

CHRISTOPHER LOWY

Academic Appointments

Carnegie Mellon University

Assistant Professor of Japanese Studies, 2022-

Macalester College

Visiting Assistant Professor of Japanese, 2021-22

Education

Ph.D. University of Washington, Japanese literature (2021)

M.A. University of Washington, Japanese literature (2014)

-- Graduate Research Student, Waseda University (2010-12)

B.A. Florida State University, Japanese (2009)

B.A. Florida State University, English literature (2009)

Dissertation Title: “Where Script and Literature Meet: The Role of Written Language in Japanese-language Literature” (2021)

Publications; Essays

“Enkyoku no fumiguruma to kawaranai ideology: AIDS, saru-tō, akusho no hattenba o chūshin ni 「婉曲の踏み車」と変わらないイデオロギー—エイズ、サル痘、〈悪所〉のハッテン場を中心に” [Unchanging Ideologies and the Euphemism Treadmill: AIDS, Monkeypox, and the Bad, Bad Sauna], *Yuriika*, Tokyo: August 2022.

“Written Language and Contemporary Japanese Literature – Thinking About Orthography, Thinking About Narrative,” in *Nande Nihon kenkyū suru no / Why Study Japan?*, eds. Sachi Schmidt-Hori and Wendy Matsumura, forthcoming 2022.

“Shingata corona sōdō kara Nihon AIDS bungaku o kangaeru
新型コロナ騒動から日本エイズ文学を考える” [Thoughts on Japanese AIDS Literature during the Coronavirus], *Gendai shisō*. Tokyo: May 2020.

“Ōkina shisō to chīsana nichijō ga kairi suru toki – dark na shisō o motta hitotachi no enshutsu ni tsuite 大きな思想と小さな日常が乖離するとき—
ダークな思想を持った人たちの演出について” (When ‘Big Ideology’ Diverges from the

‘Small Everyday’: On the Performance of the ‘Intellectual Dark Web’), *Gendai shisō*. Tokyo: June 2019.

“Inscription and Japanese-language Literature.” *AJALT No. 41*. Tokyo: June 2018.

“Post-shinjitsu no sekai ni okeru tsurishi no kyūchi – Trump o shiji shita gay to okama no sōi o rikai suru tame ni

ポスト真実の世界における釣り師の窮地–トランプを支持した「ゲイ」と「オカマ」の相違を理解するために” (The Dilemma of the ‘Troll’ in a Post-Truth World: On Understanding the Difference Between the ‘Gays’ and the ‘Fags’ Who Supported Trump), *Yurika*. Tokyo: January 2017.

“Parallel world toshite no kyūjunendai gay zasshi

パラレルワールドとしての90年代ゲイ雑誌” (Gay Magazines from the 1990s as a Parallel World). *Eureka*. Tokyo: April 2016.

“Nihongo no aakitekuchaa: Nihongo-kakikotoba no kōchiku-tekusuto-sei ni tsuite

日本語のアーキテクチャー–日本語書き言葉の構築テキスト性について” (On the Architextuality of Written Japanese: Towards an Architecture of Text). *Symphoniker*, ed. Nagase Kai. Tokyo: Symphoniker, 2013.

“Chōheimenka shita nihongo de no komyuunikeeshon ni tsuite: tojikomoru Nihon no hihyō

超平面化した日本語でのコミュニケーションについて–閉じ籠る日本の批評” (On Communication in a Hyperflattened Japanese Language: Japanese Criticism and Introversion), *genron etc.*, ed. Azuma Hiroki. Tokyo: Genron 2.4, 2012.

Presentations

“Early Cultural Responses to the AIDS Crisis in Japan.” Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture, University of Southern California. 21 April 2022. (Invited)

“Observations on the AIDS Crisis in Japan.” Institute for Ethics and Public Affairs (IEPA), San Diego State University. 12 April 2022. (Invited)

“Some Thoughts on the Role of Written Language in Japanese-language Literature.” Macalester College, Minneapolis, MN. 6 April 2022. (Invited)

“Memorialization from the Margins: Alternative Memories of the Japanese Empire.” Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Honolulu. 26 March 2022. (Discussant)

“The Japanese Script is Greek in Origin! – National Identity, Eugenics, and the Case of Kimura Takataro.” Envisioning 20th Century Japan: Science, Technology, and the International Scene, Yale University, New Haven, CT. 24-26 April, 2020. (Invited; cancelled due to COVID-19)

“What Separates ‘Good’ from ‘Bad’ Japanese AIDS Literature?” Trans-Pacific Workshop, University of California, Los Angeles, CA. 9 June 2019. (Invited)

“Relative Risk and AIDS Literature, or Why There is No (Good) AIDS Literature from Japan.” Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA, 3 May 2019. (Invited)

“Some Thoughts on ‘AIDS Literature’ in Japan.” Centre for Japanese Research Lunchtime Lecture Series, University of British Columbia, Vancouver. 19 March 2019.

“A Whirlpool of Glyphs: EnJoe Toh and the Curse of Writing.” The Nonhuman in Japanese Culture and Society: Spirits, Animals, Technology, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C. 22 September 2018.

“On the Publication History of *Kirikirijin -- Shumatsu kara* and the Performativity of Play.” Trans-Pacific Workshop, University of Washington, Seattle, WA. 9 June 2018.

“A Chrysanthemum Sendoff: ‘Reading’ Sexuality in a Muromachi Poem-and-Painting Scroll.” Visualizing Texts, Reading Images Workshop II: Representations of Illnesses, Love, and Travel in Illustrated Texts of Pre-Meiji Japan. Dartmouth College. 21 April 2018. (Invited)

“Script as Function in Tanizaki’s *The Key*: Reading beyond a Gendered Binary.” Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Washington, D.C. 23 March 2018. [Panel organizer]

“History, Memory, and Violence in Tagame Gengoroh’s *Daruma kenpei*.” 26th Annual Conference of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies (AJLS), Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH. 16 February 2018.

