

# AJLS Newsletter

Association for Japanese Literary Studies

No. 35 (Spring, 2012)

Edited by Eiji Sekine

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## TWENTY- FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

Rhetoric and Region:  
The Local Determinants of Literary Expression

October 12-14, 2012  
The Ohio State University

### Call for Papers

The theme of the 2012 Association for Japanese Literary Studies is “Rhetoric and Region: The Local Determinants of Literary Expression.” The theme of the conference will also be inclusive of a broad spectrum of papers and panels. It will provide a forum for those with an interest in individual writers and will also be inclusive of papers on a broad spectrum of genres—travel writing, poetry, diaries, memoirs, essays. In terms of the relation between linguistics, literature, and place, we anticipate panels both in classical and modern Japanese literature that concern non-standard usage, the representation of dialects, and such theoretical issues as the unique nature of the utterance in time and space, or the idea of chronotopes in relation to Japanese literature. Film, too, is a fruitful subject for exploration at this conference.

We encourage papers from those in a variety of disciplines and hope that the conference will be as inclusive as possible.

Proposals may come either from indi-

viduals or from panels. Graduate students are especially welcome. Presentations may be delivered in either English or Japanese.

**The deadline for panel, roundtable, and individual paper proposals is June 1, 2012.**

Please address your proposal (including an abstract of 250 words) or queries to the program committee in care of [stucky.7@osu.edu](mailto:stucky.7@osu.edu); Tel: 614-292-3345; and Fax: 614-292-7589. A link to the conference website is found at <http://japan.osu.edu>.

### 2011 Meeting Report

The annual conference of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies focused on “The Poetics of Aging: Confronting, Resisting, and Transcending Mortality in the Japanese Narrative Arts.” Approximately 70 people attended the three-day conference at Tufts University, held November 4-6, 2011.

Nobel Laureate Ōe Kenzaburō gave the keynote address, “Late Style in the Omnipresent Radiance of Fukushima”. Weighed down by the recent natural

disasters in Japan, Ōe spoke movingly of the “sadness of things”, and of how this enduring value of Japanese culture was being misunderstood and, even, in danger of being lost.

Over the following two days, twenty-five scholars, who had gathered from as far away as Tasmania and Italy, participated in four structured conversations: Age, Gender, and Genre (moderated by Hosea Hirata); Death (moderated by Charles Inouye); Men in Their Final Years (moderated by Susan Napier); and Women in Their Final Years (moderated by Karen Thornber).

More people applied than were able to become participants in the conference. But in order to accommodate as many presenters as possible, we made the decision to use our time together to talk about previously submitted papers rather than have each person read their work. This required that the members of each discussion post beforehand to a website, familiarize themselves with each other’s drafts, and come prepared to interact with each other rather than simply repeat what they had written. For many of the participants, this new format proved challenging; but, in the end, the opportunity to think publically about each other’s work moved the discussion forward and has led to improved articles.

Practically all participants submitted drafts for publication in the *Proceedings*, which is now being edited for publication by the end of the year.

We would like to express our gratitude for all those who participated in the conference and helped make our time together productive and enjoyable. We would also like to thank a number of organizations who supported the conference: the Office of the President Tufts University, the Office of the Dean

of Arts and Sciences Tufts University, the Center for Humanities Tufts University, the Japan Foundation, The Diversity Fund Tufts University, the Charles Smith Foundation Tufts Department of German, Russian, and Asian Languages and Literatures, the Northeast Asia Council, and the Harvard University.

Tufts AJLS Conference Committee  
Hosea Hirata, Charles Inouye, Susan Napier

## 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 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 \$25.00 for regular, student, and institution members (\$35.00 for overseas members outside North America). Membership provides you with:

- Panel participation for our annual meeting (if your proposal is selected).
- Two newsletters
- One copy of our latest proceedings.



**PAPER/PANEL PROPOSAL FORM**  
Rhetoric and Region **DEADLINE: JUNE 1, 2012**

**Title (Panel or Paper):**

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**Name (Moderator or Panelist):**

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**Status:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Institution:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach your proposal to this form and send to [stucky.7@osu.edu](mailto:stucky.7@osu.edu) or mail to: Institute for Japanese Studies, The Ohio State University, 1712 Neil Ave., 306 Oxley Hall, Columbus, OH 43210, USA

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