

**Waseda International Workshop:
Rethinking the Relationship Between Beauty and Gender**

Date and Time: June 11, 2025 (Wed) 16:15-

Venue: Conference Room 11, Building 33 6th Floor, Toyama Campus, Waseda University

Draft Programme:

16:15-17:00 Introduction: On the Male Gaze and Sexual Objectification (Maya Ishikawa, Waseda University)

17:00-18:00 Kawaii Metal and Gender – Imaginaries of Gender Disparity and Gender Fluidity in the Aesthetic of Cuteness (Christopher Zysik, University of Tübingen)

Abstract: The aesthetic of cuteness encompasses a wide spectrum ranging from sweet cute to uncanny cute. This presentation will critically examine how this affective and sensual adaptability is a powerful tool to destabilize the hegemonic aesthetic regime and accompanying gender norms, values, and ideals on one side. On the other side, it will delve into how the very same aesthetic category continues this regime on a pre-predicative level. Drawing from Martin Seel, Jacques Rancière, and Sianne Ngai, focus of the analysis will be the globally successful music genre Kawaii Metal and neighboring phenomena such as Japanese idol music and metal music.

18:00- General Discussion

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