

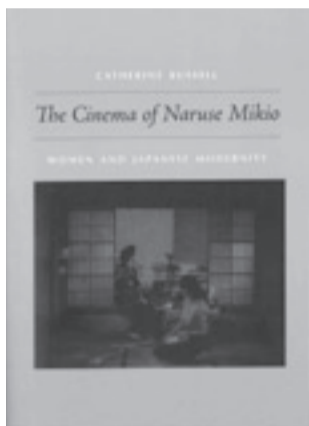
# Bookmarked



## Chinese Poetry in Times of Mind, Mayhem and Money

By Maghiel van Crevel  
Brill, 2008. Sinica Leidensia series, 86  
ISBN 978 90 04 16382 9

Chinese Poetry in Times of Mind, Mayhem and Money is a groundbreaking contribution to scholarship, well-suited to classroom use in that it combines rigorous analysis with a lively style. Covering the period from the 1980s to the present, it is organised around the notions of text, context and metatext, meaning poetry, its socio-political and cultural surroundings, and critical discourse in the broadest sense. Authors and issues studied include Han Dong, Haizi, Xi Chuan, Yu Jian, Sun Wenbo, Yang Lian, Wang Jiaxin, Bei Dao, Yin Lichuan, Shen Haobo and Yan Jun, and everything from the subtleties of poetic rhythm to exile-bashing in domestic media. This book has room for all that poetry is: cultural heritage, symbolic capital, intellectual endeavour, social commentary, emotional expression, music and the materiality of language – art, in a word.

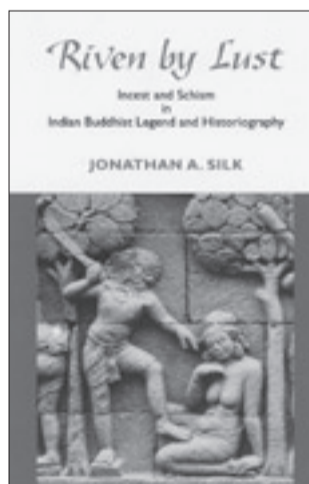


## The Cinema of Naruse Mikio: Women and Japanese Modernity.

By Catherine Russell  
Duke University Press, 2008.  
ISBN 978 0 8223 4312 7

One of the most prolific and respected directors of Japanese cinema, Naruse Mikio (1905-69) made 89 films between 1930 and 1967. Little, however, has been written about Naruse in English, and much of the writing about him in Japanese has not been translated into English. With *The Cinema of Naruse Mikio*, Catherine Russell brings deserved critical attention to this under-appreciated director.

Many of Naruse's movies were "women's films". They have female protagonists; depicted women's passions, disappointments, routines, and living conditions; and emphasized the rigid gender norms of Japanese society. By assessing the critical reception of Naruse in Japan and drawing on the cultural theories of Harry Harootunian, Miriam Hansen, and Walter Benjamin, Russell shows that Naruse's portrayals of the changing roles of Japanese women in the public sphere and his depictions of an urban, industrialised, mass-media saturated society make his films key texts of Japanese modernity.



