

International Workshop

Life/Intertexts: Japan in Transnational Encounters and Intellectual Triangulations



PROGRAM

5 – 7 June, 2025

Collegium Maius – Room 306–307



THE ANNIVERSARY YEAR
OF NICOLAUS COPERNICUS
UNIVERSITY IN TORUŃ



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RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY
EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE

PROGRAM

JUNE 5-7, 2025

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

JUNE 5, 2025

13:00 Greetings from Prof. Dr. Sławomir Waciewicz, Director of the Center of Excellence IMSERt

13: 05 Opening words Olga V. Solovieva

13:10 **KEYNOTE I** Michael Bourdaghs, **“With Friends Like This, Who Needs Enemies? Hotta Yoshie and the Soviet Union, 1955-1969”**

14:00 Tea Break

14:15 **PANEL I (A) Social Translations**

Chair: Przemysław Sztafiej

Yuki Ishida, **Translating Madness: Psychiatry, Literature, and the Emergence of the “Modern Person” in Post-Russo-Japanese War Japan**

Janice Brown, **“I Saw a Pale Horse”: Hayashi Fumiko, Boris Savinkov, and the Abjection of Revolution**

Respondent: Emilia Wajs

15:10 Q&A/Discussion

15:40 Tea break

16:00 **Film Screening** Kazuo Hara, *The Emperor's Naked Army Marches On* (122 minutes) (Film Theater at the Center for Contemporary Art, Open to the public), introduced by Brian Bergstrom (Montreal, Canada)

18:15 Post-Screening Discussion: Brian Bergstrom and Olga Solovieva

JUNE 6, 2025

10:00 PANEL II Traveling Texts—People—Ideas

Chair: Olga Solovieva

Andrew Leong, **From Commune to Co-operation: Global Trajectories of the Heiminsha Translation of *The Conquest of Bread***

Scott Mehl, **West: The Logogenic Travels of Inoue Yasushi's Writings on the Silk Road**

Respondent: Przemysław Sztafiej

11:00 Q&A/Discussion

11:25 Tea break

11:40 PANEL III Retracing Multiplicities

Chair: Andrew Leong

Christopher Bush, **“like the arc of the Northern Lights”: Japan in Russia's Asian Constellations**

Olga Solovieva, **Takemitsu's Ocean in Ohtake's Drop of Water: Japanese-Russian Legacies in Contemporary Brazilian Art**

Respondent: Dariusz Pniewski

12:30 Q&A/Discussion

15:00 PANEL IV Rethinking Alliances

Chair: Dariusz Pniewski

George T. Sipos, **Lenin's Letter, the Japanese Writer, and the Soviet Ambassador: A Re-Reading of Tenkō Short Story “The House in the Village” by Nakano Shigeharu**

Ryan Johnson, **“To Leave Contradictions as They Are”: Reconfiguring the Tolstoyan Network of Tanabe Hajime's *Philosophy as Metanoetics***

Respondent: Tom Lamarre

16:00 Q&A/Discussion

16:30 Tea break

17:00 [RESPONDENT KEYNOTE II: JINYI CHU](#)

18:00 Olga V. Solovieva, Closing Remarks

JUNE 7, 2025

6:30 am BUS TO MANGGHA MUSEUM OF JAPANESE ART AND
TECHNOLOGY in Kraków

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

International Participants

Brian Bergstrom is a lecturer and translator currently based in Montréal. His academic work has appeared in venues including *positions*, *Japan Forum*, and *Mechademia*, while his translations have appeared in *Paris Review*, *Granta*, *Aperture*, *Lit Hub*, and *The Penguin Book of Japanese Short Stories*, among other publications. He translated Erika Kobayashi's novel *Trinity*, *Trinity*, *Trinity* (2022) and story collection *Sunrise: Radiant Stories* (2023) with Astra House, the former winning the 2022 Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission (JUSFC) Prize for the Translation of Japanese Literature. His most recent translations are *Slow Down: The Degrowth Manifesto* by Kōhei Saitō (W&N & Astra House, 2024) and *The Dilemmas of Working Women* by Fumio Yamamoto (Virago & HarperVia, 2025).

