

CHRISTOPHER LOWY

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. **University of Washington**, Japanese literature (2021)
M.A. **University of Washington**, Japanese literature (2014)
-- **Waseda University**, Graduate Research Student (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)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Carnegie Mellon University, Department of Languages, Cultures & Applied Linguistics
William S. Dietrich II Assistant Professor of Japanese Studies, 2024–
Assistant Professor of Japanese Studies, 2022–
Macalester College, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures
Visiting Assistant Professor of Japanese, 2021-22

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

- The history of writing systems, especially East Asian writing systems •
- Early cultural responses to the HIV/AIDS crisis in Japan
- Contemporary Japanese literature and culture
- Contemporary Japanese criticism (1980s –)

PUBLICATIONS; IN PROGRESS/UNDER REVIEW

Christopher Lowy and Konno Shinji, *Japanese Literature and the Visual Representation of Language: The Creation of Text-Worlds and the Literary Experience*, Hituzi Shobo. [Under contract; expected early 2025].

Christopher Lowy and Raja Adal, eds., “Introduction and Outline,” Special issue of *The Journal of Asian Studies* [forthcoming].

Christopher Lowy. “Literary Expression at the Ends of Unicode: The Strange Case of EnJoe Toh,” *The Journal of Asian Studies* [forthcoming].

Christopher Lowy, “The Past is Present: Contemporary Ukiyo-e Paintings and the *AIDS Series* of Teraoka Masami,” *Journal of Waseda International House of Literature* [in progress].

Christopher Lowy and Raja Adal, eds., *Unicode and the Humanities: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow*, University of Pittsburgh Press [under review].

PUBLICATIONS; ESSAYS

“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, Bungaku tsūshin: October 2023.

“Enkyoku no fumiguruma to kawaranai ideology: AIDS, saru-tō, akusho no hattenba o chūshin ni” [Unchanging Ideologies and the Euphemism Treadmill: AIDS, Monkeypox, and the Bad, Bad Sauna], *Yuriika*. Tokyo: August 2022.

“Shingata corona sōdō kara Nihon AIDS bungaku o kangaeru” [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” [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” [The Dilemma of the ‘Troll’ in a Post-Truth World: On Understanding the Difference Between the ‘Gays’ and the ‘Fags’ Who Supported Trump], *Yuriika*. Tokyo: January 2017.

“Parallel world toshite no kyūjūnendai gay zasshi” [Gay Magazines from the 1990s as a Parallel World], *Yuriika*. Tokyo: April 2016.

“Nihongo no aakitekuchaa: Nihongo-kakikotoba no kōchiku-tekusuto-sei ni tsuite” [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” [On Communication in a Hyperflattened Japanese Language: Japanese Criticism and Introversion], *genron etc.*, ed. Azuma Hiroki. Tokyo: Genron 2.4, 2012.

PUBLICATIONS; OTHERS

“[The Architecture of Written Japanese.](#)” A 14-part essay series housed at [Hituzigusa](#), the online magazine for Hituzi Syobo Publishing Company.

- [Part 01: Introduction and Some Goals](#) [2,000 words]
- [Part 02: The Architecture of Script, The Architecture of Written Japanese](#) [2,200 words] •
- [Part 03: Three Character Sets](#) [1,720 words]
- [Part 04: Punctuation Marks, Typographical Symbols, Diacritics](#) [2,400 words] •
- [Part 05: The Orientation & Direction of Written Characters](#) [3,000 words] • [Part](#)
- [06: The Size of Characters](#) [1,900 words]
- [Part 07: A History of Furigana I](#) [3,400 words]
- [Part 08: A History of Furigana II](#) → [2,900 words]
- [Part 09: A History of Furigana III](#) → [2,800 words]
- [Part 10: The Base Text](#) → [2,000 words]
- [Part 11: Interchangeability](#) → [3,515 words]
- [Part 12: Sinographs as an Open Set](#) → [3,400 words]
- [Part 13: The Visual Representation of Language in Literary Texts](#) → [2,900 words] • [Part](#)
- [14 \(final\): The Distance Between Written Language and Spoken Language](#) → [6,200 words]

PUBLICATIONS; TRANSLATIONS

Azuma Hiroki. “On the Language of Love.” *Genron 9*. Tokyo: October 2018. [3,000 words]

Azuma Hiroki. “In Search of a 21st Century *Las Meninas*.” *Genron 8: The Age of Games*. Tokyo: June 2018. [2,200 words]

