



## DEPARTMENT OF ASIAN STUDIES

### The 2022-2023 UBC Japan Lecture Series Presents:



#### ***Japanese Propaganda and the Power of Love: Mobilizing the Wartime Empire***

**Dr. Sharalyn Orbaugh, The University of British Columbia**

November 16th, 2022, 12:00 – 1:30 pm (PT), Asian Centre 604

*Historians and cultural critics often identify “exploiting hate” as the primary affective mode of propaganda. Particularly in the context of war, manufacturing a clear division in militarist propaganda between valorous “us” and demonized “them” seems axiomatic. An examination of kamishibai (literally, paper theater), one of the most widely disseminated forms of propaganda in 1930s and 1940s Japan, reveals a few examples that fit this pattern, but a far greater number constructed around a very different affective structure. We see the dangerously persuasive power of “exploiting love” in kamishibai plays, both those created for mobilizing and militarizing the Japanese home front and those created to assimilate and exploit the farflung inhabitants of imperial territories. This presentation looks at the illustrations and scripts of kamishibai plays performed in Japanese, Korean, and Chinese between 1938 and 1945 to trace patterns of affiliation, attachment, and love used in the service of marshalling support for Japan’s war in Asia.*



**Sharalyn Orbaugh** is the Asian Studies Department Head and a Professor of Modern Japanese Literature and Popular Culture at the University of British Columbia.

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