

AJLS Newsletter

Association for Japanese Literary Studies

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The 22nd Annual Meeting

Performance and Japanese Literature

October 18-20, 2013

The University of Chicago

Call for Papers

The theme of the 2013 Association for Japanese Literary Studies Annual Meeting is "Performance and Japanese Literature." The conference will be held October 18-20 on the campus of the University of Chicago. Performance offers a concept through which to re-examine our ethical and political engagements with the literary arts. We define it broadly to include not only conventional theatrical performances or literary representations of such performances, but also more metaphorical and theoretical understandings of the term, including (among others) narration or reading as modes of performance; the performativity of gender, ethnicity, and other modes of identity; linguistic or ritual performance; the social locations of performance; and the activities of literary criticism and publication as performance. The organizers hope in particular to encourage reflection on literary scholarship and welcome presentations that address issues of pedagogy. We envision this meeting not only as a venue in which to present research, but also as

an opportunity to reconsider current disciplinary boundaries and investments. In this vein, we hope to provide a forum in which to share best practices for the research and teaching of Japanese literature. We invite paper proposals from scholars of Japanese literature, modern and classical, as well as from kindred genres, including theater and performance studies, film and media studies, and music. Graduate students are especially encouraged to apply. Presentations may be made in either English or Japanese. The conference will be designed to encourage innovative modes of scholarship as performance. The organizers solicit individual paper proposals (rather than panel proposals) and will combine these into panels designed to stimulate productive discussions across boundaries of genre, historical period, and institution. **The deadline for submitting paper proposal abstracts (300 words or less) is May 15, 2013.** Please send paper proposals, as well as inquiries, to the program committee at japanatchicago@uchicago.edu. For more information, please see the webpage:

<http://lucian.uchicago.edu/blogs/ajls2013>

2012 Meeting Report

From October 12-14, 2012, the Institute for Japanese Studies, in collaboration with the East Asian Studies Center and the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures (DEALL), hosted the 21st Association of Japanese Literary Studies (AJLS) Conference on The Ohio State University campus. The conference was chaired by IJS director Dr. Richard Torrance with organizational support from IJS assistant director Janet Stucky.

With the theme of "Rhetoric and Region: Local Determinants of Literary Expression," the conference was intended to appeal to as broad an audience as possible. In all, the conference included 14 panels covering such topics as the influence of time and place on individual writers, the incorporation of dialects into literature, the literary description of place, the uniqueness of literary utterance in time as studied by linguists, regional literatures, and travel writing. Over 90 participants from 46 national and international institutions presented their work.

The conference featured a keynote address by Dr. **Sadami Suzuki** (professor and director of the library and research information department, International Research Center for Japanese Studies). One of Japan's most eminent scholars and critics of Japanese literature, social history and comparative literature, and the arts, Dr. Suzuki's keynote, titled "地方色と一人称: Local Color and the First Person Singular," set the tone for the wide variety of academic and social exchange. In addition, a K-12 teacher workshop, titled "Teaching Japanese

Literature," was held concurrently with the conference, giving elementary, middle and high school educators the opportunity to utilize the resources of the conference and discuss methods of teaching Japanese culture through literature at the K-12 level.

The Association for Japanese Literary Studies (AJLS) is the only academic organization in the United States devoted solely to the study and research of Japanese literature. The AJLS 2012 Conference introduced new trends in the study of Japanese literature and Japan and provided a microcosm of different theoretical approaches to Japanese literature adopted by scholars from a number of different nations. Moreover, it enabled scholars and students from diverse backgrounds to communicate informally concerning the current state, the institutional development, and the advancement of Japanese studies. Selected papers from the conference will be published in the Proceedings of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies (PAJLS) in 2013.

Details of the conference panels, abstracts and pictures can be found on the conference website at:

<http://easc.osu.edu/ijs/conferences/ajls>

AJLS Activities

Please join us or renew your membership regularly. Our publications solely depend on your membership dues.

We are renewing our membership database. Please resubmit your email address even if you are already a member.

• Annual Meeting

An annual meeting is organized by an elected Conference Chair(s) and held at the host institution. A call for papers is



Professor Suzuki



Professors Torrance and Suzuki



Conference Participants

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