

EALL-CJS TALK

Nakai Masakazu and the Theory Complex in Japan

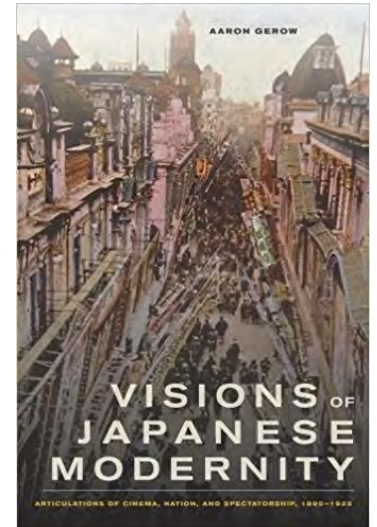
Aaron Gerow

Professor, Yale University

Friday, February 23, 2018, 3:00-4:00 PM

Moore Hall 258

Recent work in cinema studies has begun to explore the histories of film theory beyond those preserved in the canon, especially in those areas of the world beyond the Euro-American nexus. In this talk, I will sketch the issues involved in researching Japanese film theory—what I call the “theory complex”—using as an example the work of Nakai Masakazu, an aesthetic philosopher and activist. In from the 1930s to the 1950s, Nakai engaged in a critique of aesthetics which saw in the machine art represented by cinema a new form of enunciation that enabled the masses to express their world historical importance. Approaching Nakai's film theory can help us interrogate not only the Western canon, but also the cultural foundations of theory.



Aaron Gerow is Professor of Film Studies and East Asian Languages & Literatures at Yale University. His books include a study of Kitano Takeshi (BFI, 2007), *A Page of Madness* (University of Michigan Center for Japanese Studies, 2008), and *Visions of Japanese Modernity: Articulations of Cinema, Nation, and Spectatorship, 1895-1925* (University of California Press was published in 2010). He also co-authored the Research Guide to Japanese Film Studies with Abe Mark Nornes (Center for Japanese Studies, 2009)

Co-Sponsored by the UH Manoa Center for Japanese Studies (CJS) and Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures (EALL)



The talk is open to the public, and light refreshments will be served.

For more information, please contact Andre Haag (andreh@hawaii.edu)

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For disability access, please contact the EALL office at 956-8940 or eall@hawaii.edu