## Riven by Lust

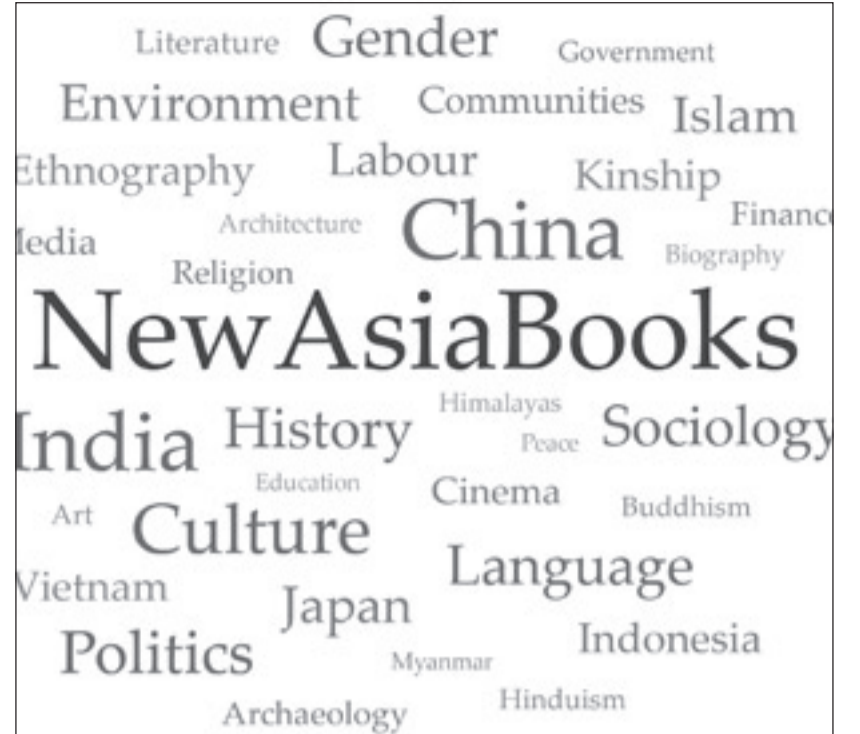
By Jonathan Silk  
University of Hawai'i Press, 2008.  
ISBN 978 0 8248 3090 8

*Riven by Lust* explores the tale of a man accused of causing the fundamental schism in early Indian Buddhism, but not before he has sex with his mother and kills his father. In tracing this Indian Buddhist Oedipal tale, Jonathan Silk follows it through texts in all of the major canonical languages of Buddhism, Sanskrit, Pali, Tibetan, Chinese, and Japanese, along the way noting parallels and contrasts with classical and medieval European stories such as the legend of the Oedipal Judas. Simultaneously, he investigates the psychological and anthropological understandings of the tale of mother-son incest in light of contemporary psychological and anthropological understandings of incest, with special attention to the question of why we consider it among the worst of crimes.

In seeking to understand how the story worked in Indian texts and for Indian audiences—as well as how it might work for modern readers—this book has both horizontal and vertical dimensions, probing the place of the Oedipal in Indian culture, Buddhist and non-Buddhist, and simultaneously framing the Indian Oedipal within broader human concerns, thereby contributing to the study of the history of Buddhism, the transmission of narratives in the ancient world, and the fundamental nature of one aspect of human sexuality.

Starting from a brief reference in a polemical treatise, *Riven by Lust* demonstrates that its authors borrowed and intentionally adapted a preexisting story of an Oedipal antihero. This recasting allowed them to calumniate their opponents in the strongest possible terms through the rhetoric of murder and incest. Silk draws on a wide variety of sources to demonstrate the range of thinking about incest in Indian Buddhist culture, thereby uncovering the strategies and working methods of the ancient polemicists. He argues that Indian Buddhists and Hindus, while occupying the same world for the most part, thought differently about fundamental issues such as incest, and hints at the consequent necessity of a reappraisal of our notions of the shape of the ancient cultural sphere they shared.

Provocative and innovative, *Riven by Lust* is a paradigmatic analysis of a major theme of world mythology and a signal contribution to the study of the history of incest and comparative sexualities. It will attract readers interested in Buddhism, Indian studies, Asian studies, comparative culture, mythology, psychology, and the history of sexuality.



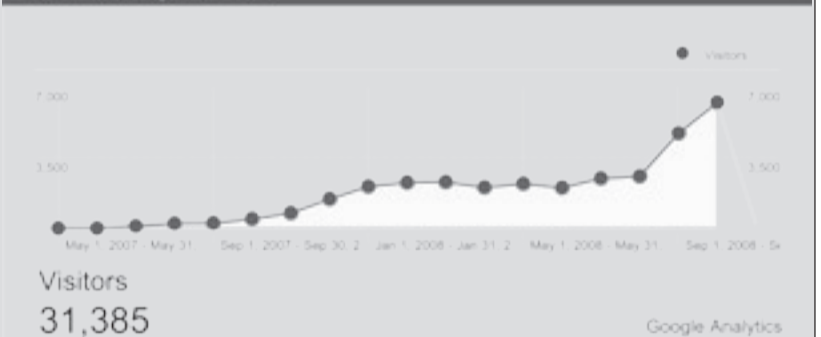
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