

# What is G-Ken?

The Japanese Association for Gender Fantasy & Science Fiction

The Japanese Association for Gender Fantasy & Science Fiction (Gender Study Group or G-ken)

## Close Encounter

- Hynek's scale
- Hynek devised a six-fold classification for UFO sightings
- UFO=Unidentified flying object
- Japanese feminist scale
- J-fem devised a sixfold classification for UFO sightings
- UFO=Unidentified feminism object



## First: Visual sightings



Mari Kotani watched the panel called Fat, Feminism, Fandom @NoreasCon3, Boston (1989)

## Second: Visual sightings plus physical effects on animate and inanimate objects.

### Shifting Focus

Subscribed to Shifting Focus by Laurie Edison impressed by Debbie Notkin's photographs

## Third: Sightings of "occupants" in and around the UFO.



### Confrancisco@SF,1993

Mari Kotani interviewed Laurie Edison and Debbie Notkin

Introduced their works/activities in the serial publication, Alien Bedfellows, published in Honyaku no Sekai (The World of Translation) (Being) FAT IS BEAUTIFUL, (being) FAT IS REAL.

### Interview with Laurie and Debbie@Confransisco,1993

Mari Kotani kept writing reports.

Sent a letter to Michiko Kasahara to ask questions about Shifting Focus



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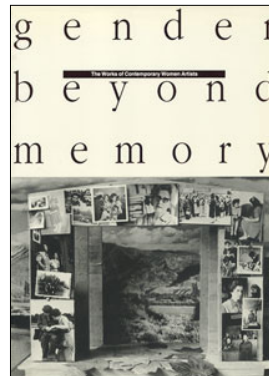
## Gender Beyond Memory @Tokyo Metro Museum of Photography in 1996

### Debbie Notkin & Laurie Edison's visit to Japan

Curator was Michiko Kasahara of Tokyo Metro Museum of Photography. Exhibited 17 photographers' works related to gender. The Japanese media covered

Laurie's works.

G-ken member's photograph which Laurie took @Meguro



## Debbie's Approach

Kotani said, "I'm sorry that my English is not good enough." Debbie replied, "I'm sorry that I cannot speak Japanese."

Impressed by the approach that learning feminism abroad does not constitute the following relations: the US (knowledge giver) and Japan (knowledge receiver). On the contrary, the two countries can learn from each other.

## WisCon20 @Madison, May 1996

Mari Kotani's attendance to Wiscon  
Published in an SF magazine under the title of "Welcome to the Women's Nation"

## The "Textual Harassment" Trial (1997-2001)

For more information, please refer to the Wikipedia entry of Mari Kotani, written by Orange Mike.

"I learned everything I needed to do during the trial from Laurie & Debbie or WisCon" (Kotani)

### The need to expand the feminist network

Debbie & Laurie participated in the form of letters of representation. Chapter 3 of *How to Suppress Women's Writing* by Joanna Russ was translated into Japanese and submitted to the court as a piece of evidence.

### Won the lawsuit in 2001

A change in consciousness among SF fans? Many SF fans and male supporters did not assume that was problem and did not even expect that the judge would rule in favor of Kotani.



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## Debbie Notkin's return to Japan in 2000, Was ask a Tiptree Award in Japan.

Laurie Edison's Photo Exhibition @Kyoto Seika University (2000)

Debbie Notkin's return to Japan

Was asked in Tokyo about the possibility of holding a Tiptree Award in Japan

## The First Sense of Gender Award @Yuukon (41th National Convention in 2002)

SEE The Sense of Gender Award !

We continue the Sense of Gender Award after that every year.



The 12th Sense of Gender Award Ceremony in 2012 in Koikon @Hiroshima (2013)

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## Launching Gender Study Group (G-Ken) in Tokyo (2001)



Initiated by Mari Kotani, Reona Kashiwazaki, and Lena Kudo.

