
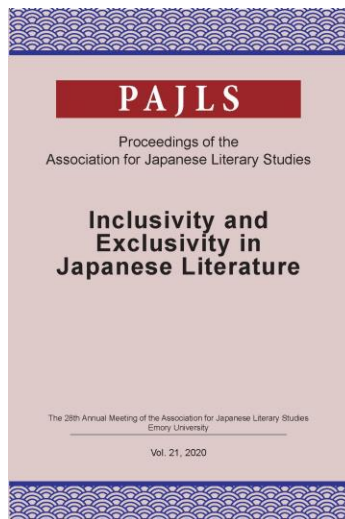


Front matter for *PAJLS* 21:

Including a foreword by Cheryl Crowley 

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MATTHEW FRALEIGH, MANAGING EDITOR

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EDITOR'S FOREWORD

The 28th annual meeting of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies, held January 24–25, 2020, marked the organization's first conference in Atlanta.

Participants considered the conference theme of “Inclusivity and Exclusivity” from a broad range of perspectives. 2020 was the first year of the Reiwa period, a fitting moment to explore the ways in which harmony and discord has shaped Japan's literary and cultural history. From the time of the *Man'yōshū* anthology (source of the Reiwa era name) to the present, both identification with and estrangement from the collective have been prevalent themes in Japanese literature. Speakers at the conference were invited to reflect on the following questions:

How has the dynamic of inclusivity and exclusivity functioned as an enduring focus of literary texts?

How might we relate the processes of inclusion and exclusion to other questions of interest in literary study such as canonicity, periodization, and identity formation (including national, gender and sexuality, and ethnicity)?

What are the stakes involved in drawing boundaries and forging definitions for categories such as center and periphery, or *ga*/high culture and *zoku*/popular culture?

How might we extend these questions into more meta-level issues such as interdisciplinary and cross-regional studies, definitions of Japanese literature, forms engagement with diverse communities, and accessibility of research materials and other resources?

We welcomed 13 panels and 47 presenters. The two keynote speakers were Dr. Robin LeBlanc of Washington and Lee University, who presented on “Thinking About Japan Studies from the Perspective of a Scholar of Medium Privilege,” and Dr. Christina Laffin of the University of British Columbia, who gave a presentation entitled “Cultivating an Inclusive Japanese Literary Studies” and moderated a group discussion. We also enjoyed the performance of the talented Atlanta jazz musicians Fareed Mahluli Quartet.

In the more than two years since the end of the conference and the publication date of this volume, the global academic community has been

faced with the enormous disruption, uncertainty, and grief brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Restrictions on teaching, research, and travel have become commonplace. With that in mind, we are even more grateful to all of those who contributed to the 2020 conference and to the production of this collection of papers.

We thank the Emory Center for Faculty Development and Excellence, the Emory East Asian Studies Program, the Emory Department of Russian and East Asian Studies, and the Emory Hightower Fund for their generosity in funding the conference.

We would also like to express our appreciation to Dr. Ann Sherif of Oberlin and colleagues, for kindness and inspiration.

Finally, we owe sincere gratitude to Managing Editor and AJLS Chair Dr. Matthew Fraleigh of Brandeis University. Thank you for your determination, steadfast leadership, and patience.

Co-Organizers
Cheryl Crowley
Yukari Shinagawa
August 2022