“Just another Trip to the Bathhouse: AIDS in the tanka of Ishii Tatsuhiko from the 1990s.” Summer 2017 Workshop on Contemporary Japanese Literature and Culture at the University of Washington: Looking Back at the 1980s and 1990s, University of Washington, Seattle, WA. 5 August 2017.

“Between Script (*moji*) and Literature (*bungaku*): Thinking about Style (*buntai*) in a Script without Kanji.” Kindai bungaku gōdō kenkyūkai, Nihon University. 7 July 2016. (in Japanese)

“Thoughts on the Style [*buntai*] of *Wagahai wa neko ni naru*: Yokoyama Yūta’s Experiment.” Association for Modern Japanese Literary Studies, International Research Conference: Intersection of Modern Japanese Literature, Waseda University. Tokyo, Japan. 22 November 2015. (in Japanese)

“The Architecture of Script: Ruby and Its Relationship to Written Japanese.” UC Berkeley Japan Studies Graduate Student Conference 2015, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA. April 2015.

“Language as Hyperflat: Rethinking the Applied Phonograph and Its Relationship to Written Japanese.” University of Colorado Boulder Asian Studies Graduate Association Conference 2014, UC Boulder. Boulder, CO. March 2014.

“A Kambun Aesthetic in the Translations of Kenneth Rexroth.” American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. March 2009.

Interpretation

1-hour artist talk by Saeborg (Ooi Saeko) hosted by Christina Day at Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). 21 April 2021.

3-hour interview with Saeborg (Ooi Saeko) for the “Queer Liberation Theory: Resurrection and Development” series hosted by Nick Mulé at York University. 15 April 2021.

2-hour interview with manga artist Tagame Gengoroh analyzing and identifying current issues the LGBT movement in Japan: organized by myself and held at a bar in Tokyo, Japan. 13 September, 2018.

3-hour conversation with manga artist Tagame Gengoroh entitled “The Changing Faces of ‘Coming Out’” at *Genron Café* in Tokyo, Japan. 12 December 2014.

Publications; Translations

Azuma, Hiroki. “On the Language of Love.” *Genron 9*. Tokyo: October 2018.

Azuma, Hiroki. “In Search of a 21st Century *Las Meninas*.” *Genron 8: The Age of Games*. Tokyo: June 2018.

Azuma, Hiroki. “Russian Contemporary Thought II.” *Genron 7: Contemporary Russian Thought II*. Tokyo: December 2017.

Azuma, Hiroki. “Philosophical Musings on the Tourist.” *Genron 0: A Philosophy of the Tourist*. Tokyo: April 2017.

Shibasaki, Tomoka. “Peter and Janis.” *Monkey Business: New Writings from Japan, Volume 7*, Monkey Business International. New York: 2017. pg. 111-115.

Azuma, Hiroki. "An Illness Called Criticism." *Genron 4: Criticism in Contemporary Japan III, Genron 4*. Tokyo: November 2016.

Azuma, Hiroki. "The World after Dark Tourism." *Genron 3: Escape from Postwar Japanese Art, Genron 3*. Tokyo: July 2016.

Azuma, Hiroki. "On Our Inaugural Issue." *Genron 1: Criticism in Contemporary Japan I, Genron 1*. Tokyo: December 2015.

Ichikawa, Makoto. "The Mire and a Shovel." *Shinsai to fikushon no kyori*, ed. Ichikawa Makoto. Tokyo: Waseda Bungaku, 2012.

Umehara, Takeshi; Azuma, Hiroki. "A Land Where All Things Germinate." *Shisouchizu Beta vol. 3*, ed. Azuma Hiroki. Tokyo: genron, 2012.

Awards & Fellowships

Turrell V. Wylie Memorial Scholarship, Dept. of Asian Languages and Literature, UW, 2020

Modern Language Quarterly (MLQ) Dissertation Fellowship, 2020

Japan Foundation Doctoral Fellowship, 2016-17

Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award, Dept. of Asian Languages and Literature, UW, 2016

Fritz International Research and Study Fellowship, 2014, Tokyo

FLAS Scholar in Korean language, 2014 (declined)

FLAS Scholar in Korean language, 2013-14

MEXT Scholar at Waseda University, Tokyo, 2010-12

Winthrop-King Fellowship for Japanese language, 2007

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship, 2005-9

Workshops Organized

Summer 2017 Workshop on Contemporary Japanese Literature: Looking Back at the 1980s and 1990s (Aug. 5-6, 2017), University of Washington, Seattle.

- Chaired and fundraised for the event; invited more than twenty scholars from Japan and the United States to participate.

Where Written Language and Literature Meet: Thinking About the Role of Script in Japanese-language Literature (Oct. 31 & Nov. 12, 2019), University of Washington, Seattle.

- Chaired and fundraised, organized, and interpreted for the workshop; co-run with Professor Konno Shinji of Seisen University.

Teaching Experience: Language Courses (Lead Instructor)

First-year Japanese

Summer Intensive First-year Japanese

Summer Intensive Second-year Japanese

Teaching Experience: Courses Developed

Japanese Literature from the 1970s

A Survey of Japanese Literature since the 2000s

Japanese National Identity: Comparing National Narratives in Japan and the U.S. (Honors course; taught in Tokyo)

Queer Love(s) in Contemporary Japanese Literature and Culture

Illness and Disease in Modern Japanese Literature

Advanced Workshop: Translating Contemporary Japanese Literature (Undergraduate capstone)

Beyond the High/Low Divide: Genre in Contemporary Japanese Literature

Anime and Animation (Teaching Assistant at UW)