Some women that gathered to have Laurie take pictures

Please refer to the following website: <http://gender-sf.org/>

## Nippon2007 @Yokohama, To hold a ceremony together

In 2007, for the first time in Asia and for the first time in Japan, World-Con was held. G-ken hold both the Tiptree and Sense of Gender award

ceremonies at the same time

Takayuki Tatsumi accepted a role as a judge of Tiptree Award

Awardee(Shelly Jackson, Catherynne M. Valente and Julie Philips)were not able to come, but we had a DVD of the award ceremony sent to us held during WisCon of that year, then showed it to the audience.



The joint Tiptree and SOG ceremony in Nippon2007 @Yokohama (2007)

# The G-ken Activities!

The Japanese Association for Gender Fantasy & Science Fiction

## Book Club

### Japanese Books

Ursula K. Le Guin, *The Left Hand in Darkness* / Megumi Kobayashi, *Uchu Seimei Zukan [The Book of Cosmos]* / James Tiptree Jr., “The Women Men Don’t See” / Sheri S. Tepper, *The Gate to Women’s Country* / James P. Hogan, *Voyage from Yesteryear* / Marge Piercy, *Women on the Edge of Time* / Ian Watson, *Orgasmachine* / Robert A. Heinlein, *I Will Fear No Evil*, discussion led / Yoriko Shono, *The System Inside the Crystal* / Natsuko Mori, *The Unmoral Automaton* / Masamune Sirou, *Ghost in the Shell* / Simon R. Green, *The Blue Moon Rising* / William Gibson, *Neuromancer* / Celia Rees, *Witch Child*, *Witch Child2* / Greg Egan, *Distress* / Carol Emshwiller, *Carmen Dog* / TV series Masters of Horror “The Screwfly Solution” Directed by Joe Dante (The Original Novel: James Tiptree Jr., “The Screwfly Solution” ) / N. K. Jemisin, *The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms* / Ian McDonald, *Cyberabad Days* / Lois McMaster Boujoid , *Ethan of Athos*

### English books

Karen Joy Fowler, *The Jane Austen Book Club* / Karen Joy Fowler “What I Didn’t See” / Julie Phillips, *James Tiptree Jr.: The Double Life of Alice B. Sheldon*



## Video Viewing by Dressing its Costume (e.g. Alice in Wonderland)



Tea Ceremony,  
Halloween,  
Costume Party!





# The G-ken Activities!

The Japanese Association for Gender Fantasy & Science Fiction

## We Joined WisCon, Joined WoredCon!



WisCon31, Mad Scientisty Japanese Tea Party (2007)



NoreasCon4 WisCon member-Meeting(2004)



WisCon35, TOKON10 Report Panel (2011)



WisCon30, with Emsh&Ursula (2006)



WisCon38, The 2nd ISFS Report Panel (2014)



WisCon35, Donation for Tohoku Great Earthquake that hit Mar.11 2011.

A special THANKS to everyone who donated money. All the donated money (\$1222) was sent to Fukushima prefecture. (Jan.30,2012)



Interaction, Ian Watson with Maid Robots (2005)



# 176 Mad Scientist Japanese Tea Party

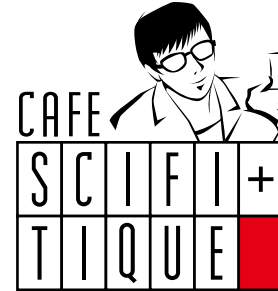
Mad Scientists in white and clockwork Robot Geisha, Robot Maids entertain it with traditional Japanese tea and the Japanese sweets.

It is The Only Mad Thing To Do!

Come to Join !

Mad Scientist cafe : CAFE Scifi+tique designed for Otaku-girls serves as an antidote against maid cafe which has long fascinated Otaku-boys. At this cafe, Mad Scientists in white with a pair of glasses, who can't communicate with ordinary women, serve to the visitor whatever he or she would like to drink, while wind-up chambermaids and Geishas keep supporting them.

