



# Center for Interdisciplinary Studies

## Series on Water 2016-2017

# PONYO:

A film screening and discussion with:  
*Professor Susan Napier*

**Friday, November 18**

**3:00PM-5:30PM**

**Olin Center, Rm 012**

**183 Packard Ave**

**Medford, MA 02155**

*Refreshments will be provided*



**Department of International  
Literary and Cultural Studies**

The Anime Director, The Magical Girl, and the Very Real Tsunami:  
Miyazaki's *Ponyo*

In 2008 the great Japanese animation director Hayao Miyazaki released a film about a magical sea girl named Ponyo who inadvertently causes a vast tidal wave that overwhelms a small fishing village.

Audiences around Japan flocked to see the film enjoying its gorgeous animation, charming characters, and dreamlike scenes of a post-tsunami world. In 2011 an earthquake struck Fukushima Japan causing a gigantic tsunami which in turn touched off a nuclear reactor meltdown.

The terrible coincidence cast a shadow over the film but it also raises some fascinating questions: What is the role of art in dealing with catastrophe? Can the vision of peaceful, largely, post-human ocean suggest a new non-androcentric approach to coping with natural disaster? What do you think? We will show the movie and discuss these questions.



*Co-sponsored by Film and Media Studies*