Azuma Hiroki. “Russian Contemporary Thought II.” *Genron 7: Contemporary Russian Thought II*. Tokyo: December 2017. [2,200 words]

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

Tokyo: April 2017. [4,000 words]

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Shibasaka 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. [4,200 words]

Azuma Hiroki. “The World after Dark Tourism.” *Genron 3: Escape from Postwar Japanese Art, Genron 3*. Tokyo: July 2016. [5,300 words]

Azuma Hiroki. “On Our Inaugural Issue.” *Genron 1: Criticism in Contemporary Japan I, Genron 1*. Tokyo: December 2015. [4,000 words]

Chiba Masaya. “Becoming Cloud: A Critical Interpretation of Gyaruo Hair and the History of its Critical Representation.” [Unpublished; 6,200 words]

Ichikawa, Makoto. “The Mire and a Shovel.” *Shinsai to fikushon no kyori*, ed. Ichikawa Makoto. Tokyo: Waseda Bungaku, 2012. [1,000 words]

Umehara, Takeshi; Azuma, Hiroki. “A Land Where All Things Germinate.” *Shisouchizu Beta vol. 3*, ed. Azuma Hiroki. Tokyo: genron, 2012. [9,000 words]

Suzuki Kensuke, Ishigaki Noriko, Sena Hideaki, Azuma Hiroki. “The Words People Sough in the Disaster: Sendai Symposium.” *Shisouchizu Beta vol. 2*, ed. Azuma Hiroki. Tokyo: genron, 2012. [9,100 words]

RESEARCH TEAM LEADERSHIP

Unicode and the Humanities: We analyze how the transition into the digital world has shaped the relationship(s) between individuals and writing systems, and how that relationship supports today’s global economy. Before the 1990s, it was difficult, if not impossible, to write in non-Latin writing systems because there was no unified coding system (i.e., Unicode). The Unicode Consortium, which in the early 1990s made it its goal to “encode the world’s writing systems,” promised seamless interoperability between global users, thus providing hereto underserved digital communities access to native writing systems and, at the same time, forging new markets for the growing tech corporations. Our project, composed of academics from a variety of fields and leaders of the Unicode Consortium – itself composed of employees from Apple, Microsoft, Adobe, etc. – is dedicated to examining the state of Unicode today and shaping its future through

engaged dialogue and consultation between these two parties.

- Co-Organizer, “[Unicode and the Humanities Conference](#),” Carnegie Mellon University/University of Pittsburgh, 2-3 February 2024.

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- Co-Editor and contributor, special issue of the *Journal of Asian Studies* (“Unicode and the Humanities: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow”), December 2024.

PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

“Literary Expression at the Ends of Unicode: The Strange Case of EnJoe Toh,” *Unicode and the Humanities*, Carnegie Mellon University/University of Pittsburgh, 2 February 2024.

“What We (Don’t) Talk About When We Talk About Literature,” The Center for Japanese Studies, Portland State University, 21 November 2023. [Invited]

“The Visual Representation of Language and Why it Matters,” The Comparative Literature Luncheon Series, Pennsylvania State University, 6 November 2023. [Invited]

“AIDS Poetry and the Impossible – Style, Script, and Body in the Tanka of Ishii Tatsuhiko.” Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Boston, Massachusetts. 17 March 2023. [Panel Organizer: *Writing on the Body, Writing with the Body*].

“Written Language as Interface: The Architectural Features of the Japanese Script as a Case Study,” *Office Supplies: A Conference on the Material History of Writing*, University of Pittsburgh, 24-5 February 2023.

“Sakerarenai genjitsu o buntai de umeru koto ni tsuite: Ishii Tatsuhiko no AIDS tanka o chūshin ni” [How to Bury an Unescapable Reality in Writing: Thoughts on the AIDS tanka of Ishii Tatsuhiko], Taisho University, Tokyo, Japan. 8 January 2023. [Invited; keynote speech in Japanese]

“‘Moji’ kara mita kingendai Nihongo bungaku: Chris Lowy ‘moji to bungaku ga deau toki’ o megutte” [Modern and Contemporary Japanese Literature from the Perspective of Written Language: On Chris Lowy’s ‘At the Intersection of Script and Literature: Writing as Aesthetic in Modern and Contemporary Japanese-language Literature’], Kogakuin University, Tokyo, Japan. 6 January 2023. (A day-long symposium organized around the Japanese translation of my dissertation; in Japanese.)

