

AJLS Newsletter

Association for Japanese Literary Studies

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Edited by Matthew Fraleigh

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Plans for the 29th Annual Meeting

Greetings. I hope that you are managing to maintain good health and spirits during these challenging times. Over the course of this spring and summer, Ann Sherif and I met with the organizers of the upcoming AJLS conferences (at UCLA, Rutgers, and University of Pittsburgh) to consider how best to adjust our plans in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the limits it has imposed on travel and in-person gatherings. We came to the difficult decision to postpone the 29th annual meeting of AJLS, which was originally scheduled to be held at UCLA in the spring of 2021.

The conference committee at UCLA (Torquil Duthie, Michael Emmerich, Seiji Lippit, Satoko Shimazaki, and Junko Yamazaki) has proposed to instead organize some limited online programming during this academic year that will allow members to participate remotely. The idea is that these online events might serve as a prelude to an in-person gathering at UCLA, which they are hopeful can take place during the 2021–22 academic year. The theme that the UCLA committee has decided upon is “Turning Points.” While they in fact chose this theme late last year, it seems an especially appropriate choice at this juncture. More information about their plans will be forthcoming in coming weeks.

The organizers of subsequent annual conferences at Rutgers and University of Pittsburgh have agreed to delay their conferences by one year, with Rutgers in 2022–23 and University of Pittsburgh in 2023–24.

As the 2020–21 academic year begins, I hope you will take a moment to renew your membership, which is easy to do using this [link](#). While the delay of an in-person conference this year is disappointing, it is exciting to think about how we might continue to engage with one another online. I am also pleased to report that the publication of *PAJLS* 19 is imminent, that *PAJLS* 20 will follow closely on its heels, and that a digital archive of *PAJLS* back issues is now available [online](#).

Best wishes for the coming year,
Matthew Fraleigh

Report on 28th Annual Meeting at Emory

The 28th annual conference of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies was held at Emory University in Atlanta, GA on January 24–25, 2020 at the Emory Conference Center Hotel. The theme was “Inclusivity and Exclusivity in Japanese Literature” and the conference was sponsored by Emory University Conference Center Subvention Fund, Emory University Russian and East Asian Studies Department, and the Emory University East Asian Studies Program.

There were 49 papers presented on 13 panels. Participants came from near and far, including Brazil, India, and Japan in addition to the United States and Canada. Professor Robin LeBlanc of Washington and Lee University gave a thought-provoking keynote address entitled “Thinking About Japan Studies from the Perspective of a Scholar of Medium Privilege.” On the second day, Professor Christina Laffin of University of British Columbia facilitated a wide-ranging plenary meeting that encouraged participants to reflect on the theme of “inclusivity and exclusivity” in relation to scholarly practice.

Thanks to the careful planning of conference organizer, Professor Cheryl Crowley, and the assistance of Yukari Shinagawa, the conference was a great success.

Conference Website: <https://scholarblogs.emory.edu/ajls2020/>

Update on *Proceedings of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies*

Good news! The 19th issue of *Proceedings of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies* will be published within the next week or two. Edited by Ann Sherif, the volume is titled *Violence, Justice, and Honor in Japan's Literary Cultures* and gathers papers presented at the Oberlin conference in 2018. Preparations are nearly complete to print the volume. We expect to mail it to current members in October.

The Table of Contents is as follows:

Editor's Foreword

Ann Sherif

Resisting & Remembering the Slow Violence of Radiation in Japan

「ヒロシマ」を語る音楽

Music as Another Storyteller of Hiroshima

Notohara Yumi

不屈の芸術：東京裁判での丸木俊

The Art of Persistence: Maruki Toshi and the Tokyo War Crime Trials

Charlotte Eubanks

静かな春と「原爆の図」

A Quiet Spring: *The Hiroshima Panels* in 2020

Okamura Yukinori

The Presence of Absence: Toward an Ethics of Exile as Resistance to Violence After Fukushima

Yuki Miyamoto

Aestheticization of Violence

Compassionate Violence? The Aestheticization of Violence in the *Taima-dera jikkai-zu byōbu*
Monika Dix

When Elegance Becomes Inconvenient: Violence in Word and Deed in Nijō Yoshimoto's *Ojima no kuchizusami* (Solace of Words at Ojima)
Kendra Strand

Violence in Traditional Japanese Literary Contexts

Kenreimon'in Ukyō no Daibu shū: The Experience of the Genpei War and the Work's Reception During WWII
Naomi Fukumori

