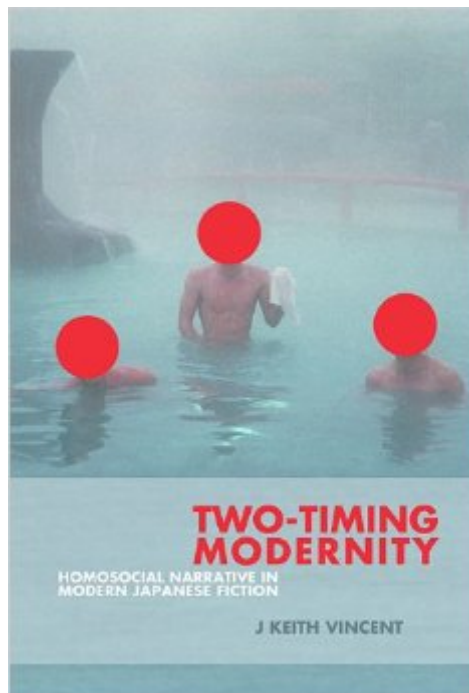


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Two-Timing Modernity: Homosocial Narrative In Modern Japanese Fiction (Harvard East Asian Monographs)



Synopsis

Until the late nineteenth century, Japan could boast of an elaborate cultural tradition surrounding the love and desire that men felt for other men. By the first years of the twentieth century, however, as heterosexuality became associated with an enlightened modernity, love between men was increasingly branded as *â œfeudalâ • or immature*. The resulting rupture in what has been called the *â œmale homosocial continuumâ •* constitutes one of the most significant markers of Japanâ™s entrance into modernity. And yet, just as early Japanese modernity often seemed haunted by remnants of the premodern past, the nationâ™s newly heteronormative culture was unable and perhaps unwilling to expunge completely the recent memory of a male homosocial past now read as perverse. *Two-Timing Modernity* integrates queer, feminist, and narratological approaches to show how key works by Japanese male authorsâ”Mori ÅEgai, Natsume SÅ•seki, Hamao ShirÅ•, and Mishima Yukioâ”encompassed both a straight future and a queer past by employing new narrative techniques to stage tensions between two forms of temporality: the forward-looking time of modernization and normative development, and the *â œperverseâ •* time of nostalgia, recursion, and repetition.

Book Information

Series: Harvard East Asian Monographs (Book 352)

Hardcover: 248 pages

Publisher: Harvard University Asia Center (November 19, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0674067126

ISBN-13: 978-0674067127

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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