Join us for a talk with Professor Katsuya Hirano and Professor Michael Emmerich, two new Japanese Studies faculty members at UCLA, who will discuss exciting new developments in early modern and modern Japanese literature, history, and popular culture.

Introduction by Professor Hitoshi Abe, Director, UCLA Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies
Moderated by Professor Seiji Lippit, Associate Director, UCLA Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies

Hosted at the
Japan Foundation
5700 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 100
LOS ANGELES, CA 90036


Speaker Bios:

Katsuya Hirano, a specialist in 17th-to-19th-century Japan who has been on faculty at Cornell since 2006, will be joining the UCLA history department. Born, raised and educated in Japan until graduate school, Hirano studies the connection between politics, culture and the arts during Japan’s Edo period. His forthcoming book "Politics of Dialogic Imagination: Power and Popular Culture in Early Modern Japan, 1750-1890," which is due in November from University of Chicago Press, seeks to understand why Edo-period shoguns, with their seemingly unrivaled power, tried so hard to regulate the ostensibly unimportant popular culture of the day, including fashion, leisure activities, prints and theater. Hirano is currently writing a book about the Japanese colonization of lands originally belonging to the Ainu people, who are indigenous to a string of islands between mainland Japan and Russia.

Michael Emmerich, a new hire in Asian languages and cultures from UC Santa Barbara, is expected to build on existing strengths in UCLA’s Japanese literature program. He is probably best known for his scholarship on the 11th-century literary classic "The Tale of Genji." In addition to his expertise on court-centered writing from the period, Emmerich is an authority on Japanese fiction from the nineteenth century onward, including the works of modern and contemporary authors. He also is a prolific translator of contemporary Japanese authors, from Nobel prize winner Kawabata Yasunari to best-selling cult writer Banana Yoshimoto.