

AJLS Newsletter

Association for Japanese Literary Studies

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Edited by Matthew Fraleigh

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AJLS 32nd Annual Meeting Translating, Transfiguring, Transforming Japan May 2–3, 2025, Dartmouth College

Call for Papers and Panels

The 32nd Annual meeting of the Association of Japanese Literary Studies will be convened at Dartmouth College on May 2 and 3, 2025. We anticipate beginning around noon on 5/2 (Friday) and concluding in the evening of 5/3 (Saturday).

The theme of the conference is *translation*, broadly conceived. While this theme certainly encompasses interlingual and intralingual translation as conventionally understood, we also welcome papers addressing *intersemiotic translation*, including those from scholars outside of literary studies. We are particularly interested in papers that address issues of *representing (or misrepresenting) conceptions of Japan past, present, or future* with an eye to the *factors that mediate such translations, transfigurations, and transformations*.

In this vein, the paper/panel proposals may consider a range of thought-provoking questions including:

- How do aesthetic, political, commercial, and professional concerns influence these representations of “Japan” within the translated texts, images, or multisensory media?
- What are the ethical implications of specific strategic decisions and compromises made when “translating”?
- Where do we see paradigmatic shifts in the dominant frameworks or discourses that predetermine the shape of the representations of “things of Japan”?
- In what ways do the methodologies of our disciplines configure our representations of the object of study (i.e., a subcategory of “things of Japan”) ?
- How do dominant theoretical concerns determine our choices for objects of study as well as prefigure the contours of our transformations of them?

We will especially encourage proposals from graduate students, early-career researchers, professional translators (from Japanese to a non-Japanese language or from classical Japanese/kanbun to a modern language).

Please email your 250-word proposal of a single paper or 500-word proposal of a panel (three presenters and a discussant) to sachi.schmidt-hori@dartmouth.edu by 11:59 pm (ET), Sunday, December 15, 2024 along with the following information:

- Tentative titles of the papers and the panel's title
- Names, ranks, and institutions of the presenters and discussant
- Language of presentation (English or Japanese)

We will notify applicants of the results in mid-January 2025.

We look forward to seeing many of you on our beautiful campus next May!

Sachi Schmidt-Hori
Dennis Washburn
James Dorsey

Update on AJLS 31st Annual Meeting

The 31st annual meeting of AJLS was held at Yale University on May 10–11, 2024 on the theme of “Genres and Genre Theories in Japanese Literature.” Luciana Sanga planned and organized the conference with the cooperation of her colleagues Aaron Gerow and Rosa van Hensbergen. The meeting included over sixty presentations and also featured a keynote address and reading by Fujino Kaori.

If you presented at the meeting and are interested in having your paper included in the next issue of *PAJLS* “Genres and Genre Theories in Japanese Literature,” please submit your paper to Luciana Sanga (luciana.sanga@yale.edu) by December 1st, 2024. Submissions should not exceed 4,500 words. The editors of the volume will be Luciana Sanga and Mary Gilstad.

PAJLS uses Chicago style for citations. For issues specific to Japanese studies, we recommend that writers refer to the *Monumenta Nipponica* style guide:

<https://dept.sophia.ac.jp/monumenta/pdf/MN-Style-Sheet-September-2018.pdf>

Obtaining permission for any images used is the responsibility of the author. (If you would like to use images in your work, you may find the excellent resources prepared by NCC Japan helpful; see

<https://guides.nccjapan.org/imageuse>).

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

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 in May 2023, is nearly ready to print and ship.

The volume gathers nine papers from the conference, which was hosted by Charles Exley and Elizabeth Oyler, University of Pittsburgh, with the cooperation of Christopher Lowy and Yoshihiro Yasuhara, Carnegie Mellon University. Included is a keynote address by Hideto Tsuboi entitled “Playing St. Sebastian: A Queer Reading of and Between Literary and Visual Texts from the Modern Period.”

To ensure delivery, please be sure to renew your AJLS membership and update your shipping address if necessary.

Digital Archive for PAJLS

All articles that have been published in the pages of *PAJLS* (with the exception of the most recent volume) are hosted by Brandeis University in a digital archive where they can be freely browsed or downloaded. The archive can be accessed at <https://journals.library.brandeis.edu/index.php/PAJLS/>. If you notice any errors or other issues with archive's new platform, 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.

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. It is not necessary to have an account with Paypal to use this service. 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, Dartmouth College will host our next annual meeting on May 2–3, 2025.

The University of Chicago has kindly agreed to host AJLS during the 2025–26 academic year. The meeting will be held Nov. 21–22, 2025 and the organizers have chosen the theme of “media temporalities.” A call for papers will appear in the next newsletter.

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. Includes keynote addresses by Etsuko Taketani and Yoshitaka Hibi.

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

**Turning Points*, PAJLS 22, 2022.

In step/out of step: performance/culture/location/dislocation, PAJLS 23, 2023.