

AJLS Newsletter

Association for Japanese Literary Studies

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Edited by Matthew Fraleigh

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<https://sites.google.com/view/ajls/>

AJLS 31st Annual Meeting Genres and Genre Theories in Japanese Literature May 10–11, 2024, Yale University

Call for Papers

From *waka* poetry to the I-novel, from war tales to historical fiction, from diaries to essays, Japanese literature abounds in genres. Scholarship on genres has thrived too, with many excellent studies covering both classic and modern genres. Some studies examine the theme, form, and material format of individual genres, others focus on the reception, social life, or ideological implications of genres. Yet there are aspects of established genres that remain underexplored or emerging genres in need of more scholarly attention. Building on the already thriving scholarship on genre, we can revisit basic questions about genre or explore new theoretical frameworks for understanding genre and Japanese literature. Scholars working in any period or on any kind of literary materials (broadly understood) are invited to submit papers. Themes that panels and papers may address include, but are not limited to, the following:

- What makes a genre?
- Who makes a genre? Is it writers, readers, or perhaps editors and publishers?
- What does the Japanese context add to existing theories on genre?
- What are the terms used for “genre” and literary categories in Japanese scholarship?
- Writers and artists and their views on the conventions and constraints of genre.
- The lives of global genres in Japan vs. Japanese local genres and their international reception.
- Minor genres such as *miraiki*, *keizai shōsetsu*, literary biographies etc.
- New genres such as *web shōsetsu* and *isekai*.
- Sinitic genres.
- Relation between genre and medium (periodicals, internet platforms etc.).
- Genre and various performance traditions.
- Popular genres and adaptations into film, television shows, or games.
- Trends in the English translation of Japanese genres.
- The pedagogy of genres.
- Genres and the distinction between highbrow and popular literature.

The deadline for submitting proposals is December 15, 2023. Individual proposals should include an abstract (250 words or less). Panel proposals should include a panel abstract (250 words or less) as well as individual panel abstracts (also 250 words or less). Both individual paper proposals and panel proposals can be submitted via the conference portal at <https://ceas.yale.edu/association-japanese-literary-studies-meeting-31>. Inquiries can be addressed to luciana.sanga@yale.edu.

**Publication of vol. 22 of
*Proceedings of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies***

The latest volume of *Proceedings of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies (PAJLS)* is nearly ready for printing. Edited by Torquil Duthie, *Turning Points (PAJLS, vol. 22)* gathers papers from the 29th annual meeting of AJLS, which was held at University of California Los Angeles in May 12–14, 2022. We expect to print it and sent it to AJLS members in the next few weeks.

If you have not yet renewed your membership for the 2023–24 academic year, please be sure to do so to ensure that we have a correct mailing address for you. It is easy to renew at our website: <https://sites.google.com/view/ajls/membership>

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Report on the 30th annual meeting of AJLS University of Pittsburgh

Hosted by Charles Exley and Elizabeth Oyler, University of Pittsburgh, with the cooperation of Christopher Lowy and Yoshihiro Yasuhara, Carnegie Mellon University, the 30th annual meeting of AJLS took place at the University of Pittsburgh, May 12–14, 2023.

Thirty-four papers were presented engaging with the conference theme: “In step/out of step: performance/culture/location/dislocation.” The conference featured a presentation by Itō Hiromi and Jeffrey Angles titled “Pulling the Thorns of Suffering,” and a keynote address by Hideo Tsuboi entitled “Playing St. Sebastian: A Queer Reading of and Between Literary and Visual Texts from the Modern Period.”

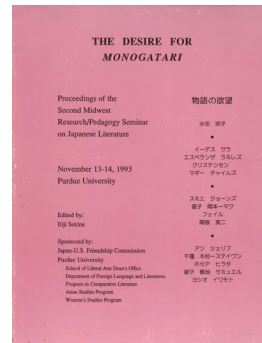
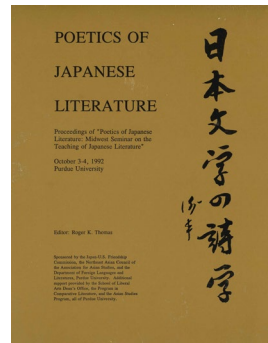
While the deadline for participants in the conference to indicate their intent to submit a paper to the next volume of *PAJLS* has passed, those who would still like to submit their papers are encouraged to be in touch with Elizabeth Oyler to see if this might still be possible. Submissions of papers will be due November 15, 2023. Elizabeth's email is: eaoyler@pitt.edu.

Digital Archive for *PAJLS*

The complete contents of *PAJLS*, more than 450 articles in 20 printed volumes, has been digitized and made available online. 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. More than one hundred articles from the five published volumes of the predecessor of *PAJLS*, *PMAJLS* (Proceedings of the Midwest Association for Japanese Literary Studies), are included as well.

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 (except for the most recent volume of *PAJLS*, which will be posted online one year after its publication). 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.

In addition, the complete contents of two conference volumes associated with the earliest days of the organization have recently been added to this archive.



[*Poetics of Japanese Literature*](#) (ed. Roger K. Thomas) gathers papers from the Midwest Seminar on the Teaching of Japanese Literature, held at Purdue University on October 3–4, 1992.

[*The Desire for Monogatari*](#) (ed. Eiji Sekine) gathers papers from the Second Midwest Research/Pedagogy Seminar on Japanese Literature, held at Purdue University on November 13–14, 1993.

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 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, ISSN: 1531-5533). *PAJLS* is included in the Modern Language Association's *Directory of Periodicals* and is also indexed in the *MLA International Biography*.

• 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 detailed above, Yale University will host the annual meeting from May 10–11, 2024. We are pleased to announce that Dartmouth has agreed to host our annual meeting in the 2024–25 academic year. As mentioned in our last newsletter, the University of Chicago will host AJLS during the 2025–26 academic year. We are also pleased to announce that the University of Utah has agreed to host the AJLS annual meeting during the 2026–27 academic year.

If you would be interested in hosting the annual meeting during the 2027–28 year or beyond, please contact Professor Ann Sherif at: ann.sherif@oberlin.edu.

PAJLS 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.

Inclusivity and Exclusivity in Japanese Literature, PAJLS 21, 2020.

Turning Points, PAJLS 22, 2022.