

AJLS Newsletter

Association for Japanese Literary Studies

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<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/fll/AJLS/> (website)

The 25th Annual Meeting

Word/Image/Japan

October 27-30, 2016

Pennsylvania State University

Call for Papers

The AJLS (Association for Japanese Literary Studies) conference theme for the 2016 conference to be held at the **Pennsylvania State University October 27-30, 2016** is "**word/image/japan.**"

This conference encourages papers linking Visual and Cultural Studies, broadly conceived, with Japanese literary studies. From the early adoption of the Sinographic script to the cultivation of e-maki, or from classical calligraphic traditions that meld textual form with visual aesthetics to the global popularity of manga and animation today, the long history of association between word and image in Japan renders Japanese cultural material a key case for bringing to light the intertwined roles of linguistic and visual aesthetics in signification. Signification is not simply about the meaning making that occurs between producer and receiver, but also about the complex ways in which visual and textual materials transform cultural interactions, sculpt world views, and provide material locales for the formation of individual identity and of social groups.

The changing scope of "Japan" as concept, critical method, generative matrix, identitarian site, and material locale is today an object of vital scholarly concern. For this reason, as something of a departure from AJLS's historical focus on Japanese literature from Japan, *we would also like to invite submissions from colleagues working on word/image relations in Japanese immigrant and diasporic cultures, in addition to Japan-specific scholarship.*

The material forms of play between word and image abound. A short list of forms might include film, scrolls, manga, anime, photography, video games, oil painting, prints (*hanga/shunga*), *emaki*, *akahon*, *nishiki-e*, interlingual translation, and so on. Word and image interplay can also be a core component of less material forms, such as music, drama, advertising, protest, and the performances of everyday life (as

in performances of race, ethnicity, gender, class, or religion.)

The organizers solicit individual paper proposals as well as panel proposals designed to stimulate productive discussions across boundaries of medium, historical period, and institution. And we encourage innovative modes of scholarly presentation. (Though the traditional 3 speakers at 20 minutes each followed by discussion format is just fine, if you have an idea for a different format you would like to try, please contact the members of the organizing committee.)

The deadline for submitting paper and panel proposal abstracts is May 15, 2016. Individual paper abstracts should be no more than 300 words in length. Likewise panel proposals should limit the panel description to 300 words (with paper abstracts for the panel limited to 300 words.)

Please send paper proposals, as well as inquiries, to the program committee at AJLS2016@psu.edu. More information will be available on the conference webpage: <http://asian.la.psu.edu/news-alumni/ajls-2016-at-penn-state>.

Paper/Panel Proposal Form

word/image/japan

DEADLINE: May 15, 2016

Title (Panel or Paper):

Name (Moderator or Panelist):

Status:

Institution:

Address:

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail:

Please attach your proposal to this form and send to the program committee: AJLS2016@psu.edu.

2015 Meeting Report

The 24th Annual Meeting of AJLS was held on the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign on October 9th to 10th, 2015. The theme of the meeting was "The Senses and Sensory Experience in Japanese Literature and Culture." The meeting featured twelve panels with forty-five paper presenters. More than sixty proposals were submitted in response to the call for papers. To encourage

participation by younger scholars, the organizing committee aimed to achieve a balance of graduate students and non-tenured faculty together with senior scholars. Panels dealt with all five senses in Japanese literature, film and performing arts as well as the larger religious, aesthetic, philosophical, and historical issues related to human sensory experience. Intellectually stimulating and wide-ranging, they were almost evenly split between modern and premodern periods.

On Friday evening, participants took part in a demonstration of the Japanese art of incense organized by Kiyoko Morita, author of *The Book of Incense* and Masataka Hata, President, Shoyeido Incense Co. The event, titled "An Intangible Sense: The Art of Incense Demonstration," was held at the Japan House on the University of Illinois campus and was followed by a reception. On the last night of the conference, Aaron Gerow, professor of Film and Media Studies and East Asian Languages and Literatures at Yale University, delivered a keynote lecture on *Kawabata and Cinema: The Ambivalence of Knowledge, Medium, and Influence*.

The logistics and organization, as well as substantial funding for this meeting, was provided by the university's Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies. We also received generous grants from the School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics in the University of Illinois' College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as well as the Japan Foundation, New York office. We are grateful for co-sponsorships from the Center for Translation Studies, the Program of Comparative and World Literature and the East Asian Languages and Cultures Department. We would like to express our appreciation to Japan House for hosting Friday's incense ceremony and reception.

