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IU's Institute for Advanced Study
Visiting Fellow Lecture



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Comixing Cultures! The Shocking Transnational Affair of Japanese Manga
and Euro-American Comics

What does it mean to call something a Japanese manga in the age of globalism? Where do Chinese *manhua*, Korean *manhwa*, Non-Japanese Language manga—like Original English-Language manga or *la nouvelle manga*—and other kinds of world comics figure into this equation? What are manga and comics and “Japan,” anyway? My effort to begin to answer these questions begins by exploring the global flows of Japanese comics over the long *durée* of the past three centuries. An attempt to rethink comics itself, this talk argues that non-Japanese comics can be both manga and Japanese in the sense that manga was always already transnational.

Adam L. Kern studied Japanese literature at Harvard University, where he earned his PhD in East Asian Languages and Civilizations before joining the faculty for nearly a decade. His experiences in Japan (aside from affiliations with the University of Kyoto, the University of Tokyo, and the National Institute of Japanese Literature) include a stint as an editorial intern in the manga division of Kōdansha Publishers. Author of *Manga from the Floating World: Comicbook Culture and the Kibyōshi of Edo Japan* (Harvard University Asia Center, 2006), Kern teaches Japanese literature and visual culture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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Dr. Kern's lecture is open to the IU community and the general public.

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