Michael Bourdaghs is the Robert S. Ingersoll Distinguished Service Professor of East Asian Languages & Cultures at the University of Chicago and the author, most recently, of *A Fictional Commons: Natsume Sōseki and the Properties of Modern Literature* (2020). His previous books include *Sayonara Amerika*, *Sayonara Nippon: A Geopolitical Prehistory of J-Pop* (2012, Japanese translation 2012) and *The Dawn That Never Comes: Shimazaki Tōson and Japanese Nationalism* (2003). He is also an active translator, including Karatani Kōjin's *The Structure of World History: From Modes of Exchange to Modes of Production* (2014). He received his Ph.D. in East Asian Literature from Cornell University in 1996. He has received, among others, a Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities (1989), Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship (1996), Japan Foundation Research Fellowship (2000), and a Guggenheim Fellowship (2019). Bourdaghs is currently writing a book on the Cold War cultures of Japan.

Janice Carole Brown is Professor of Japanese in the Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Colorado at Boulder. She has received PhD in Asian Studies, concentration in Modern Japanese Literature, from University of British Columbia, Canada. She is a translator of Hayashi Fumiko's poetry, *Hayashi Fumiko's I Saw a Pale Horse and Selected Poems from Diary of a Vagabond*, Ithaca, New York: Cornell East Asia Series, 1997 and the author of *Tarnished Words: The Poetry of Ōba Minako*, White Plains, New York: EastBridge, 2006. Among her articles are "From the Scream to Hello Kitty: Reading Memes and Images of Faciality in Global Visual Culture," *The International Journal of the Image*, volume 6, issue 3, 2015, 9- 23 and "Japanese Women's Poetry from Interwar to Pacific War: Navigating Heterogeneous Borderspace," *U.S.-Japan Women's Journal*, No. 45, 2013, 6-32. Her current book project is entitled, "Traversing anxious boundaries: transnational women's poetry in Taishō and early Shōwa modernism."

Christopher Bush is Associate Professor of French and Comparative Literary Studies and codirects the Global Avant-garde and Modernist Studies graduate cluster. He received his

Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from UCLA. His research and teaching focus on transnational and interdisciplinary approaches to literary modernisms, especially the connections between European and East Asian avant-gardes, aesthetic theory, and media. He is currently completing a book, for Columbia University Press, on the modernist haiku as world literature, and has recently published articles in *Esprit créateur*, *T. S. Eliot Studies Annual*, and the *Surrealism Beyond Borders* exhibition catalog. Previous publications include *Ideographic Modernism: China, Writing, Media* (Oxford, 2010); a collaborative translation and critical edition of Victor Segalen's *Stèles* (Wesleyan, 2007); articles in such journals as *Comparative Literature*, *Comparative Literature Studies*, and *Representations*; and essays in such edited volumes as *1913: The Year of French Modernism* (Manchester, 2020), *A New Vocabulary for Global Modernism* (Columbia, 2016), *Ezra Pound in the Present* (Bloomsbury, 2016), *Modernism and Theory: A Handbook of Modernist Studies* (Blackwell, 2013), and *Drawing from Life* (Mississippi, 2013). He was coeditor of the journal *Modernism/modernity* from 2016 to 2021 and continues to serve on its editorial board. Academic honors include funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, a Fulbright research grant, the Princeton Society of Fellows, the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Literary Work, and a Mellon New Directions Fellowship.

Jinyi Chu is Assistant Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures and a faculty fellow on Council on East Asian Studies at Yale University. He received his PhD from Stanford. Chu's research focuses on Russian modernism, Russo-Chinese relations, global socialist culture, and translation studies. He is the author of *Fin-de-siècle Russia and Chinese Aesthetics: The Other is the Universal* (Oxford UP, 2024). Now he is working on a new book project *Aesthetics of Reform: China and the Soviet Union in the 1980s*.

Yuki Ishida received her PhD from Columbia University in 2022 and currently serves as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Kenyon College. Her articles have been published in *Annales de littérature comparée* and *PAJLS*. She has received fellowships from the Donald Keene Center of Japanese Culture, the Shincho Foundation, and the Weatherhead East Asian Institute. Currently, she works on her monograph, titled *Translational Envisioning of Literary Modernity: Futabatei Shimei and the Discursive Foundations of the Modern in 1880s–1960s Japan*, which examines the dynamic intersections of the two emerging literary bodies—Japanese and Russian—that were formed through multiple 'others,' and the construction of aesthetic and social imaginaries through translation practices.

