

AJLS Newsletter

Association for Japanese Literary Studies

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Edited by Eiji Sekine

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The 27th Annual Meeting

Past, Present, and Future: Evidence, Transmission, and Inheritance in Japanese Literature and Media

September 6-8, 2018

University of California, Berkeley

Call for Papers

The AJLS (Association for Japanese Literary Studies) conference theme for the 2018 conference to be held at the University of California, Berkeley September 6-8, 2018, is "Past, Present, and Future: Evidence, Transmission and Inheritance in Japanese Literature and Media." The organizing committee seeks papers that address the history and theory of Japanese literature and media with a special attention to the ways in which writers have grappled with the problems of evidence, transmission and inheritance and how these problems continue to renew and complicate the relation between the past, present and future.

From questions surrounding lines of hermeneutic authority in secret transmission and early textual scholarship, to the emergence of new modes of inquiry in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries based on models from late imperial China and early modern Europe, to the anxieties surrounding fears over the loss of cultural authority at various moments of rupture (both political and seismic) across the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, Japanese literature has been centrally preoccupied with the past and the future—how it can be known and transmitted—as well as with anxieties over forgery, inauthenticity, and cultural loss.

- What are the different types of evidence? When does evidence need persuasion? When does it become a symptom?
- How might evidence encode reading practices? How do reading practices create evidence?
- What constitutes evidence in Buddhist texts? What is the relationship between evidence and Buddhist doctrinal truth? What is scriptural evidence?

- How do texts function as historical evidence? How do they foreshadow the future? How might evidence endure across generations and speak to the future?

We seek papers that address the broad thematic and epistemic concerns of the conference, relating to any time period in Japanese literary and media history, and we are especially interested in papers that engage cognate disciplines such as art, religious, and intellectual history or that seek to understand these questions in ways that engage media beyond strictly the literary or written record.

The deadline for submitting paper and panel proposal abstracts is April 15, 2018. Proposals for individual papers should be no more than 300 words in length and contain the presenter's name and institutional affiliation. Likewise proposals for panels of three to four papers and a discussant should limit the panel description to 300 words and contain a separate abstract for each paper (300 words). Panel proposals should be sent as a single, combined file. All proposals should be submitted in pdf format.

Please send paper proposals, as well as inquiries, to ajlsberkeley2018@gmail.com

Paper/Panel Proposal Form

Past, Present, and Future: Evidence, Transmission, and Inheritance in Japanese Literature and Media

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 ajlsberkeley2018@gmail.com.

Will You Host our 2023 Meeting or later?

From 2019 we have four host institutions in line: Emory University for 2019, University of California, Los Angeles for 2020, Rutgers University for 2021, and University of Pittsburgh for 2022.

If you are interested in hosting our meeting in 2023 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), were published last 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, 2016.

Word/ Image/Japan, PAJLS 18, 2017.

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