

Graduate Feminist Emphasis

Emerging Scholars Series

Feb 2nd

12:00 P.M. - 1:30 P.M. VIA ZOOM

Free and open to the public.
To RSVP, please visit bit.ly/GFEEmergingBaker
To request reasonable accomodations, please email msledezm@uci.edu



Vanessa Baker

This talk presents a working chapter, "(Au) Speculative Rumors of Gold," of a larger dissertation project entitled "Entangled Ecologies of the Everyday: Gender, Labor, and Nature in Rural Proletarian Literature of Japan and Korea." This chapter explores the literary depiction of the gold rush that swept the Korean Peninsula following the world financial crash of 1929. The Korean gold rush was a moment in time when authors traded pens for pickaxes to remake their lives as miners, prospectors, and smugglers. With a critical focus on the sonic terrain of the gold mine, this chapter surveys how the mythic value of gold, in combination with rumors of striking it rich, destabilize the material conditions that sustain everyday interrelations between human and more-than-human lives.

Ch'ŏn Ponggwān, 2005: Hwanggūngwang shidae. ["The Era of Gold Mining." Seoul: Sullim Publishing. p. 47. Originally published in the November 29, 1932 edition of the Chosŏn ilbo.