Ryan Johnson is a DECRA Fellow at the University of Melbourne. He received his PhD from the University of Sydney, with time spent as a visiting research student at Keio University. He is the author of *Transnationalism and Translation in Modern Chinese, English, French, and Japanese Literatures* (Anthem, 2021), and his essays have been published or are forthcoming in venues including *Modernism/modernity*, *Comparative Literature*, *Journal of Modern Literature*, and *Journal of World Literature*. With Nan Zhang, he is co-editor of the Global Circulations Project for *Literature Compass*. His

current book project, tentatively titled *Modernism's East Asia: Global Modernity and the Semi-Asiatic*, traces the reception of Russian culture and literature in English, French, and Japanese from the end of the nineteenth century through to the 1960s. Before coming to Melbourne, he was a JSPS Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Tokyo and a National Library of Australia Fellow in Japan Studies.

Thomas Lamarre is Gordon J Laing Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Cinema and Media Studies at the University of Chicago and Professor Emeritus of Japanese Media Studies at McGill University. He is a scholar in cinema and media studies whose work draws the history and philosophy of sciences and technologies. His works range from the communication networks of 9th century Japan (*Uncovering Heian Japan: An Archaeology of Sensation and Inscription*, 2000), to silent cinema and the global imaginary (*Shadows on the Screen: Tanizaki Jun'ichirō on Cinema and Oriental Aesthetics*, 2005), animation technologies (*The Anime Machine: A Media Theory of Animation*, 2009) and on television infrastructures and media ecology (*The Anime Ecology: A Genealogy of Television, Animation, and Game Media*, 2018).

Andrew Leong is an assistant professor of English and core faculty for the Center for Japanese Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. He has received his PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of California, Berkeley. As a scholar-editor and translator specializing in the production of bilingual editions of early Japanese American literary texts, Leong has authored and received grants from the the U.S. National Historical Publications & Records Commission (NHPRC), the U.S. National Parks Service, the Takahashi Foundation, and the Hellman Foundation. His recent publications have appeared in the edited collections *Global Asias: Tactics & Theories* (2025), *The Cambridge History of Queer American Literature* (2024), *Asian American Literature in Transition* (2024) and *Japan's Russia: Challenging the East-West Paradigm* (2021) as well as *The Journal of Asian Studies* and *Verge: Studies in Global Asias*. He has recently completed a book manuscript entitled *A Queer, Queer Race: The Lost Generation of Japanese American Literature* and has begun work on a new book project that examines crossings of literary type across early Asian American literatures.

Scott Mehl is Associate Professor of Japanese at Colgate University. Trained as a comparatist with a specialization in modern Japanese literature, he works on the intersections between Japanese literature and literature in other languages, often with a focus on the history of literary criticism. He is the author of *The Ends of Meter in Modern Japanese Poetry: Translation and Form* (Cornell University Press, 2021). His published essays and translations have appeared in *Japanese Studies*, *Comparative Literature Studies*, *Monumenta Nipponica*, *Japan Review*, *Japanese Language and Literature*, *U.S.-Japan Women's Journal*, *Japan Forum*, and other venues. He was the recipient of a Fulbright-Hays DDRA Fellowship. Currently he is writing a study of the institution and practice of comparative literature in modern Japan.

George T. Sipos is International Higher Education Strategy Expert at Gannon University, USA and Associate Professor at the West University of Timișoara, in Romania, where he teaches Japanese literature, language and culture. His research focuses on modern and contemporary Japanese society and literature from a transcultural perspective, in particular on comparative research on Japan and Romania's modernity, modern nation state, activism, and resistance against state oppression. He published extensively on modern and contemporary Romanian literature, as well as four volumes of Japanese literature in Romanian translation. His most recent publications include 'Journeys of Political Self-Discovery: The Writings of Miyamoto Yuriko and Panait Istrati from late 1920s Soviet Russia' (Human and Social Studies, 2018), and book chapters on the works of Mishima Yukio (in *Mishima Monogatari: Un samurai delle arti*, 2020), Kawabata Yasunari and Akutagawa Ryūnosuke (in *Critical Insights: Modern Japanese Literature*, 2017). A co-edited volume on Japan's interwar society and literature is coming out from Routledge, and he is currently preparing a single authored study on Japan's tenkō and tenkō literature phenomenon of the 1930s, due to be published in 2021.

