

# AJLS Newsletter

Association for Japanese Literary Studies

No. 41 (Spring, 2015)

Edited by Eiji Sekine

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## The 24th Annual Meeting

The Senses and Sensory Experience  
in Japanese Literature and Culture

October 8-10, 2015

University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

### Call for Papers

The University of Illinois will host the 24th Conference of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies at the Urbana Champaign Campus on October 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The theme of this year's conference will be, "The Senses and Sensory Experience in Japanese Literature and Culture." We encourage participants to submit either full panel proposals or individual paper proposals on topics related to this theme. Graduate students are especially welcome. Presentations may be delivered in either English or Japanese.

Possible topics could include: the five senses in pre-modern Japanese narrative; sound and visuality in poetry and performing arts; the senses in religious and spiritual practices; sensory deprivation (including blindness and deafness); the visual and haptic in Japanese culture; mixed media in traditional and modern arts; synesthesia; the sensory experience and the modern city; senses and avant-garde literature; and Japanese aesthetics and the senses.

The deadline for submission of paper and panel proposals will be **June 30, 2015**. Paper proposals should be no longer than 250 words; panel proposals should also include a 300-word description of the panel.

Proposals may be submitted at our website: <http://ajls.eaps.illinois.edu>

### 2014 Meeting Report

The Center for East Asian Studies at Western Washington University hosted the 23rd Meeting of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies on October 10-11, 2014. The Conference was chaired by CEAS director Dr. Massimiliano Tomasi.

The conference explored the intersections between literature and the realms of spirituality and religion. We had approximately forty research presentations culminating in the keynote address by Professor Miyasaka Satoru (Former President of Ferris University, and President, International Society for Akutagawa Ryunosuke Studies) titled "Religion and Spirituali-

ty in Modern Japanese Literature.” Panels covered such topics as “Renditions of Christianity in Modern Japanese Literature,” “Demonology, Divination and Supernatural Abductions,” and “Metaphorical Representations of the Sacred,” and included a feature panel presentation in which Professor Miyasaka was joined Prof. Tsuboi (International Research Center for Japanese Studies, Kyoto) in a roundtable discussion that was moderated by Prof. Eiji Sekine of Purdue University.

The conference provided an excellent opportunity to address the dialectic of literature and religion, discuss how spiritual and religious experiences have engendered literature across time, and debate how negotiations between the spiritual and literary domains may have led to forms of coherent discourse on the divine and the afterlife.

It was an extremely stimulating and productive meeting. The participation of a diverse group of researchers and a substantial presence of international scholars enriched the content of the conference beyond expectations.

### **AJLS Activities**

**Please join us or renew your membership regularly. Our publications solely depend on your membership dues.**

#### **• Annual Meeting**

An annual meeting is organized by an elected Conference Chair(s) and held at the host institution. A call for papers is announced in the spring issue of the AJLS Newsletter. A program of the meeting is published in the fall issue of the Newsletter.

#### **• PAJLS Publication**

Papers presented during the annual

meeting can be included in an officially registered serial titled PAJLS (Proceedings of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies).

#### **• Membership**

The annual fee is \$30.00 for regular, student, and institution members (\$40.00 for overseas members outside North America). Membership provides you with:

- Panel participation for our annual meeting (if your proposal is selected).
- Two newsletters
- One copy of our latest proceedings.
- One free copy of a back or additional current issue of the proceedings if you are a student member.

Inquiries and orders (with checks payable to AJLS) should be sent to the AJLS office.

**All annual meeting participants must become members in order to present.**

### **Proceedings Back Issues**

Our 2012 OSU conference proceedings (PAJLS, vol. 14), and 2013 U of Chicago conference proceedings (PAJLS, vol. 15) have been published. Our 2011 Tufts U conference proceedings (PAJLS, vol. 13), will be published this year. Each back issue is \$10.00 for AJLS members and \$15.00 for non-members. Orders should be sent to the AJLS office. (Add \$15 for mailing if you order from outside the North American area.) Tables of contents of our back issues are posted on our association site: [www.cla.purdue.edu/slc/AJLS](http://www.cla.purdue.edu/slc/AJLS).

The following back issues are available:

- Poetics of Japanese Literature, 1993
- Revisionism in Japanese Literary Studies, PMAJLS 2, 1996
- The New Historicism and Japanese

- Issues of Canonization and Canon Formation in Japanese Literary Studies, PAJLS 1, 2000
- *Japan from Somewhere Else*, PAJLS 3, 2002
- *Japanese Poeticity and Narrativity Revisited*, PAJLS 4, 2003
- *Hermeneutical Strategies*, PAJLS 5, 2004
- *Landscapes Imagined and Remembered* PAJLS 6, 2005
- *Reading Materials*, PAJLS 7, 2006
- *Travel in Japanese Representational Culture*, PAJLS 8, 2007
- *Literature and Literary Theory*, PAJLS 9, 2008
- *Parody*, PAJLS 10, 2009
- *Rethinking Gender in the Postgender Era*, PAJLS 11, 2010
- *Rhetoric and Region*, PAJLS 14, 2013
- *Performance and Japanese Literature*, PAJLS 15, 2014

Pennsylvania State University will host our 2016 meeting. We are looking for host institutions for 2017 and later conferences.

AJLS Newsletter Sponsor: SLC, Purdue University

**PAPER/PANEL PROPOSAL FORM**  
The Senses and Sensorial Experience  
**DEADLINE: June 30, 2015**

**Title (Panel or Paper):**

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**Name (Moderator or Panelist):**

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**Status:**

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**Institution:**

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**Ad-  
dress:**

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**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach your proposal to this form and send to the conference website: <http://ajls.ceaps.illinois.edu>.

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