

AJLS Newsletter

Association for Japanese Literary Studies

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Edited by Matthew Fraleigh

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

The next annual meeting of AJLS is scheduled for May 10–11 at Yale University and will focus on “Genres and Genre Theories in Japanese Literature.” The preliminary schedule is as follows:

Friday May 10

8:50 – 9:00 Opening Remarks

9:00 – 10:30

PANEL 1

Linda H. Chance, University of Pennsylvania
The [F]utility of Genre

Jesse LeFebvre, University of Rochester
Ethnographic Revelation: “Records” (*ki*), Narratological Time, and The Miraculous Accounts of Hasedera (*Hasedera reigenki*)

Jeffrey Knott, National Institute of Japanese Literature
Genji monogatari, the Sōgi Cut: Behind the Scenes of the *nukigaki* text *Shijin gushō* (Lavender Dust: A Personal Collection)

Daniel Penner, Columbia University
Language, Aesthetics, and Genre in Pedagogical Science Writing of Early-Meiji

PANEL 2

Justyna Weronika Kasza, Seinan Gakuin University, Fukuoka
The Writers “Linguistically Unhoused”: Exploring Japanese Literary Genres beyond *kokubungaku*

Yuki Nagamine, University of California, Los Angeles
Thinking Transhistorically: Post- 3.11 Literature as a Genre

Linda Galvane, University of Kansas

Toilet Paper Writing as Genre: Suzuki Kōji and Others from Japanese Literary Bathrooms

Ikuho Amano, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Twilight of *yūto bungaku*: What the Decline of the Genre Unveils

10:45 – 12:00

PANEL 3

Coco Kejia Ruan, Stanford University

Pregnancy and Authorship in Contemporary Japanese Literature

Mei Fujie, Harvard University

Writing Japan as a Dystopia: “Non-Human” Voices in Murata Sayaka’s “Konbini Ningen”

Michael Kuehl, University of Texas at Austin

Universal and Unique: The Syncretic Nature of International Conspiracy Theories in Japanese Conspiracy Fiction.

Sachi Komai, National Institutes for the Humanities /International Research Center for Japanese Studies

Beyond Genre, Beyond Border: Representation of Global Neoliberalism in Kirino Natsuo’s *Out*

PANEL 4

Kumiko Saito, Clemson University

The Emergence of Romance Genre in Postwar Japan: Manga and Romantic Love Discourses in the 1960s-70s

Shelby E. Oxenford, The University of Texas at Austin

Disaster, Genre, and Shinkai Makoto’s *Kimi no Na wa* and *Suzume no Tojimari*

Ben Whaley, University of Calgary

Rethinking Genre in Holocaust-themed Shōjo Manga

1:30 – 3:00

PANEL 5

Hana Lethen, Columbia University

Madmen on the Periphery: Rethinking the Gendered Genre Formation of Noh’s Madness Plays

Aragorn Quinn, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Disembodied Tales: Terayama Shūji’s “Yamamba” and the Shōwa Radio Drama

John Bundschuh, Swarthmore College

Same Genre, Different Registers: 20th-Century Japanese Translations of a Sanskrit Buddhist Story

PANEL 6

Joshua Rogers, Queens College, City University of New York
Secularity as Genre: Literature, Mysticism, and the Shirakaba Journal

Jiayu Gui, Harvard University
Negotiating Japanese bildungsroman: Akutagawa Ryūnosuke's "Toshishun" and Its Unexploited Potentials

Yoshiaki Otta, University of Tokyo
Colonizing "tenkō bungaku" (conversion literature): A Search for the "Primitive" in Ōshika Taku's "Yabanjin" (The Savages, 1935)

Shiyi Sherry Zha, University of Leeds
Is There a Ghost Touching You: Embodied Experiences in Murō Saisei's Modernist Short Stories

3:15 – 4:45

PANEL 7

Gender and Genres in Art and Literature: Exploring Performative Identities and Performance of Texts

Wakako Suzuki, Whitman College
Schoolgirls on Pages and Stages: Performing Gender from Poetry to Musical Performance

Anri Yasuda, University of Virginia
Asymmetrical Hierarchies: Kusama Yayoi's Literary Protagonists

Eun Young Seong, Grinnell College
A Father's Lamentation: Tsuka Kōhei and His Korea