The *Bunbu* Paradigm Reconsidered: Warrior Literacy and Symbolic Violence in Late Medieval Japan
Pier Carlo Tommasi

Mythic Representations of the Violent Vanquishing of Izumo
Richard Torrance

Violence Against Monks in Shabby Stoles: Justice and Punishment in *Nihon ryōiki*
Shih-Wei Sun

Bodily Violence in Modern Japanese Literature

Consumption, Violence, and Bodily Expression in Contemporary Japanese Art
Faye Yuan Kleeman

Mystery and Melodrama in Kim Nae-Sōng's "The Oval Mirror"
Quillon Arkenstone

The Body and War: Violence in the Work of Playwright and Novelist Kara Jūrō
Higuchi Yoshizumi

Family Disrupted

A Daughter's Search For "Mother" in *Ai o kou hito* (A Person Begging for Love)
Hiromi Tsuchiya Dollase

Destroy the Family, Save the Empire: The Bizarre Rhetoric of Mobilization Propaganda, 1937–45
Sharalyn Orbaugh

Translating Family Violence in Contemporary Japanese Literature: Dynamics of (Cruel) Affectivity in *Zangyakuki* by Kirino Natsuo
Paola Scrolavezza

Proletarian Responses to Class Violence

Toward Comradely “Personhood”: Matsuda Tokiko’s “Another Battlefield” Defying Environmental and Sexual Harms, Poverty, and War in the Workplace (1932)
Norma Field

Shattering the Innocence Narrative: Depictions of Violence in Proletarian Children’s Literature
Mika Endo

Colonial Violence in Proletarian Literature: Chang Hyök-Chu’s “Hell of The Starving”
Heather Bowen-Struyk

On Proletarian Literatures, Past and Future
Nathan Shockey

The Violence of Empire

Violence, Assimilation and Otherness in Colonial Manchuria
Kimberly Kono

Speaking Violence in a Repatriation Novel: Miyao Tomiko’s *Shuka*
Michiko Suzuki

Bodies and Violence in the Musha Incident
Robert Tierney

About the Contributors

Future *PAJLS* volumes

Past, Present, and Future: Evidence, Transmission, and Inheritance in Japanese Literature and Media (*PAJLS*, vol. 20), which gathers papers from the 27th annual meeting of AJLS at the University of California Berkeley in September 2018, is currently being edited by Matthew Mewhinney and should be published before long.

Digital Archive for *PAJLS*

More good news! The complete contents of *PAJLS*, around 400 articles in 17 printed volumes, has been digitized and made available online. Brandeis University Library has agreed to host the digital files in perpetuity in its institutional repository. The articles can be freely browsed or downloaded.

On [this page](#), the covers of our back issues are displayed. Click on a volume and you will be taken to a detailed listing of the contents of that volume. Click on an article of interest and you will be taken to that article in a PDF viewer.

In connection with the digitization project, we are trying to reach a few contributors; if you have contact information for any of the following individuals, please send an email to ajls@brandeis.edu:

Robert Omar Khan
Junko Ikezu Williams
Mitsuko Tanaka
Helen Weetman
Tsutsumi Harue

藤田正勝 Fujita Masakatsu
松村雄二 Matsumura Yūji
宮崎紗英子 Miyazaki Saeko
Robin Tierney

AJLS ACTIVITIES

Please join us or renew your membership regularly. It is easy to renew your membership (or join AJLS for the first time). Just visit our [membership page](#) and complete the form with your name and contact information. You can then pay the annual membership dues (for the 2020–21 academic year) using the Paypal link that appears beneath the form or by mailing a check made out to AJLS to the address that appears on the above page.

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 (electronic publication)
- 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.

UPCOMING AJLS ANNUAL MEETINGS

As discussed above, the University of California, Los Angeles is planning to host an in-person conference in the 2021–22 academic year and will organize online events during the current academic year that lead up to this gathering. Rutgers University will host the conference in 2022–23, and University of Pittsburgh in 2023–24.

If you are interested in hosting our meeting in 2024 or later, please contact Professor Ann Sherif at: ann.sherif@oberlin.edu.

PROCEEDINGS BACK ISSUES

Each back issue is \$10.00 for AJLS members and \$15.00 for non-members. Orders should be sent to the AJLS office (or by emailing ajls@brandeis.edu). (Add \$20 for mailing if you order from outside the North American area.) Tables of contents of our back issues are posted on our association [website](#).

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. Includes a keynote address by Miyasaka Satoru.

The Senses and Sensory Experience in Japanese Literature and Culture, PAJLS 17, 2016.

**Word/ Image/Japan*, PAJLS 18, 2017.