, 18:00h

Wiebke Denecke

SPEAKER

## Classical World Literatures: Sino-Japanese and Greco-Roman Comparisons A Book Talk

In her recently published book *Classical World Literatures: Sino-Japanese and Greco-Roman Comparisons* (Oxford University Press, 2014), Wiebke Denecke examines the dynamics between the younger literary cultures of Japan and Rome and the literatures of their venerable predecessors, China and Greece. *Classical World Literatures* captures the striking similarities between the ways early Japanese authors wrote their own literature through and against the literary precedents of China, and the ways Latin writers engaged and contested Greek precedents. But it also brings to light suggestive divergences that are rooted in geopolitical, linguistic, sociohistorical, and aesthetic differences. In this book talk the author will sketch the conceptual framework of the comparison between Japanese and Latin literatures and discuss on concrete examples what comparative work can do for us to better understand early Japanese literature.

**Wiebke Denecke** is Associate Professor of Chinese, Japanese and Comparative Literature at Boston University. Her research encompasses the classical literatures of China and Japan, comparative studies of the ancient world, and more broadly world literature. She is the author of *The Dynamics of Masters Literature: Early Chinese Thought from Confucius to Han Feizi* (Harvard University Press, 2011), *Classical World Literatures: Sino-Japanese and Greco-Roman Comparisons* (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2014), the *Norton Anthology of World Literature* (2012) and *Norton Anthology of Western Literature* (2014) and the editor, with Kôno Kimiko of *The Concept of "Letters" and "Literature" in Japan* (Nihon ni okeru bun to bungaku, Benseisha, 2013).

**This lecture will be held at the Institute for Research in Humanities (IRH), Kyoto University (seminar room 1, 1st floor).**

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