**Parties 634**  
**Sunday, 2:30-5:15 p.m.**



<http://scifitique.org>

**Glasses + The science course + White robe = Cafe Scifi+Tique**



Mari Kotani (mamalith@nifty.com)

Science fiction and fantasy critic, a member of Japanese association for Gender Fantasy & Science fiction, and Mad Scientist in Cafe Scifi+Tique.



Manami Tachibana (manami-t@p04.itscom.net)

Tea master, Fanzine maker, a member of Japanese association for Gender Fantasy & Science fiction, and Clockwork Robot Geisha in Cafe Scifi+Tique.

She is a Japanese tea (Sadou) master and traditional dancer (Nihon-buyou-ka) dressed in gorgeous kimono. This is why she has devoured Jessica Amanda Salmonson's Tomoe-gozen Saga for a long while. We are very Sorry Tomoe-gozen Saga has not been translated into Japanese.



Kimiko Shimada  
(mike369@yahoo.co.jp)

Tea master, Fanzine maker, a member of Japanese association for Gender Fantasy & Science fiction, and Clockwork Robot Maid (Japanese style) in Cafe Scifi+Tique.

Sorry, she was not able to participate because she was repairing.



Norma Oyama (kfq00424@nifty.com)

Cosplayer, actress, playwright, a member of Japanese association for Gender Fantasy & Science fiction, and Clockwork Robot Maid in Cafe Scifi+Tique.

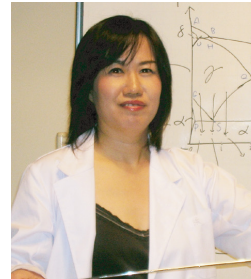
She is a very famous Cosplayer in Japan. And she battles against the sometimes misogynist prejudice about Cosplayer in Japanese SF fandom. For she has consistently speculated on the relationship between Cosplay culture and women. Now She has become the chief executive officer of CAFE Scifi+tique, and takes care of many mad-scientists and Clockwork Robots. Of course, she doesn't forget to dream of the world after feminist conquest. If you are interested in their feminist vision, please visit their web site.: <http://scifitique.org/>



Minami Ishigami (it-mwk@nifty.com)

Scientist, a member of Japanese association for Gender Fantasy & Science fiction, and Mad Scientist in Cafe Scifi+Tique.

She is one of the promoters of CAFE Scifi+tique. Everyday she keeps inventing many mysterious machines and experiments, embracing the evil but feminist design to conquer the world and transforms many strange Otaku-doctors into cute and handsome mad-scientists.



Reona Kashiwazaki  
(r\_kashiwazaki@nifty.com)

Science fiction writer, Teacher, a member of Japanese association for Gender Fantasy & Science fiction, and Mad Scientist in Cafe Scifi+Tique.

Sorry, she was not able to participate because she was researching.



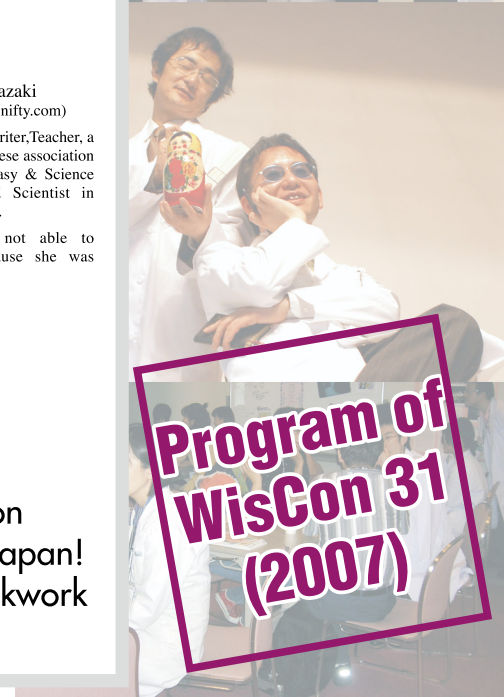
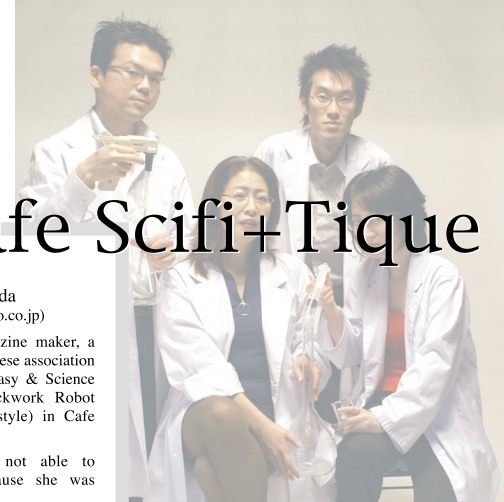
Min Onouchi (min-o@nankin-mk.com)

