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**Fictionality in representations of Japan and Europe from a cross-cultural perspective**

For the fourth Mutual Images workshop, we seek to explore the dynamic relations between Japan and Europe through the notion of fictionality. These past decades, the growth of cultural exchanges has created new opportunities of fictionalization between European and Japanese. Far from being restrained to its definition as a genre, Fictionality has become a key element in our contemporary society. Whether it is in entertainment media (novel, manga, video games, movies and other forms of current entertainment), Art (photography, painting), or even our perception of the other, the self, and reality, fictionality is present in our everyday life. The 20th century challenged our ability to imagine, evoke our/others’ imagination and receive it, and the 21st century is not slowing down this process. Fictionality in the form of the intentional use of invented stories and scenarios is ubiquitous in these cultures. It is employed in politics, business, medicine, sports, and throughout the disciplines of the academy. The power of fictionality, as a communicational strategy, has considerably grown with the postmodern age and globalisation.

**Panel I:  Fictionalisation of the Other in literary productions**

“Telling stories about Japan: contemporary Italian literature re-inventing Japan”, Fabio Domenico Palumbo, Università degli Studi di Messina, Italy.

“Interculturality as a Writing Strategy in The Character of Rain of Amélie Nothomb”, Zayer Baazayoui, University of Miami, USA.

“Reshaping historical and legendary European figures in the *Fate*’s universe”, Maxime Danesin, François-Rabelais University (Tours), France.

**Panel II: National Identities and Fictionality**

“Memories of the grateful visitor. A look at recent Spanish spaces, ethnography and material artifacts through Japanese Entertainment Industries”, Manuel Hernández-Pérez, University of Hull, UK.

“Righting the occupation: pop-nationalism in Sōkōakki Muramasa”, Luca Paolo Bruno, University of Venice ca’ Foscari, Italy.

“Photographic exhibitions of children in Japan: between nationalism and universalism”, Aurore Yamagata-Montoya, University of the West of England, UK.