This talk examines a common strategy used to explain and understand anime: as commentary about Japanese society. Professor Suan offers a different conception that highlights how many of the tasks involved in anime production – work by animators, colorists, and background artists – take place outside of Japan. As such, the common approaches to anime tend to make “invisible” many of the complexities of those who make the animation “visible.” Suan considers ways to engender and sustain a shift in the way anime is conceptualized to better facilitate a lasting recognition of the importance of the aesthetics of animation as it operates in everyday life in Japan and beyond.

About the Speaker:

Dr. Stevie Suan is an Associate Professor at Hosei University in the Faculty of Global and Interdisciplinary Studies, with a research specialization in Media Studies. He earned a Ph.D. in Manga Studies from the Graduate School of Manga Studies at Kyoto Seika University, and M.A. in Asian Studies from the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa.

Sponsored by the Department of Art and Art History, UH Mānoa