Graphic and web designer, a member of Japanese association for Gender Fantasy & Science fiction, and Clockwork Robot Maid in Cafe Scifi+Tique.

She is one of the promoters of CAFE Scifi+tique. She loves man of glasses and King Arthur's Fantasies especially, "Mists of Avalon". She serves by Clockwork Robot Maid in WisCon31 though she is usually an executive in the cafe. This cafe where the women select and admire men and women. She is web master of Japanese association for Gender Fantasy & Science fiction and Cafe Scifi+Tique.

We will open in Nippon 2007 The 65th World Science Fiction Convention on August 30th - September 3rd in Yokohama, Japan!  
More Mad Scientists in white with a pair of glasses and Clockwork Robot Maids will be waiting for you there..

**Program of  
WisCon 31  
(2007)**

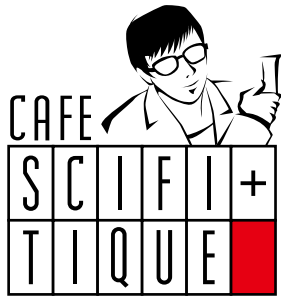




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Nippon2007 @Yokohama (2007)

<http://scifitique.org>

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Nippon2007 @Yokohama (2007)



COMITIA84 @Tokyo (2008)



COMITIA84 @Tokyo (2008)



Nippon2007 @Yokohama (2007)



TOKON10 @Tokyo (2010)



# The G-ken Activities!

## We organized 49th National Science Fiction Convention in Japan Tokon10 (2010 @Tokyo)



The founder and core members

TOKON is a Japanese national convention. At TOKON10, for the first time, the Chair, Manami Tachibana (Madame Robot), and many of the committee were women. Many of the women involved are regular WisCon attendees, and feel that their participation

here had a significant effect. Come hear them discuss TOKON and their involvement.

## The Convention Theme: The Adventure of Cyber Goldfish

Rationale: because the venue was a public facility center in Edogawa-ward (Tokyo), which is well-known for producing fine goldfish

Goldfish is an artificial creature that cannot live in a natural environment. Therefore, femininity as a cyborg is implied. Cyber Goldfish compares to cyborg feminists who live in the world of virtual reality.



## Official Record

- Aug. 7 & 8, 2010
- At Tower Hall Funahori (venue), Edogawa-ward, Funahori
- Total number of attendees 1149
- Total number of guests 270
- Number of plans 168
- Program participants 348
- Details: <http://tokon10.net/>





# How We Japanese Feminist Fans Conquered the Science Fiction Convention

the founder + core members



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Panelists : Mari Kotani, Kazumi Fukushima, Minami Ishigami, Madam Robot, Min Onouchi, Noruma Oyama

Program of  
WisCon 34  
(2011)



Executive Committee:  
Tachibana, Manami  
(aka. Madame Robot)