Alexander Murphy, Clark University
Genre'd Verse: Shiraishi Kazuko and Jazz Poetry

Commentator: Junko Yamazaki, Princeton University

PANEL 8

Anthony Stott, University of Chicago
The Novel and Periodical in Counterpoint: Reading Gender and Genre in Mizumura Minae's Serialized Fiction of the Lost Decade

Sarah Sherweedy, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
Between Adaptation and *Shishōsetsu*: Exploring Fragmented Roles and Narratives in Dazai Osamu's *Otogizōshi*

Shu Sakaguchi, Fukuoka Women's University
Dissociative Person Narratives: The Video Gaming and Narrative Style of the 21st Century

Jason Beckman, Stanford University
Autofiction and I-Novels: A Social Media Approach

5:00 – 6: 30

KEYNOTE ADDRESS by Fujino Kaori

and ROUNDTABLE CONVERSATION with Fujino Kaori, Kendall Heitzman (University of Iowa), Hitomi Yoshio (Waseda University/Harvard University) and Rosa van Hensenbergen (Yale University)

Saturday May 11

9:00 – 10:30

PANEL 9

A New Imagination: Reconsidering Japanese Speculative Literature

Jon L Pitt, University of California Irvine

Plant Life and the Exceeding of Genre in Japanese Literature

Chiara Pavone, Bard College

This is Our End: SF and Speculating About Futurity in a Finite World

Kazue Harada, Miami University

Contesting “Speculative” Fiction: Ueda Sayuri’s Narrative Tensions

Daryl Maude, Duke University

Speculative Poetics, Speculative Politics: Takara Ben Dreaming of Okinawa

PANEL 10

A Performance for the Times: Representing and Re-representing the Spectacular and the Disabled in Pre- and Early-Modern Japanese Performance Sub-genres

Beth M. Carter, Case Western Reserve University

The Peril of Being Different: Noh Sub-genres, Suffering, Mourning Edicts, and Shikimi Tengu

Kirk Kanesaka, California State University, San Bernardino

Staging the “Other”: Disability Performances in Japan’s Kabuki and Bunraku Theaters

Adam Reynolds, University of California, Irvine

Kingdom of the Blind: Staging Blindness and Disability in Japan’s Zatō Kyōgen

Jeremy Sather, Virginia Tech:

A Future of Disorder: The Intertextuality of the Fantastic in the *Taiheiki*

Discussant: Elizabeth Oyler, University of Pittsburgh

10:45 – 12:00

PANEL 11

David J. Gundry, University of California, Davis

Genre-Fusion in Ihara Saikaku's "He Commanded a Massage in Haunted House"

Patrick Carland-Echavarria, University of Pennsylvania

Plants in the Shade: Floral Metaphors and Shifting Representations of Queerness in Modern Japanese Literature

Francesca Pizarro, Colorado College

Shōjo Texts and Magazine Contexts: Reading Yoshiya Nobuko's "Sweet Pea"

Nick Ogonek, University of Chicago

The Kind of Gay She Likes: Boys' Love With/In Queer Fiction

PANEL 12

Katherine Saltzman-Li, University of California Santa Barbara,

Genre Development in Edo-period Kabuki

Stephen Forrest, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Rereading in Multiple Genres: What Can We Learn from Tamenaga Shunsui's Use of *Ninjōbon* as a Framework for the Chūshingura Story?

Michael Brownstein, University of Notre Dame

The Slender Margin: Rethinking *Sewamono* as a Genre

Lauren Gatewood, Princeton University

Discerning Genre: Dialogue and Visual Techniques in *Sharebon*, *Dangibon*, and *Kokkeibon*

1:30 – 3:00

PANEL 13

Will Gardner, Swarthmore College

The Modernist Cinemoem in Japan: From Surrealism to the Camera Eye

Barbara Hartley, University of Queensland

The Defiance of Genre in Nagase Kiyoko's Verse

Chelsea Morgen Ward, Wellesley College

Samuel Beckett and the Reception of the Western Modernist Novel in Prewar Japan: Transition, Translation, and Colonial Commentary

Kennedy A Sloop, Appalachian State University

Translating Wabi-Sabi: Does Self-Help Commodify the Uncommodifiable?

