



The 9th Japan at Chicago Conference

Rethinking *Hihyō*:

The Politics of Literature and the Literature of Politics in Early Postwar Japan

March 4-5, 2011

International House, Coulter Lounge

1414 E. 59th St., Chicago, IL. 60637

This conference revisits the most pressing problems of early postwar Japan intellectual life, with a specific focus on the role played by literary criticism (*bungei hihyō*). We will focus on the famous 1946-7 “*Seiji to bungaku ronsō*” (the politics and literature debate), as well as on its afterlives in subsequent literary and cultural affairs. Carried out between writers affiliated with the journals *Kindai Bungaku* (Modern Literature) and *Shin Nihon Bungaku* (New Japanese Literature), the dispute involved such figures as Hirano Ken, Ara Masahito, Odagiri Hideo, Katō Shūichi, and Nakano Shigeharu—all giants of postwar intellectual life.

The conference will introduce path-breaking scholarship and new translations that explore this crucial event, as well as its subsequent ramifications in the literary and other fields. Papers will be presented in English or Japanese. It is the culminating event in a collaborative research project organized by faculty and graduate students from the University of Chicago, Princeton University, and Waseda University, and follows workshops held at Princeton in March 2010 and at Waseda in July 2010.

For full details and schedule, visit <http://lucian.uchicago.edu/blogs/rethinkinghihyo/>

If you require assistance to fully participate, or for more information, please call 773-702-2715 in advance.