

AJLS Newsletter

Association for Japanese Literary Studies

No. 45 (Spring, 2017)

Edited by Eiji Sekine

AJLS • Purdue University • 640 Oval Drive • W. Lafayette • IN 47907-2039 • USA
765.496.2258 (Tel) • 765.496.1700 (FAX) • esekine@purdue.edu (E-mail)
<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/fli/AJLS/> (website)

The 26th Annual Meeting

Violence, Justice, & Honor in Japan's Literary Cultures

February 16 & 17, 2018
Oberlin College

Call for Papers

Oberlin College will host the 26th Annual Conference of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies on February 16 & 17, 2018. The theme of this year's conference will be "Violence, Justice, & Honor in Japan's Literary Cultures."

Violence—war and violence elsewhere in society—is rarely separated from Japan's literary and cultural histories. Violence has also proved polysemic, highly mutable in its occurrences, meanings, and effects, at the intersection of literature and social justice, or claims to honor. Violent manifestations in literature and other cultural fields may discredit—or sanction—forms of bodily, ecological, and psychological harm. The aim of this interdisciplinary conference is to re-examine our ethical, imaginative, political, and creative engagements with violence in expressive cultures.

This conference makes an attempt to go beyond descriptive representations of violent narratives, and to explore instead internal mechanisms and external effects of violence in expressive arts and cultural production. How is violence translated and transposed into such fields of cultural production as literature, music, performance, and visual arts? How do these fields envision their target audience? In Japan's cultures, how have justice and honor been invoked in relation to violence?

We invite proposals from scholars of modern, early modern and classical literature interested in the ways that violence as a trope has occupied a space in Japanese literary cultures and contributed to a national literature, between honor and social justice, between unity and fragmentation.

This conference encourages historically and culturally grounded contributions, but also metaphorical and theoretical understandings, such as:

- Slow violence such as climate change happening slowly and invisibly (Nixon)
- Ethical spectatorship of cultural practices centering on violence (Kozol)
- Violence inflicted by rhetorical weapons
- Politics of resistance; violence against those who stand up for justice (Barber)
- Pacifism, non-violence and the postwar constitution
- Deployment of force in regulation of *deviance* & at sites of cultural difference
- Affective structures of trauma and pain
- Political violence, physical violence, state sanctioned violence,
- Aestheticization of violence

The organizers hope especially to encourage reflection on literary scholarship and to welcome presentations that address issues of pedagogy. We envision this meeting not only as a venue for presenting research, but also as an opportunity to reconsider productive approaches to crossing disciplinary boundaries and remaining within those boundaries while mindful of diverse audiences. Throughout, we hope to provide a forum in which to share best practices in research and teaching of Japanese literature. Presentations can be either in English or Japanese.

The organizers invite panel or individual paper proposals designed to stimulate productive discussions across boundaries of genre and historical period. The deadline for submitting paper proposal abstracts (300 words or less) is **July 17, 2017**. Please submit paper proposals on the conference webpage and send inquiries to the program committee at ajls18@oberlin.edu.

Oberlin College is located 25 minutes from Cleveland Hopkins Airport near Cleveland, Ohio. For more information & to propose a paper, please see the webpage: <http://languages.oberlin.edu/blogs/ajlsfeb2018conference/>

Paper/Panel Proposal Form

Violence, Justice, & Honor in Japan's Literary Cultures

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 at ajls18@oberlin.edu.

2016 Meeting Report

The annual conference of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies focused on the topic of “word/image/Japan.” Approximately 90 people attended the three-day conference at The Pennsylvania State University, held October 27-29, 2016.

John Whittier Treat (Professor Emeritus, Yale U) and Ayelet Zohar (Professor, Tel Aviv U) delivered a pair of thought-provoking keynote speeches, with Dr. Treat’s comments focusing on economies of entanglement, visualized in the form of collections of debris from the 3.11 earthquake washing up on the north-west coast of the United States. Dr. Zohar’s talk “Re-enacting the Past, Performing Recollection: Kamikaze Images in Contemporary Japanese Cinema and Koizumi Meiro’s Video Art” combined the perspectives of critic and curator to explore the affective work of memory performed in and through word-image art forms.

Forty-seven scholars, hailing from across North America, Japan, Europe and Brazil, presented their current research. The organizing committee received a large number of high quality proposals and, in order to accommodate as many presenters as possible, we decided to run two concurrent sessions throughout the day on Friday and Saturday. In addition to several panels on Edo era arts, contemporary remediations of classical literature, modern film and anime, we highlighted a handful of panels that brought Asian and Asian-American materials into conversation with one another: a panel on race and ethnicity, another on contemporary activism, and a third on Japan in Latin America. Increasing dialogue between Asian area studies and Ethnic Studies is one of the long-term goals of many of us working at Penn State, and so the conference also featured a presentation from Tina Chen, senior editor of our journal *Verge: Studies in Global Asias*.

Capping off the weekend, Yoko Hiraoka (samisen and koto) and Ralph Samuelson (shakuhachi) joined us for a performance of *sankyoku*, accompanied by an illustrated lecture detailing the intersections of visual and sound culture in Heian-era Japan.

Approximately a dozen participants submitted drafts for publication in the Proceedings, which is now being edited for publication by the end of the year.

We would like to express our gratitude for all those who participated in the conference and who helped make our time together both productive and enjoyable. We would also like to thank a number of organizations who supported the conference: Penn State’s Department of Asian Studies, Department of Comparative Literature, and Center for Global Studies, as well as the Northeast Asia Council. Penn State AJLS Conference Committee: Charlotte Eubanks, Jonathan E. Abel, Reiko Tachibana, & Ran Zwigenberg.

Will You Host our 2021 Meeting or later?

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.

If you are interested in hosting our meeting in 2021 or later, 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.

- **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**

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).

- **Membership**

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:

- 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.

AJLS Membership Form

Name: _____

Mailing Address:

City _____ State _____

Country _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

Institution: _____

Status:

() Regular () Student

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

Proceedings Back Issues

Both our University of Illinois conference proceedings, *The Senses and Sensory Experience in Japanese Literature and Culture* (PAJLS, vol. 17) and our Penn State Univ. conference proceedings, *Word/Image/Japan* (PAJLS, vol. 18), 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, 2015.

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

Word/ Image/Japan, [PAJLS](#) 18 (forthcoming)

AJLS Newsletter Sponsor: SLC, Purdue University