Indicating graphic and disturbing cultural productions in Japan’s literature, arts, and film, the expression _eroguro nansensu_ (erotic-grotesque nonsense) was first coined in the 1920’s and came from popular culture. Its “nonsense” aspect reassured government officials and censors that _eroguro_ representations were nothing but harmless -- if improper -- fun. Compatible with formula fictions such as the detective novel, crime stories, and romance fantasies, _eroguro nansensu_ insinuated itself into a diverse array of texts, jazzing up the increasingly serious business of law and order in Japan’s early Showa era. In this talk, Mary Knighton will nod towards Kafka and Poe while discussing the ways in which _eroguro_ sculpts “human insectivity” in two censorious works by Japan’s most well known detective and mystery fiction writer, Edogawa Rampo (1894-1965).