BODYGUARDS AND ASSASSINS:
VIOLENT WOMEN IN CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE POPULAR CULTURE
A USC Mellon Digital Humanities Summer Tutorial

- USC undergraduate students will receive a $1,500 stipend for course completion.
- Non-credit course taught by a USC Mellon Digital Humanities Ph.D. Fellow
- Tutorials meet twice a week for two-hour sessions at USC during the month of July.

This tutorial explores how violent women are depicted across Japanese popular culture today. Considering that Japan is famous for its low crime rate, Japanese popular culture seems to practically be overflowing with violence. We will follow violent women from the pages of the newspapers to the movie theatre and into the home, asking how artists’ genders affect the characters they create and how today’s artists are building on prior work. We will also examine the conjoined depiction of sex and violence and what depictions of violent women suggest about contemporary Japan. In addition to regular readings, the class will view television shows and films.

Instructor: Amanda Kennell
kennell@usc.edu

Reading Schedule

Week One: Violent Women of Yesteryear
1.1: Real Women, Unreal Stories
Christine Marran, Poison Woman: Figuring Female Transgression in Modern Japanese Culture (Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press, 2007) pgs. xiii-xxv, 103-177.

Viewing: Lupin the 3rd Part One eps. 2-3 (1972), Rose of Versailles eps. 1-2 (1979)

1.2: Setting up the Turn of the Century

Week Two: Theorizing Women’s Violence
2.1: Righteous Violence

Viewing: Kite, dir. Yasuomi Umetsu (1992)

2.2: Real? Violence
**Week Three: Violent Women and History**

3.1: **Fantasy and History**

**Viewing:** *Sakuran*, dir. Mika Ninagawa (2007)

3.2: **Swordswomen and Kunoichi**

**Week Four: Politics and Progression**

4.1: **Lupin of Versailles**
*Lupin the 3rd: A Woman Called Fujiko Mine* eps. 1-13

**Viewing:** *Samurai Chicks*, dir. Mari Asato (2004)

4.2: **Pop Music, Pop Violence**

**Application Procedures**
Undergraduate students at USC who are interested in applying for enrollment should send a resume and cover letter (explaining their experience and interest in the course topic) to digitalhumanities@dornsife.usc.edu by *Monday, May 2, 2016*. 