

AJLS Newsletter

Association for Japanese Literary Studies

No. 54 (Autumn 2021)

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AJLS 29th Annual Meeting Turning Points May 12–14, 2022, UCLA

The twenty-ninth Annual Conference of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies will be held at the University of California, Los Angeles, on May 12–14, 2022.

This year's theme is "turning points," by which 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.

The actual "call for papers" took the form of two roundtable conversations on the conference theme, which were recorded in March of 2021, and are publicly available through the conference website:
<https://www.ajls2022ucla.org/>

A block of 60 rooms has been reserved for four nights, from Wednesday May 11 to Sunday May 15, at the Hotel Angeleno: <https://www.hotelangeleno.com/> To book, please click on <https://tinyurl.com/AJLS-Conference> and follow the directions. Alternatively, you may also call the hotel at (510) 986-8007 and reference the group block name "AJLS Conference 2022."

Please note that it has been extremely difficult in these times to secure a conference hotel. For this reason, we recommend reserving a room well in advance of the cutoff date of April 20, especially since the block of 60 rooms will not be sufficient to accommodate all participants without room sharing, and the hotel has indicated that they will begin to reduce the number of unreserved rooms in the block as the conference date approaches.

Tentative Conference Schedule

Thursday May 12

Special event: *In Memoriam: Sari Kawana, A Scholar of and in Turning Points.*

2:00-3:30 Panel 1: Genre Investigations

Seth Jacobowitz, Interim Resident Director of KCJ
The Primacy of Genre and Media: The Case of Reading Sari Kawana

Linda H. Chance, University of Pennsylvania
Past Uncertain: What Medieval Commentaries Right

Jonathan Abel, Penn State
Miyabe Miyuki's New Media Theory

3:45-5:15 Panel 2: Body-Mind Investigations

James Dorsey, Dartmouth College
Body of Evidence / Burden of Proof: Sakaguchi Ango's Mystery Novella "The Murder of a Repatriated Soldier" (1949~1950)

Sarah Frederick, Boston University
Spring Cleaning for the Bundan

Bruce Baird, UMass Amherst
Making the 'Ugly' More than Ugly: Looking at Butô through the Lens of Sari Kawana

Friday May 13

10-12: Session 1

Panel 1A: Transnational Feminisms, Translation, and Women's Voices in Japanese Literature

Letizia Guarini, International Christian University
A Transcultural Journey between Italy and Japan: Translation and Gender in Suga Atsuko's Works

Juliana Buriticá Alzate, International Christian University
Itô Hiromi is Still Here: Gender, Language and Translation

Hitomi Yoshio, Waseda University
Translation as a Feminist Act: Looking back at the 1920s and 30s from the Present Moment

Grace En-Yi Ting, University of Hong Kong
Li Kotomi's Histories and the Impossible Possibilities of Feminist Translation from Hong Kong

Rebecca Copeland, Washington University
Discussant

Panel 1B: Proletarians Entering Narratives: New Modes of Depiction and the Rise of the Proletarian Figure

Yauheniya Hudziyeva, Waseda University

By the People, for the People: People's Art Debates and the Rise of the Proletariat, 1916-1918

Kevin Michael Smith, UC Berkeley

Indignant Illustration: Yanase Masamu's Proletarian Comics and the Japanese Avant-Garde

Edwin Michielsen, University of Toronto

Foreign Revolution, Local Struggle: Maedakō Hiroichirō's "Shina" Works and the Chinese Proletariat

Vanessa Baker, UC Irvine

Salmon, Sardines, and Seaweed: Displacing the Terrestrial in Fisheries Literature

Panel 1C: Meiji Turning Points

Daphne van der Molen, Leiden University

In the Eye of the Beholder: The Meiji Restoration in Fukuzawa Yukichi's Autobiography

Victoria Davis, UCLA

Layered Temporalities: Reconsidering Railway Space-Time in Izumi Kyōka's Kōya Hijiri

