

Travel, Pray, Play: Anime Pilgrimages in Contemporary Japan

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論 文 名	Travel, Pray, Play: Anime Pilgrimages in Contemporary Japan (旅、拝礼、遊び：現代日本における聖地巡礼)			
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論 文 審 査 の 結 果 の 要 旨

This dissertation investigates the contemporary phenomenon of anime pilgrimage in Japan. Taking a multi-sited ethnographic approach, the chapters are theoretically and thematically organized into four parts: the subject, the experience, the people, and the material constitution of anime pilgrimage. The dissertation explores these elements through four case studies: the Yukawa Bonbori Festival in Yukawa Onsen, Ishikawa Prefecture (connected anime: *Hanasaku Iroha*); Kamada Shrines in Fukuoka and Oita Prefectures (connected anime: *Kimetsu no Yaiba*); *Hyōka* anime pilgrimage in Takayama, Hida Prefecture; and *Natsume Yūjinchō* anime pilgrimage in Hitoyoshi, Kumamoto Prefecture, which also centered in Nuradi's MA thesis (IMAP, 2020).

Within the small but growing body of research on anime pilgrimage (a.k.a., *seichi junrei* 聖地巡礼, and as a form of 'contents tourism'), Nuradi's study stands out for its extensive use of fieldwork, allowing him to deeply engage with communities, social networks, and practices. The dissertation takes an interdisciplinary approach that is theoretically situated in religious studies, but it also draws on the fields of tourism studies, anthropology, and Japan studies. It builds off his MA thesis, which explores the dynamics of anime, pilgrimage, and community through the case of Hitoyoshi City in Kumamoto Prefecture. Nuradi's collective research provides an original perspective into how the social, religious, and economic elements of anime pilgrimage converge at the ground level. In this light, his dissertation makes a worthy contribution to the fields of pilgrimage studies, religious studies, and tourism studies.

In terms of form and style, Nuradi is a gifted writer. He takes a narrative style in his chapters, often opening with a vignette that he later connects to his argument. He clearly positions his research within the relevant fields and demonstrates command over relevant theories and terminology. The dissertation provides especially nuanced engagement over treatment of the sacred and secular. Rejecting a dichotomous approach to these terms, Nuradi convincingly argues that the very nature of anime pilgrimage—its meanings, sites of practice, rituals, and social networks—exists between these realms.

As a whole, the dissertation is well conceived, researched, argued, and composed. Should he choose to do so, it serves as a solid foundation of research for future publication in the form of articles and/or a scholarly monograph.

This dissertation, hence qualifies to be awarded the degree of Doctor of Literature as it achieved high academic contribution.