The first in a planned series, the New Directions in Medieval Japan Studies workshop will provide an open forum for the discussion of recent work or work in progress in various fields of premodern and modern Japan studies, especially literature. Our goal is a forum where researchers and students can engage new approaches and theoretical paradigms, raise methodological concerns germane to their work and the broader field, and put Japanese literature into a broader conversation with East Asian and other literatures worldwide. The inaugural workshop will include presentations on recent work in the fields of Heike studies, medieval ritual, and the literature of Early Japan.