Yuki Ishida, Columbia University

Localization, Foreignization, Japanization: Futabatei Shimei, Translation, and the Formation of the "Modern" Literary Language at the Turn of the Twentieth Century in Japan

Shu Sakaguchi, Fukuoka Joshi Daigaku

Kunikida Doppo and the Phenomenological Turn at the End of the Nineteenth Century: An Interface between Empathetic Aesthetics and the Modernization of Narrative Style

1-3: Session 2

Panel 2: Kikigaki as Attunement: Turning to Listening, Turning to Environment

Kimura Saeko, Tsuda College

The Kikigaki Literary Shift in Shinsaigo Bungaku

Margherita Long, University of California, Irvine

Difference and Repetition at the Fascist Olympics: Kobayashi's Trinity

Yukiko Shigeto, Whitman College

Narrating Fūdo into Life: Ishimure Michiko and the Capital of Living Things

Mika Endo, Independent Scholar

Writing Daily Life in the Classroom: Observation, Mutuality, and Practices of Attunement in Prewar Japanese Education

3:15-5:15: Session 3

Panel 3A: Postwar and Contemporary Turning Points

Julia Clark, UCLA

Reclaimed Landscape: The Figure of the Chōsen Buraku in Postwar and Zainichi Literature

Alex Bates, Dickinson College

Reimagining the multiethnic nation after disaster: Japan Sinks 2020 and Fukasawa Ushio's Green and Red

Giulia Baquè, Ca' Foscari University

Deconstructing 3.11 as a Paradigm Shift: Literary Continuity and Social Responsibility in Environmental Disaster

Chiara Pavone, UCLA

"Radioactive Aesthetics": Distance and Avisuality in Post-Fukushima Literature

Panel 3B: Attunements and Enactments: Multi-sensorial Reimagining and the Unsettling of Japanese Literary Thought and Praxis

Junnan Chen, Princeton University

Adventure of the Gaze—Event and Structure in Taki Kōji's Semiotics of the Image

Fusako Innami, Assistant Professor, Durham University

Sculpting Space: Rewriting the Body–Ground Relationship

Alex Murphy, PhD Candidate, University of Chicago

Yoshimasu Gōzō, Tape-Voice, and the Listening Body

Franz Prichard, Princeton University

Anticolonial and Ecological Embodiments: Place in the Work of Ishimure Michiko, Nakahira Takuma, and Tsumura Takashi

Tsuboi Hideto, Nichibunken

Discussant

Panel 3C: Turning Points and Transformation in Medieval Japanese Texts

Bonnie McClure, UC Berkeley

Turning toward a Poetics for the Future in Shinkokinshū poetry

Beth M. Carter, Case Western Reserve University

Borrowing Past Mourning Poetics for Future Stability: Parallels between Genji's "The Seer" and Heike's Initiates' Chapter

Jeremy Sather, Virginia Tech

Dust in the Wind: Tale of the Heike's Initiate's Chapter in A Chronicle of Great Peace

Kendra Strand, University of Iowa

Countless Thousands of Years: Ashikaga Yoshiakira Imagines the Future

Vyjayanthi Selinger, Bowdoin College

Discussant

6-9: Dinner on Fowler Terrace

Saturday May 14

10-12: Session 4

Panel 4A: The Toggle: Digital Turnings

Andrew Campana, Cornell University

Other Internets: Rethinking Digitality and the Beginnings of Online Poetry in Japan

Young Yi, Yale University

Heterotopic Hybridity: (Re)constructing 'Asia in Tokyo' through Narrative/Media/Space

Jonathan E. Abel, Penn State University

Viral Literature in Real-Time: Covid Cultures in Japanese Twitterature, or JLit in the Time of Corona

Kimberly Hassel, Princeton University

Digitizing Women's Worlds: Gender, Visual Participatory Culture, and "New" Mediatic Assemblages in 5G Japan

