



CALL FOR PAPERS

The [Transmedial Travel Imaginaries Network](#) is pleased to announce a "Popular Culture Translocations between Japan and Denmark" seminar dedicated to exploring the dynamic cultural exchanges between Japan and Denmark, with a particular focus on the realm of popular culture. This seminar aims to delve into the mutual fascination and cultural interplay between these two nations, which have shown a profound appreciation and longing for each other's cultural expressions, from high arts to popular culture and fandom, crafts, food, and fashion. The seminar will take place at the **University of Southern Denmark, Odense, on September 30th, 2024**, and is hosted by Professor Susana Tosca and the Media Research Group of the Faculty of Humanities.

Themes of Interest:

Japan and Denmark share a commitment to simplicity, functionality, and minimalism across various domains, including design, architecture, fashion and more. In popular fiction, Japan and Denmark both have strong traditions in folk tales and whimsical stories, as well as in children's popular culture, characterized by rich worldbuilding and a playful aesthetics. In contemporary times, a dedication to realism and social critique has emerged as a prevalent trend. This seminar seeks to uncover and discuss the nuanced ways in which the two cultures have influenced and interpreted each other's traditions and innovations in the realm of the popular and the everyday. From the aesthetic to the banal, the success of music bands at each other's scenes and the abundance of sushi and ramen restaurants in Danish cities to the adoption of the term "viking" (バイキング, baikingu) for buffet-style meals in Japan, the intersections of both cultures offer rich ground for exploration.

We invite contributions that examine the processes of interpretation, adaptation, translation, remix, appropriation, and remediation within the context of Japan-Denmark popular cultural exchanges. We are interested in contributions that not only celebrate fascination, desire, idealization, and longing but also incorporate a critical perspective on the images and understandings we construct of each other.

Possible Topics Include, but Are Not Limited To:

- Popular culture products in Japan inspired by Scandinavian topics, themes, myths, or stories across all media platforms and formats.
- Popular culture products in Scandinavia inspired by Japanese topics, themes, myths, or stories across all media platforms and formats.
- Contents tourism involving Scandinavians traveling to Japan and Japanese traveling to Denmark, inspired by popular culture.
- The development of arts and crafts in each country inspired by the other.
- Influences in ways of living, design, fashion, and other areas where cross-cultural impact is evident.
- Reception and critique of each other's popular culture products.
- Official and unofficial efforts to bridge the two cultures.

Seminar Format:

The seminar will feature short presentations by participants, followed by round-table discussions on specific questions to foster in-depth dialogue and exchange.

Submission Details:

- Please submit abstracts of no more than 500 words, excluding bibliography, along with a brief biographical note. The accepted format is pdf.
- Deadline for submission: 1st August, 2024
- Link to submission system: <https://event.sdu.dk/japananddenmark/conference>

Note to Participants:

We cannot unfortunately offer funding for travel or accommodation. However, invited speakers will be provided with lunch and refreshments during the seminar. We look forward to receiving your contributions and to engaging in meaningful conversation about the cultural interconnections between Japan and Denmark.