A proceedings volume for the AJLS Annual Meeting 2015 will be published later this year.

Will You Host our 2017 Meeting?

From 2018 we have three host institutions in line: University of California, Berkeley for 2018, Emory University for 2019, and University of California, Los Angeles for 2020. conference and University of California, Los Angeles will be our 2019 meeting host. We are still looking for host institution for 2017.

If you are interested in hosting our meeting, please contact Professor Ann Sherif at: ann.sherif@oberlin.edu.

AJLS Activities

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

We are renewing our membership database. Please resubmit your email address even if you are already a member.

• 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.

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

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

- 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.

Name: _____

Country _____ Zip _____

Institution: _____

() Regular () Student

If you are a student, indicate which free copy you would like:

Our 2011 Tufts conference proceedings, *Poetics of Ageing* (PAJLS, vol. 13), was published last year. The proceedings of the Western Washington University conference, *Religion and Spirituality in Japanese Literature* (PAJLS, vol.16), and that

of the University of Illinois conference, *The Senses and Sensory Experience in Japanese Literature and Culture* (PAJLS, vol. 17), 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 web site: <http://www.cla.purdue.edu/slc/ajls/>.

Here is the list of our back issues (those issues marked with an asterisk are unavailable):

Poetics of Japanese Literature, 1993. Includes keynote addresses by Kawamoto Kōji and Watanabe Kenji.

* *The Desire for Monogatari*, 1994.

* *Japanese Theatricality and Performance*, PMAJLS 1, 1995.

Revisionism in Japanese Literary Studies, PMAJLS 2, 1996. Includes a keynote address by Earl Miner and a major address by Takahashi Tōru.

* *Ga/ Zoku Dynamics in Japanese Literature*, PMAJLS 3, 1997.

The New Historicism and Japanese Literary Studies, PMAJLS 4, 1998. Includes keynote addresses by Karatani Kōjin and Komori Yōichi.

Love and Sexuality in Japanese Literature, PMAJLS 5, 1999. Includes keynote addresses by Saeki Junko and Inaga Shigemi.

Issues of Canonicity and Canon Formation in Japanese Literary Studies, PAJLS 1, 2000. Includes keynote addresses by Kubota Jun, Takahashi Mutsuo, and Suzuki Sadami.

* *Acts of Writing*, PAJLS 2, 2001. Includes keynote addresses by Zdenka Avarcova and Ohsawa Yoshihiro.

Japan from Somewhere Else, PAJLS 3, 2002. Includes essays by Tawada Yoko, Ito Hiromi, Kyoko Mori, and other creative writers.

Japanese Poeticity and Narrativity Revisited, PAJLS 4, 2003. Includes keynote addresses by Mizuta Noriko and Yoshimasu Gōzō.

Hermeneutical Strategies: Methods of Interpretation in the Study of Japanese Literature, PAJLS 5, 2004. Includes keynote addresses by Fujita Masakatsu and Matsumoto Yūji.

Landscapes Imagined and Remembered, PAJLS 6, 2005. Includes a keynote address by Nakahodo Masanori.

Reading Materials: The Production of Narratives, Genres, and Literary Identities, PAJLS 7, 2006. Includes a keynote address by Jordan Sand.

Travel in Japanese Representational Culture: Its Past, Present, and Future, PAJLS 8, 2007. Includes a keynote address by Yoshiaki Shimizu.

Literature and Literary Theory, PAJLS 9, 2008. Includes a keynote address by Minae Mizumura.

Parody, PAJLS 10, 2009. Includes a keynote address by Noriko Yamashita.

* *Rethinking Gender in the Postgender Era*, PAJLS 11, 2010. Includes keynote addresses by Noriko Mizuta and Susan Napier.

* *Technology and Japanese Literary, Film and Performance Studies*, PAJLS 12, 2011 (unpublished).

The Poetics of Ageing: Confronting, Resisting, and Transcending Mortality in the Japanese Narrative Arts, PAJLS 13, 2012.

Rhetoric and Region: Local Determinants of literary Expression, PAJLS 14, 2013. Includes a keynote address by Suzuki Sadami.

Performance and Japanese Literature, PAJLS 15, 2014.

Religion and Spirituality in Japanese Literature, PAJLS 16 (forthcoming).

The Senses and Sensory Experience in Japanese Literature and Culture, PAJLS 17 (forthcoming).

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