PANEL 14

Genres of Collection—Poetic Editing in the Nara to Heian Periods

Danica Truscott, Harvard University

The Myriad Genres of Collecting Poetry in the *Man'yōshū*

Dario Minguzzi, Sapienza University of Rome

Beyond the Imperial Paradigm: Dismantling Ideology in the Three Early Heian Collections of Sinitic Poetry

Mary Gilstad, Yale University

Stability and Variation in the “Kokinshū” Topic-Category Mode

Discussant: Torquil Duthie, UCLA

3:15 – 4:45

Plenary Session 1 - Critical Conjectures: Genres of Meaning in the Modernist Mind

Sachi Schmidt-Hori, Dartmouth College

Lost in a Grove While (Genre-)Crossing Mt. Ōe

Junko Yamazaki, Princeton University

The Flow of Colonial Violence Across Genres: Revisiting *Ishikarigawa* and *Daichi no samurai*

Brian Hurley, University of Texas at Austin

Reading Hiroshima in the Age of Vietnam: John Hersey and the Genres of Protest Literature

Matthew Mewhinney, Florida State University

Kawakami Hiromi and Washing Away Genre

5:00 – 6:30

Plenary Session 2 - Reconsidering the Narrative of “Early Modern Japanese Literary History”

Motoi Katsumata, Meisei University

The Driving Force of *Nihon kinsei bungaku kenkyū*: Through the Analysis of “Kinsei Bungei”

Kai Xie, Kenyon College

Exploring the Intersection of Japanese and Sinitic Literary Traditions: *Wakan haikai* in the 17th Century

David Atherton, Harvard University

Ueda Akinari and the Dynamics of Poetic Creativity

Matthew Fraleigh, Brandeis University

What is a *Shiwa*? The Legibility of a Region-Wide Genre

6:30 Closing Remarks

Vol. 23 of *Proceedings of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies*

Charles Exley and Elizabeth Oyler (both of University of Pittsburgh) along with Christopher Lowy and Yoshihiro Yasuhara (both of Carnegie Mellon University) will be editing the next issue of *PAJLS*: *In step/out of step: performance/culture/location/dislocation*, gathering papers from the 30th annual meeting of AJLS held at University of Pittsburgh last May.

While the deadline for participants in the conference to submit their papers to this volume of *PAJLS* has passed, participants may still be able to contribute if they can submit their papers by February 29. Please be in touch with Elizabeth Oyler to see if this might still be possible. Elizabeth's email is: eaoyler@pitt.edu.

Digital Archive for *PAJLS*

All articles that have been published in the pages of *PAJLS* are hosted by Brandeis University in a digital archive where they can be freely browsed or downloaded. Over the last several months, with the tremendous help of Wendy Shook, Mark Paris, and others at the Brandeis Library, we have migrated the digital files to a new platform that offers several improvements. Each article has been assigned a DOI (Digital Object Identifier): a permanent link that will not change even if the hosting architecture changes again at some point in the future. The articles will also be more readily discoverable through online search engines and various academic search tools. The new link to use is: <https://journals.library.brandeis.edu/index.php/PAJLS/>

While the new archive has been proofread and tested, it is certainly possible that errors have arisen in the data migration process; if you notice any errors or other issues, please contact ajls@brandeis.edu.

We hope that we will soon be able to migrate the 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), as well. In the meantime, the complete contents of *PAJLS*, *PMAJLS*, and two publications from earlier incarnations of the organization continue to be accessible on our [former interface](#) or through a [comprehensive index](#) of all contributors.

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 a conference chair(s) and held at the host institution. The meeting can be held in either fall or spring of an academic year. If the meeting is scheduled for fall, a call for papers is usually announced in the spring issue of the AJLS Newsletter. A program of the meeting is then published in the fall issue. If scheduled for spring, the call for papers is usually announced in the previous fall's Newsletter with the schedule following in the spring 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 May 10–11, 2024.

Dartmouth College has kindly agreed to host our annual meeting during the 2024–25 academic year. Tentatively scheduled for the spring semester of 2025, the meeting will explore “The Ethics of Translation.” A call for papers will be published in the Fall newsletter.

The University of Chicago will host AJLS during the 2025–26 academic year and 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*, 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.

Evidence, Transmission, and Inheritance in Japanese Literature and Media, PAJLS 20, 2019. Includes keynote addresses by Etsuko Taketani and Yoshitaka Hibi.

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

**Turning Points*, PAJLS 22, 2022.