This talk considers in concert the artistry of traditional Japanese tattooing and the current socio-political and cultural climates surrounding this contentious art form. Tattooed bodies demand, by their very nature, an audience. Yet the history of tattooing in Japan is one of secrecy, persecution, and invisibility. Even today, tattooed bodies circulate uneasily among a Japanese populace that remains deeply ambivalent about the personal, political, and ritualistic implications of tattooing. Drawing from social theory, literary texts, and popular media, this talk examines the tenuous cultural positionality of tattoos and those who choose to get them. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, this talk seeks to use the tattooed body as a medium of discovery, illuminating important questions about gender, race, culture, and personal agency.
David Holloway is Assistant Professor of Japanese at the University of Rochester, where he teaches courses on Japanese literature, popular culture, and “the body.” His specialization is contemporary Japanese fiction with emphasis on gender and sexuality. Recent publications include “Gender, Body, and Disappointment in Kanehara Hitomi’s Fiction” (Japanese Language and Literature, 2016) and “Topographies of Intimacy: Sex and Shibuya in Hasegawa Junko’s Prisoner of Solitude” (US-Japan Women’s Journal, 2016).

The Fifth Annual Jack McGrory Lecture in the Humanities featuring David Holloway
Thursday, September 21, 3:30 PM at Scripps Cottage

Directions to Scripps Cottage, San Diego State University

From I-8, take the COLLEGE AVE. exit. Follow College Avenue SOUTH and stay to the right. At the first traffic light south of I-8, turn RIGHT onto CANYON CREST DR. Follow Canyon Crest to STOP sign. At the stop sign, turn RIGHT on Aztec Circle Drive. Turn RIGHT into Parking Structure 12 Proceed to level 8

Walking Directions: Parking Structure 12 level 4 to Scripps Cottage
Take the elevators on the northeast corner to level 4 Cross the pedestrian bridge at level 4 elevators toward West End Plaza/West Commons At West End Plaza/West Commons, go north (LEFT) to a set of stairs Ascend these stairs and go straight to Scripps Terrace Road Turn RIGHT onto Scripps Terrace Road Scripps Cottage will be on the LEFT

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