

**Viaggiare per conoscere:  
odeporici nella letteratura licenziosa  
di periodo Edo**

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*Abstract*

*Travel for Knowledge: Travel writings in the licentious literature of the Edo period*

*During the Edo period (1603–1867), Japan experienced the birth and rapid growth of a flourishing and unique travel culture, as well as of a diffused web of pleasure districts and teahouses. In the licentious fiction produced in Kamigata in the 17th century a peculiar relation is restored between travel and knowledge of the way of love, following the classical examples of azuma kudari (journey to the East).*

*This article aims to analyse the transformations of the idea of travel in connection with ars amatoria in the latter part of the 18th century: in these years, in fact, the idea that this particular knowledge can be acquired through journeys to several pleasure quarters is obliterated by a new conception of the way of love, strictly linked with Yoshiwara and its customs. I suggest that this change is deeply related to the birth of a strong urban identity within the culture of Edo.*

**Keywords:** travel literature; Edo period; sharebon; Ihara Saikaku; Yoshiwara.