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2018 KYOTO LECTURES

Tuesday, December 4th, 18:00h

Keller Kimbrough SPEAKER

Pushing Filial Piety

The Otogizōshi *Nijūshikō*
and an Osaka Publisher's
'Beneficial Books
for Women'

At sometime between 1716 and 1729, the Osaka publisher Shibukawa Seiemon published a box-set anthology of twenty-three *otogizōshi*—works of short medieval fiction—which he titled “The Felicitous Wedding Companion Library” and advertised as being “beneficial for women.” Among the twenty-three works is a translation of Guo Jujing’s early fourteenth-century *Ershisi xiao shi xuan* (Selected Verses on All Aspects of the Twenty-Four Filial Exemplars), which, since the late Muromachi period, has been known in Japan simply as *Nijūshikō* (The Twenty-Four Filial Exemplars). Around the same time, Shibukawa also published at least six major educational texts for women, three of which include illustrated tales from *Nijūshikō*. In this talk, Kimbrough will consider Shibukawa’s *otogizōshi Nijūshikō* in the light of those three texts to answer a simple yet puzzling question: for Shibukawa and his readers, what exactly were the lessons for women in *Nijūshikō*?

Keller Kimbrough is a professor of Japanese in the Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He completed his Ph.D. at Yale University in 1999, and he has held teaching positions at the University of Michigan, the University of Virginia, Colby College, and the University of Colorado. His publications include *Preachers, Poets, Women, and the Way: Izumi Shikibu and the Buddhist Literature of Medieval Japan* (University of Michigan Center for Japanese Studies, 2008), *Wondrous Brutal Fictions: Eight Buddhist Tales from the Early Japanese Puppet Theater* (Columbia University Press, 2013), and *Monsters, Animals, and Other Worlds: A Collection of Short Medieval Japanese Tales* (Columbia University Press, 2018), co-edited with Haruo Shirane.

Please note that this lecture will be held at the Kyoto centre of the École Française d'Extrême-Orient

École Française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO)
29 Betto-cho Kitashirakawa, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, 606-8276 Japan

Italian School of East Asian Studies (ISEAS)
4th Floor, 4 Yoshida Ushinomiya-cho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, 606-8302 Japan

EFEO | Tel. 075-701-0882 E-mail efeo.kyoto@gmail.com

ISEAS | Tel. 075-751-8132 E-mail iseas@iseas-kyoto.org