Local Participants

Dariusz Pniewski is Associate Professor in the Department of Literary Anthropology and New Media Studies at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. His research interests include the literature, painting and aesthetics (especially the sublime) of European Romanticism (British, French, German, Russian and Polish). He is particularly interested in researching the usage of literature and the fine arts to express social and political ideas (based on the representations and interpretations of the figure of Jesus in culture) and the metaphorization of technoscience in 19th-century literature. He is the author of *Przywłaszczenie i strata. Romantyczne transfiguracje Jezusa* ("Appropriation and Loss: Romantic Transfigurations of Jesus" (NCU Press, 2014) and *Między obrazem i słowem. Studia o poglądach estetycznych i twórczości literackiej Norwida* ("Between Word and Image: Echoes of C. Norwid's Knowledge of the Arts and Artistic Practices in his Literary Works" (KUL, 2005). He is Member of the Polish Institute of World Art Studies. He is currently writing a monograph on the metaphorization of technoscience in 19th-century literature.

Olga V. Solovieva is a scholar of comparative literature at the Center of Excellence IMSERt—Interacting Minds, Societies, Environments and Department of Slavonic Literatures at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. She holds Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Yale University, and MA in German and Slavic Literatures from FU Berlin. Her main research interests are interdisciplinary rhetoric, and cross-cultural and diachronic comparison. She is the author of *Christ's Subversive Body: Practices of Religious Rhetoric in Culture and Politics* (2018), *The Russian Kurosawa: Transnational Cinema, or the Art of Speaking Differently* (2023), and coeditor of *Japan's Russia: Challenging the East-West Paradigm* (2021), which received the 2023 ICAS Book Prize Edited Volume Accolade.

Currently, she is finalizing the edited volume, entitled *LifeIntertexts: Japanese-Russian Transnational Encounters and Intellectual Triangulations*.

Przemysław Sztafiej is Assistant Professor in the Department of Oriental Studies at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. He holds Ph.D. in Japanese Studies from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań with a dissertation on the portrayal of Sub-Saharan Africans in Japanese textbooks from 1868 to 1945, published as a book by Nicolaus Copernicus University Press in 2023. He translated Fukuzawa Yukichi's *Sekai kunizukushi* into Polish, as well as authored or co-authored numerous articles on topics of Japanese views of the Other in cinema and literature. His research interests include modern Japanese literature and cinema with a particular focus on representations of minorities and foreigners. Currently, he is researching the impact of racial theories and ideas of civilizational progress on Japanese pre-war adventure fiction. His most recent paper on the topic is entitled "Rewriting (personal) history – portrayal of Emilio Aguinaldo and Booker T. Washington in adventure stories and articles in 'Bōken Sekai' (The World of Adventure) magazine," published in Open Access in 2024 by Gdansk Journal of East Asian Studies (Gdańskie Studia Azji Wschodniej).

Emilia Wajs is a graduate of Cultural Studies (specialization in Far Eastern Culture) and Japanese Studies at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. Her research interests focus on contemporary Japanese poetry. As part of a research project at the Doctoral School of Humanities, Theology, and Arts, she is analyzing the poetry and essays of Yosano Akiko. The main goal of the project is to demonstrate the thematic connections between Yosano Akiko's essays and poetry, as well as to show how she understands and presents femininity in both of these literary forms. Wajs was co-organizer of the international conference "NEW Insights Through Revision of the OLD: Changes, Chances and Challenges from Ancient Times to the Global Era Japan" and participated in an international translation project focused on the works of Yosano Akiko – presenting a translation of her poem at the exhibition *Sakai kara sekai ni hibike* "Kimi shinitamau koto nakre". She held a research fellowship at the Kōgakkan University and the city of Ise.



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