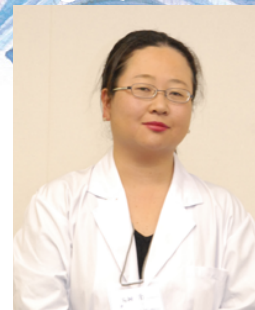
Chief Publicity:  
Kotani, Mari



Accountant:  
Kazumi  
(aka. Geisha Robot)



Planning:  
Ishigami, Minami



Sub-chief Publicity  
Onouchi, Min



Sub-Chief Planning:  
Oyama, Norma  
(Chief Executive)



Location **Conference 3**  
Schedule **Fri, 9:00-10:15 pm**

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**TOKON10**  
<http://tokon10.net/>

**Gender SF** The Japanese Association for Gender Fantasy & Science Fiction  
<http://gender-sf.org/>



# The G-ken Activities!

## Dojinshi (Fanzine)

The Sense of Gender Books Vol.1-4.

The Comments Book of The Sense of Gender Award in every year.



Vol.1 The Tipteer Award Senki (2007)



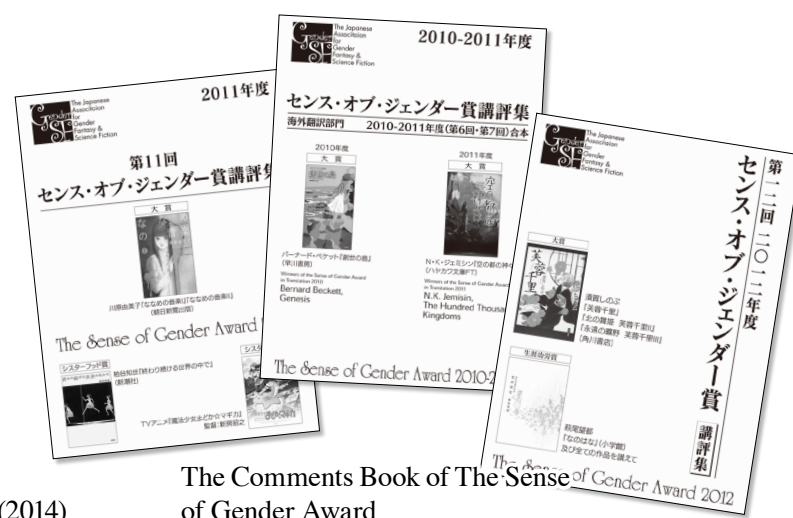
Vol.2 The Sense of Gender Comic Special (2009)



Vol.3 Pat Murphy, The Eradication of Romantic Love / Rachel in Love (2013)



Vol.4 The Age of Sisterhood (2014)



The Comments Book of The Sense of Gender Award

The Japanese Association for Gender Fantasy & Science Fiction

## The Yaoi Con

The Japanese Association for Gender Fantasy & Science Fiction (Gender Study Group or G-ken) holds a panel on the yaoi called “Yao-pane” at the Annual Japan SF Convention. This panel has gained popularity from the attendees. G-ken has been hoping to have another yaoi event for those who cannot afford to come the SF Convention.

“Yaoi-Con” is an event and an accessible space for all the female yaoi fans. Stay tuned for upcoming events!

やおいこん #01	2013年9月29日(日) 11:00~14:00 池袋 カフェ801   ¥2,500   飲み放題つき
須賀しのぶに聞く! コバルト軍隊もの秘話!	

やおいこん #02	2013年12月1日(日) 11:00~14:00 池袋 カフェ801   ¥2,000   ドリンクつき
海外BL・やおい事情最前線! 出演:小谷真理、大串尚代	

やおいこん #03	2014年2月23日(日) 11:00~14:00 池袋 カフェ801   ¥2,000   ドリンクつき
BLやおいおしゃべり茶会 タイバニ語ろう!	

\*Our “Yaoi-Con” is a “different” organization from the YaoiCon in the U.S. We are hoping for future collaboration with them, but at this point we are unable to answer questions regarding the YaoiCon in the U.S. Thank you.