

**Title:** Culture, art, society – the multifaceted erotic life in Japan

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**Abstract:** As Michel Foucault said, sexuality is one of most important aspects of human's life, defining attitudes, values and individual choices as well as tendencies or trends in specific cultures, countries or communities. Contrary to appearances, sexuality does not have much in common with its primary feature – a sexual act leading to procreation only. It forms a social identity, whereas erotica, in brief, is a sublimation of sexual desires in different kinds of art or creations in culture. However, despite the importance of this domain, academic discussion about any community's sexual life in cultural context is taken reluctantly or contemptuously. Because of that, many existing publications contain numerous incorrect information and prejudicial stereotypes, especially about Japan.

The author of the thesis introduces selected aspects of Japanese sexuality and erotica, indicating their differentiation and multidimensionality in Japanese culture. Amongst them she examines: mythology and its affection on ancient artifacts as well as modern religious ceremonies; history and old erotic art; also social problems resulting from the economic changes of the last decades, like aversion to relationships and sex in general. The author also confronts two most popular opinions, or rather another two aspects of sex in Japan, which are: sexless life of individuals and couples, and the opposite – allegedly common deviations of the Japanese people (including fondness of old men for the so-called "lolitas", virtual and cartoon idols or real sex dolls). She verifies them with resources from different fields of study. Finally, the author analyses the institutional aspect of Japanese sexuality from the legal and educational point of view. At the same time, she identifies the most popular and known stereotypes about Japanese sex life, presenting a proof that a perception of sexuality in Japan through the prism of pseudo-specialized information out of cultural or any other context causes multiplication of the depreciating stereotypes. In conclusion, she also points out that all of those aspects penetrate each other, forming the above-mentioned individual choices and social trends which are affecting the Japanese culture, art and society.

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