

AJLS Newsletter

Association for Japanese Literary Studies

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Edited by Matthew Fraleigh

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Looking Ahead to the 29th Annual Meeting

Greetings. I hope that the academic year is winding down on a good note for you.

As you will recall, the 29th annual meeting of AJLS, which was originally scheduled to be held at UCLA in the spring of 2021, has been postponed to spring of 2022. The conference committee at UCLA (Torquil Duthie, Michael Emmerich, Seiji Lippit, Satoko Shimazaki, and Junko Yamazaki) has chosen the theme of “Turning Points” for the conference.

As a prelude to the in-person event they are planning to hold in Los Angeles next spring, they organized two roundtable conversations that took place online earlier this spring:

Roundtable 1

Michael Bourdaghs (University of Chicago)
David Lurie (Columbia University)
Vyjayanthi Selinger (Bowdoin College)
Satoko Shimazaki (UCLA)

Moderated by Torquil Duthie (UCLA)

Roundtable 2

Will Bridges (University of Rochester)
Seiji Lippit (UCLA)
Mimi Long (UC Irvine)
Sharalyn Orbaugh (UBC)

Moderated by Michael Emmerich (UCLA)

These two conversations, each of which is about two hours in length, can be viewed on the [conference website](#). These conversations are intended as a stimulating jumping-off point and will also serve as the “call for papers” for the conference, which will be held May 12–14, 2022.

As the 2020–21 academic year comes to an end, I hope you will take a moment to renew your membership, which is easy to do using this [link](#).

Best wishes for the summer,

Matthew Fraleigh

29th Annual Meeting, UCLA, Spring 2022: “Turning Points”

By “turning points” we mean historical moments of deep social and cultural transformation in which available forms of linguistic and literary expression are perceived as no longer adequate to describe new realities. Examples of such turning points include, but are not necessarily limited to, the founding of the early Japanese state and the production of the earliest extant mythological and literary texts in the early eighth century, the Genpei Wars in the late twelfth century and their aftermath, the founding of the Tokugawa shogunate and the development of urban print culture in the seventeenth century, the Meiji Restoration and the establishment of industrial capitalism, the postwar aftermath of empire, post-3/11 literature, and, perhaps, our present moment of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In its broadest sense, the conference theme asks what the relationship is between literature and historical change in Japan. More specifically, it asks how literary texts respond to and participate in moments of historical rupture in which the future appears uncertain. How, in the process of representing crisis, do literary texts articulate different kinds of social identities and envision alternative forms of collectivity? How do literary texts shape the transformation of people’s sense of social reality at certain historical moments? And last but not least, what role does literary writing play in the historical representation of certain moments of the past as “turning points”?

In addition to these and other questions, the conference also welcomes reflections on our present moment as a turning point in the field and on how we might imagine the future of Japanese literary studies.

Our actual “call for papers” takes the form of two roundtable conversations on the conference theme, which you can watch using the links on the [conference website](#).

Please email proposals for panels or individual papers to AJLS2022UCLA@gmail.com by September 22, 2021.

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

Good news! The 20th issue of *Proceedings of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies* is currently being printed and should be arriving in mailboxes soon. Edited by Matthew Mewhinney, the volume is titled *Evidence, Transmission, and Inheritance in Japanese Literature and Media* and gathers papers presented at the Berkeley conference in Fall 2018.

The Table of Contents of *PAJLS* vol. 20 is as follows:

Editor's Foreword

Matthew Mewhinney

Keynote Addresses

Aerial Archives: American-Occupied Japan
Etsuko Taketani

Inheriting Books: Overseas Bookstores, Distributors, and Their Networks
Yoshitaka Hibi

The Poetics of Allusion

Skies of Desire: *Honkadori* Allusion and Atmospheric Images in *Shinkokinshū*-era Waka
Bonnie McClure

Identification with or Distance from Chinese Poetry? "Chinese-Style" *Haikai* by Bashō's Circle
Kai Xie

Evincing Women of the Past

Trouble All Around: Ichijō Kaneyoshi and Women's Authority
Linda H. Chance

Transmitting Myth and Magic: Early Modern Adaptations of the Dōjōji Legend in Jōruri Puppet Plays
Shiho Takai

Encoding and Transmitting Gender: The Star Persona of Hara Setsuko
Kelly Hansen

Intermedial and Intertextual Evidence

Performative Citation and Allusion in Matsuura Rieko's *Oyayubi P no shugyō jidai*: Interrogating Matsuura's Inheritances
Joanne Quimby

Fate, Transmission and the Boy Named Crow in Murakami's *Kafka on the Shore*
Michele Eduarda Brasil de Sá

The Intersection of Advertising, Poetry, and Media: Amano Yūkichi's Critical Analysis of Japan's 1980s
Yoshihiro Yasuhara

Transmissions Beyond the Text

Material Form, Genre, and Reception: The Case of Setouchi Harumi's "Kashin"
Luciana Sanga

Adaptation of the Tokyo Trial: Reading Kinoshita Junji's *Between God and Man*
Younglong Kim

Evidence of the Past in Narration

Evidence in Heian Buddhist *Kundokugo* Narration
John Bundschuh

Evincing Experience: Lyric in Natsume Sōseki's *Recollecting and Such*
Matthew Mewhinney

Buddhist Transmission

Sectarian Buddhist Canons as Modern Scripture
Mark Blum

About the Contributors

Future *PAJLS* volumes

Inclusivity and Exclusivity in Japanese Literature (PAJLS, vol. 21), which gathers papers from the 28th annual meeting of AJLS at Emory University in January 2020, is currently being edited by Cheryl Crowley. Publication is expected in the coming academic year.

Digital Archive for *PAJLS*

As you may know, the complete contents of *PAJLS*, over 400 articles in 18 printed volumes, has been digitized and made available online. 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.

Brandeis University Library has agreed to host the digital files in perpetuity as part of its institutional repository. The articles can be freely browsed or downloaded. The contents of *PAJLS* vol. 19 have recently been added to this online *PAJLS* archive. The contents of the five volumes of *PMAJLS* (Proceedings of the Midwest Association for Japanese Literary Studies) will soon be added.

There is also a [comprehensive index](#) of all contributors to *PAJLS* with links to all of the articles that they have published in *PAJLS*.

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. You can also pay multiple years of membership dues at once by adjusting the quantity when you make payment. 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

After the 29th annual meeting at UCLA in Spring 2022, the 30th annual meeting is scheduled to be held at Rutgers in 2022–23 and the 31st annual meeting to be held at 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*, PAJLS 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.

Violence, Justice, and Honor in Japan's Literary Cultures, PAJLS 19, 2018.