



## Exploring Buddhism in Medieval Japanese Fiction

28<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 18:15-19:45

Rämistrasse 71, CH-8001 Zürich (KOL-E-21)

### Guest Lecture by Keller Kimbrough

Professor of Japanese at the University of Colorado, Boulder



The world of Japanese Buddhist fiction is a wild one, full of demons, dragons, miracles, and mayhem. In the present talk, Keller Kimbrough will describe some of the more important things that he has learned about medieval Japanese religious culture over his thirty years of reading, translating, and writing about Japanese Buddhist fiction from the twelfth through seventeenth centuries. His talk will trace the course of the late-medieval *sekkyō* 説経 sermon-ballad *Aigo-no-waka* あいごの若 (Little Aigo) and other works of Buddhist fiction to argue for a largely trans-sectarian understanding of the medieval Japanese religious landscape as one that was dominated by miracle-granting icons, supernatural cult figures, tales of abusive stepmothers, and the magic of esoteric rites.

Keller Kimbrough is Professor of Japanese and Chair of the Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He is a native of Colorado and Tennessee.