“Translation in Times of Crisis.” Roundtable Discussion hosted by the Department of Modern Languages, Carnegie Mellon University. 30 September 2022. Community speakers from Casa San Jose, Global Wordsmiths, World Affairs Pittsburgh, Jewish Family and Community Services, and Clario.

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“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. [Invited 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; canceled 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: *Embodied Texts: Rescripting Modern Japanese Literature and Media History*]

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“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 of 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.

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GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS

External Grants and Fellowships

Northeast Asia Council Short-Term Research in the History of Japanese Sexualities Grant, 2024

Modern Language Quarterly (MLQ) Dissertation Fellowship, 2020

Japan Foundation Doctoral Fellowship, 2016-17

Fritz International Research and Study Fellowship, 2014, Tokyo

FLAS Scholar in Korean language, 2013-14

MEXT Scholar at Waseda University, Tokyo, 2010-12

Institutional Grants and Fellowships

CMU Dietrich College Seed Grant Award, 2024

Northeast Asia Council (NEAC) / Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission (JUSFC),

2023 Falk Research Grant in the Humanities, Carnegie Mellon University, 2022-23

Awards and Prizes

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

Winthrop-King Fellowship for Japanese language, 2007

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS; ORGANIZED

MONKEY: Translators in Conversation (9 April 2024), Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh. ○

Roundtable conversation between Chris Lowy, Shibata Motoyuki (University of Tokyo), Ted Goossen (York University), David Boyd (University of North Carolina at Charlotte), Sam Malissa (translator), and Meg Taylor (editor).

[Unicode and the Humanities](#) (2-3 Feb 2024), Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh. ○

Co-organized and fund-raised with Raja Adal (University of Pittsburgh). Approximately 20

participants, half from industry and half from academia.

30th Meeting of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies (AJLS): IN STEP/OUT OF STEP: PERFORMANCE/CULTURE/LOCATION/DISLOCATION (2-4 May 2023), co-organized by CMU and University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh.

Where Written Language and Literature Meet: Thinking About the Role of Script in Japanese language Literature (31 Oct.-12 Nov. 2019), University of Washington, Seattle. ○ Chaired and fundraised, organized, and interpreted for the workshop; co-run with Konno Shinji (Seisen University).

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

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

TALKS; ORGANIZED

James Welker (Kanagawa University), “Feminists, Lesbians and Queer Girls’ Manga,” Carnegie Mellon University, Posner 152. 12 September 2024.

Jennifer Robertson (University of Michigan, emerita), “Robo-Sexism: Designing and Programming Gender in Robots and AI with Perspectives from Japan,” Carnegie Mellon University, Posner Grand Room 340. 8 February 2024.

Jon Holt (Portland State University), “Doraemon Matters: How the Manga Robot Cat from the Future Lives on in Japan Today,” Carnegie Mellon University, Posner Grand Room 340. 19 September 2023.

Patrick Galbraith (Senshu University), “Erotic Comics in Japan: An Introduction to Eromanga,” Carnegie Mellon University, Posner Grand Room 340. 22 February 2023.

SERVICE

Center for the Arts in Society Advisory Board, Carnegie Mellon University, 2023–.

Organizing Committee Member, International Conference on Japanese Language Education (ICJLE): “Exploring Issues of Diversity and Expertise in Japanese Language Education,”

University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1-4 August 2024.

Judge: 2024 SCREENSHOT: Japan Documentary Film Award (JDFA).

Peer reviewer: *positions: asia critique* (Duke University Press); *Japan Forum* (Taylor and Francis)

TEACHING; LANGUAGE

Carnegie Mellon University

82173 - Introduction to Japanese I

University of Washington

First-year Japanese

Summer Intensive First-year Japanese

Second-year Japanese

Summer Intensive Second-year Japanese

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TEACHING; CONTENT

* = graduate courses

Carnegie Mellon University

82279 - Anime: Visual Interplay between Japan and the World

*82275 - Queer Representations in Contemporary Literature and Culture from Japan 82474 - Readings and Discussions in Fiction, Culture, and Criticism from Japan [in Japanese] *82705*

- Translation Workshop 2: Translating Literary Texts Across History and Technologies

Macalester College

Advanced Workshop: Translating Contemporary Japanese Literature [Undergraduate capstone]

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

University of Washington

Japanese Literature from the 1970s

Japanese Literature since the 2000s

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

Illness and Disease in Modern Japanese Literature