

FEMALE FRIENDSHIP in

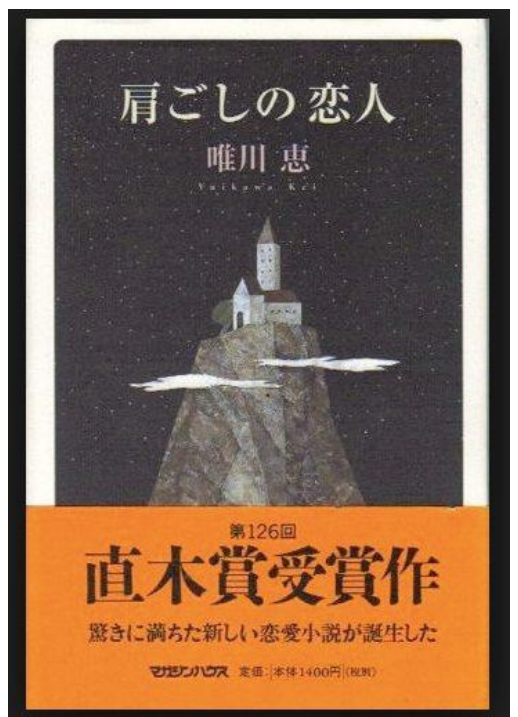
Contemporary Japanese Love Novels

現代日本の恋愛小説における 女同士の友情（GJS共催）

3pm – 4:30pm, Thursday, 23rd June,

at Meeting Room 2 of 3rd Floor, 東洋文化研究所3階第二会議室
Institute of Advanced Studies on Asia, the University of Tokyo

In 2002, “*Katagoshi no koibito* (Sweetheart Over My Shoulder)” was awarded the Naoki Prize. The author, Yuikawa Kei, made her debut in the pages of Cobalt magazine, a publication targeted at teenage girls. During the 1980s, she was one of the best known writers of girls’ novels. Her 1980s novels feature young female protagonists who value their friendship with other girls more than romantic love. In fact, the idea that female friendship is stronger than love has been one of the themes pursued in various ways in girls novels, from the pre-war period to the 1980s Cobalt novels. In this presentation, I will use Yuikawa Kei’s novel to discuss the following: (1) the relation between girls’ novels and love novels, (2) the concept of romantic love in contemporary Japan, and (3) the influence of girls’ novels on contemporary Japanese literature in general.



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