

死生学・応用倫理センター

Death & Life Studies and Practical Ethics

English Lecture Series No.14

東京大学大学院人文社会系研究科

Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology

***Hidden Agendas:  
The Body as Stage in Japanese Popular Media***

**Speaker :**     **Professor Amanda Seaman**  
                    **(University of Massachusetts Amherst)**

**Time :**         **9 May 2025 (Friday) 17:30 ~ 19:00**

**Location:**    **Room 117, Faculty of Law and Literature Building No. 1.**  
                    **The University of Tokyo**

**Online:**       **ID: 829 280 0028**  
                    **Passcode: 854145**

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## ***Hidden Agendas: The Body as Stage in Japanese Popular Media***

Edo period representations of the body are many and varied, encompassing *gesaku* literature, visual culture, and medical culture. One characteristic of these depictions is the desire to see what is inside the body. Looking inside the body extends beyond mere curiosity about the organs—it is desire to know how things work, why we are who are, and why we do what we do. It is both didactic—people learn about the function of the body—and entertaining. This mixture of metaphysical and physical extends through visual and literary imagery. With the advent of modern, cosmopolitan medicine in the late nineteenth century, this desire does not wane but gets transformed into allowing the patient and their families to watch surgeries or be shown what gets taken out. A contemporary example of this combination of didacticism and entertainment is the manga and anime *Hataraku saibō* (Cells at Work). In this anime and its sequel, the body is a city where everyone has a job to do to keep everything in working order.

## Hongō Campus

0m 100m 200m 300m



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