

# “TELLING IT SLANT”

## DREAMS AND RELIGIOUS MEANING IN THE *SARASHINA DIARY*

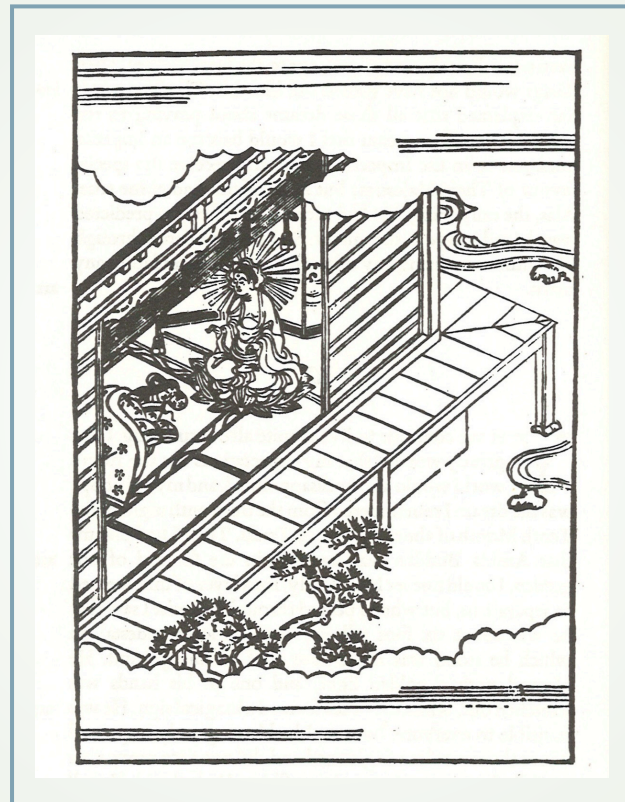
Sonja Arntzen

Professor Emerita, University of Toronto

5:00 pm

Friday, September 30

Room 604 Asian Centre



This talk will give an overview of the Heian attitude toward dreams and demonstrate how the syncretic character of religious belief during the Heian period is mirrored in dreams of the *Sarashina Diary* (c. 1060 by Sugawara Takasue no Musume). Analysis of specific dreams will reveal how the dreams and the author's attitude toward them conform to the dominant understanding of the goal of Buddhist devotions in the Heian period. Yet, examination of the relationship of the dream accounts to other sections of the text will bring a much more complex and dialectical spiritual dimension into view.

**Kameyama Lecture**