Abstract: The existing literature of race studies is based mostly on the transatlantic experiences such as slavery and colonization of native Americans, without actively taking into account the experiences of the groups racialized through the discourses on "blood," as in in Japan and other parts of Asia. Such racialized groups, sometimes called "invisible races," have no visible physical differences and have historically co-existed in the same region. They are not unique to Asia but exist in other parts of the world including in Europe and North America. When we examine the Middle Ages, I argue, significant parallels can be found in the discourses surrounding the Kawaramono (Burakumin) in Japan, the "Gypsies" in Romania, and the Jews in Spain. The primary purpose of the presentation is not to make comparisons between these groups per se. It aims to take a first step toward identifying how, and under what conditions, parallel social structures and discourses emerged surrounding groups racialized in this way, each within its own region.

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