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Resisting Analysis: Sexual Desire in Mishima Yukio's *Forbidden Colours*

This paper examines the relationship between Mishima's narrative constructions of desire and contemporary representations of sexual desire, especially same-sex desire, in post-war fiction, medical writing and popular culture, focusing on *Forbidden Colours* (*Kinjiki*, 1951-2). It takes into account the various models of same-sex desire in circulation, in particular those produced by psychiatric and medical discourse, as well as popular descriptions of sexual subcultures in Japanese journalism of the time. It examines the influence of the psychoanalytical account of sexual development on the structure of the narrative and also questions the reliance of critical responses to Mishima's work on this account and its conception of sexuality as a developmental process. A number of critics have described Mishima's fictional output as a development from the homosexual themes of his early works to the heterosexual narratives of his maturity and *Forbidden Colours* has been described as mirroring this development. I suggest that this analysis is a circular argument, by mapping the reliance of the narrative on the Freudian model as well as the text's resistance to the model.

The paper further describes how the focus of contemporary journalistic accounts of same-sex desire on prostitution is reflected in *Forbidden Colours* in the representation of relationships between homosexual characters as defined by exchange. This becomes the model for all sexual relationships in an ironic undermining of ideals of heterosexual love and marriage, echoed in the significance of prostitution as a motif in later novels and in the materialist account of desire which informs Mishima's fiction.