Panel 4B: Shōwa Turning Points

Yoshihiro Yasuhara, Carnegie Mellon University

Ishikawa Jun's Haikai no sanbunka as a Turning Point of Literary Reification

Jue Hou, University of Chicago

Tenkō and the Invention of the Quotidian Subject: Parapolitics and the I-Novel Form from Kobayashi Takiji to Nakano Shigeharu

Mariko Takano, Oberlin College

Hanada Kiyoteru's Discourse of the Turning Point

Nate Shockey, Bard College

Calling Out from the Coal: Writing, Reportage, and Reconstruction at the Crux of Energy Regimes

Panel 4C: Premodern Turning Points

Gian Piero Persiani, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The Most Momentous Marriage in Japanese Cultural History? The Adoption of Kana as the Go-To Script to Inscribe Waka in the Tenth and Eleventh Centuries

Kurtis Hanlon, University of British Columbia

A Poetic Power-Party: Saneyori's Maneuvers During the Tentoku dairi uta-awase

Kim McNelly, UCLA

Poetry, Grief, and Trauma of the Genpei War and Jōkyū Disturbance

Emi Bushelle, Western Washington University

To Love Not is to be a Person Without a Heart: Mono no aware and the Affirmation of Feeling in Medieval Buddhist and Early Modern Nativist Thought

1-2:45 Turning Points Roundtable (Participants TBA)

3-5: Session 5

Panel 5A: (Re)Turning Points in Literatures of War, Disaster, and Pandemic

Daryl Maude, University of California, Berkeley

Sticky Futures: Writing and Futurity in Murakami Ryū's Kagirinaku tōmei ni chikai burū

Shelby E. Oxenford, The University of Texas at Austin

Time and the Ghost in Yū Miri's Tokyo Ueno Station

Jon L Pitt, UC Irvine

Breathing Environmental and Literary History in the Age of COVID-19: On Uchidate Makiko's The Mystery Behind the Miracle

Livia Monnet, University of Montreal

Discussant

Dan O'Neill, UC Berkeley

Discussant

Panel 5B: Refashioning Imperial Tokyo: Literary Ruptures of Urban Space

Wakako Suzuki, Bard College

Cross-Dressing Youth in Tokyo: Gendered Bodies and Another Fashion Statement in Imperial Japan

Pedro Bassoe, Purdue University

Sightseeing After the Earthquake: Rupture, Cyclicity, and the Pacification of Spirits in Izumi Kyōka's Fukagawa senkei (1927)

Mari Ishida, Wake Forest University

Undoing Imperial Space: Anti-Imperialist Movements in 1920s' Tokyo from a Gender Perspective

Timothy Unverzagt Goddard, Yale University

Turning to the Past: Tanizaki Jun'ichirō's "Tōkyō o omou" and the Aftershocks of the Great Kantō Earthquake

Panel 5C: On the Many Lives of Japanese Literature in Postwar America

J. Keith Vincent, Boston University

Flaming Creatures: Parker Tyler Reads the Tale of Genji

Patrick Carland-Echavarria, University of Pennsylvania

Planting The Seeds of the Heart: Donald Keene, Arthur Waley, and the Melancholic Birth of Japanese Literature in Cold War America

Matt Mewhinney, Florida State University

Make it Sing: John Nathan and the Poetry of Translation

Brian Hurley, University of Texas, Austin

Between Conservatism and Capitalism: On the Market Origins of Our Field

Ann Sherif, Oberlin College

Discussant

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

The 20th issue of *Proceedings of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies* was printed and mailed in June. 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.

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, nearly 450 articles in 19 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 complete contents of the predecessor of PAJLS, PMAJLS (Proceedings of the Midwest Association for Japanese Literary Studies), were recently added. These include more than one hundred articles from the five published volumes of PMAJLS.

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

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 2021–22 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 University of Pittsburgh in 2022–23.

If you are interested in hosting our meeting in 2023 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.

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

* *Evidence, Transmission, and Inheritance in Japanese Literature and Media*, PAJLS 20, 2019.