



Hailing the Subject: Visual and Narrative Progression in Nananan's Blue

In Kiriko Nananan's *Blue* (1997), overlooked by many scholars in the field of manga studies, the female characters are continuously hailed by their teacher or each other, obligating them to turn back to acknowledge this Althusserian call. The black-haired heads of female high school students, depicted by inked rounds that overwhelm nearly every frame, are juxtaposed against Nananan's minimalist line drawings and thus impede swift reading progression. Many of these dense patches are the backs or tops of the girls' heads, not their forward-looking faces, thus visually depicting how *Blue's* subjects heed their interpellation *visually* (by turning back to acknowledge the hailing) at the same time that the manga attempts to resist their incorporation *diegetically*.

Prof. Monica Chiu

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*20 Mar, 2014
 (Thursday)
 4:30-6:00pm*

*CRJ-4.36,
 Run Run Shaw
 Tower,
 Centennial
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Monica Chiu is Professor of English at the University of New Hampshire where she teaches Asian American studies and American studies. She is the author of *Filthy Fictions: Asian American Literature by Women, Scrutinized! Surveillance in Asian North American Literature*; editor of *Asian Americans in New England: Culture and Community* and the forthcoming (2014) collection *Drawing New Color Lines: Transnational Asian American Graphic Narratives* (HKUP). In 2011-2012, she was a Fulbright Scholar in the American Studies program at The University of Hong Kong.