

**Media and Popular Cultural Flows in East Asia:
Transnational Flows of Mediated Narratives in Comics, Cinema and TV Dramas**

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Free Labour for Love? - Fan-Subs and Scanlation Networks

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This paper provides a Translation Studies (TS) perspective on the transnational flows of Japanese Manga and Anime. In particular, this paper focuses on the little explored area of fan-based translation for Japanese Anime and Manga which appears to be growing from strength to strength despite its dubious legal status. The fan-based translation networks are beginning to operate in an increasingly sophisticated manner by exploiting the global networks of communications and the latest multimedia technology to bring yet to be officially translated titles to fans. As such TS can no longer afford to ignore this underground and yet global phenomenon. Drawing on a recent mini-case study on a fan-translation group, this paper describes the process involved in fan-subbers as well as more recent scanlation and explores their impact on professional translation.