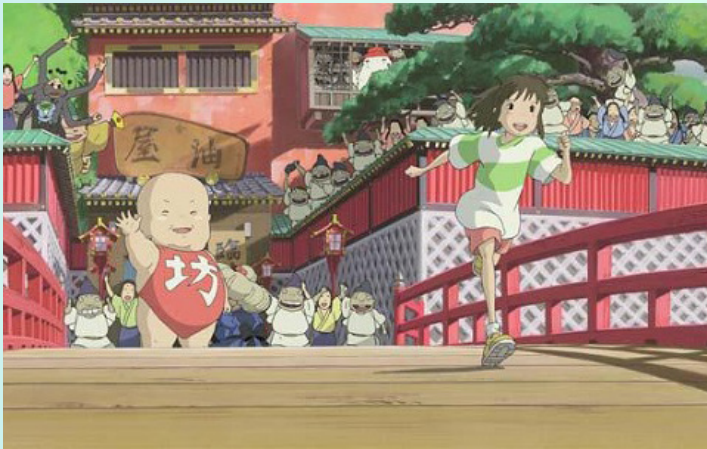


The Animated Folkloresque in Studio Ghibli's *Spirited Away* and *Pom Poko*

Friday, November 4, 2016
255 Old Horticulture Building
12:00 - 1:15 p.m.

This talk compares the use of folklore in two animated films by Studio Ghibli. *Pom Poko* (1994) is directly based on beliefs, images, and narratives readily recognizable to most audiences in Japan; in contrast, *Spirited Away* (2001) does not directly reference any single tradition but creatively draws on elements from a range of sources (both Japanese and European), suturing them together with invented imagery and beliefs to create a text that seems to allude to specific folk traditions. By exploring the differences between these two films, particularly how they reference folkloric connections, we can better understand notions of authenticity and allusion within the production and perception of media.



Michael Dylan Foster is a professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of California, Davis. He is the author of several books, most recently *The Book of Yōkai: Mysterious Creatures of Japanese Folklore* (2015), and numerous articles on Japanese folklore, literature, festival, and media.

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