

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## CHRISTOPHER LOWY

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### EDUCATION

PhD in Japanese Literature, University of Washington (2021)  
MA in Japanese Literature, University of Washington (2014)  
Ministry of Education Research Student in Japanese Literature (2010-2012)  
BA in Japanese, Florida State University (2009)  
BA in English Literature, Florida State University (2009)

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

### RESEARCH EXPERTISE

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

### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Co-director of Global Communications and Applied Translation (GCAT) program,  
Carnegie Mellon University, 2025-present

Assistant Professor of Japanese Studies, Carnegie Mellon University, 2021-present

Visiting Assistant Professor of Japanese, Macalester College, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, 2021-22

## **AWARDS, HONORS, DISTINCTIONS**

Falk Research Grant in the Humanities, Carnegie Mellon University, 2025-26.  
[\$5,000]

Northeast Asia Council (NEAC) Short-Term Research in the History of Japanese Sexualities Grant, 2024. [\$3,500]

William S. Dietrich II Faculty Development Chair, Carnegie Mellon University, 2025-2028.

CMU Dietrich College Seed Grant Award, 2024. [\$10,000]

Northeast Asia Council (NEAC) / Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission (JUSFC), 2023.  
[\$7,000]

Falk Research Grant in the Humanities, Carnegie Mellon University, 2022-23.  
[\$5,000]

Modern Language Quarterly (MLQ) Dissertation Fellowship, 2020. [\$1,000]

Turrell V. Wylie Memorial Scholarship, Dept. of Asian Languages and Literature, University of Washington, 2020. [\$1,000]

Japan Foundation Doctoral Fellowship, 2016-17. [approx. \$25,000]

Fritz International Research and Study Fellowship, 2014, Tokyo. [\$5,000]

FLAS Scholar in Korean language, 2013-14.

MEXT Scholar at Waseda University, Tokyo, 2010-12. [approx. \$50,000]

Winthrop-King Fellowship for Japanese language, 2007.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

(\* = indicate peer-reviewed publications)

## Books

\*Lowy, C. and Konno Shinji, *The Architecture of Written Japanese*, Hituzi Shobo. [March 2026; 155,00 words]

## Edited Books and Journal Special Issues (in production)

\*Lowy, C. and Raja Adal (2026). “Introduction and Outline,” special issue of *The Journal of Asian Studies* 85:4, Duke University Press. [6,300 words]

\*Lowy, C (2026). “Literary Expression at the Ends of Unicode: The Strange Case of EnJoe Toh,” special issue of *The Journal of Asian Studies* 85:4, Duke University Press. [13,500 words]

\*Lowy, C. and Raja Adal, eds. (2026). “What Unicode Means to the Humanities: A Roundtable Discussion,” with Raja Adal (University of Pittsburgh), Andrew Glass (Microsoft), Zev Handel (University of Washington), Anushah Hossain (University of California, Berkeley), Uluğ Kuzuoğlu (Washington University in St. Louis), Christopher Lowy, Mark Turin (University of British Columbia), special issue of *The Journal of Asian Studies* 85:4, Duke University Press. [8,600 words].

Lowy, C. and Konno Shinji. *A Cultural History of the Japanese Language*, Reaktion Publishing [under contract; expected 2030].

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

## Book chapters (forthcoming)

Lowy, C (2026). “‘Buntai’ to ‘furigana’ to ‘jiko genkyū’ to—EnJoe Toh “Mojika’ o shiron ni” [On “Style,” “Interlinear Glosses,” and “Self-referentiality”—EnJoe Toh’s “Mojika” as a Preliminary Study],” in *Hikareru shishōsetu—in’yō suru “watashi”*, in’yō sareru “watashi”, ed. Umezawa Ayumi, Tosho Migawa: 2026. [May 2026]

Lowy, C (2026). “Tanka ni okeru watakushi—genjitsu o buntai de umeru koto ni tsuite: Ishii Tatsuhiko no AIDS tanka o chūshin ni” [The Self and Tanka—The AIDS Poetry of Ishii Tatsuhiko and Burying the Body in (Written) Style],” in *Hikareru shishōsetu—in’yō suru “watashi”*, in’yō sareru “watashi”, ed. Umezawa Ayumi, Tosho Migawa: 2026. [May 2026]

## Journal Articles and Essays

- \*Lowy, C (2026). “Red Hair and Orchids: The Possibility of Reading AIDS in Nakagami Kenji,” *Journal of Waseda International House of Literature*, Vol. 4. February 2026. [10,700 words]
- “Some Thoughts on AIDS Literature from Japan,” *Journal of Waseda International House of Literature*, Volume 3. March 2025. [4,000 words]
- \*“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.

## ONLINE SERIALIZED PUBLICATIONS

“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]

## TRANSLATIONS

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

Azuma Hiroki. “In Search of a 21<sup>st</sup> 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]

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. [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 Gyarū-o 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]

## INTERPRETATION

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

## PRESENTATIONS AND OTHER SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

(† = conducted in Japanese)

### Invited Talks

- †“Jiko genkyū toshite no furigana? EnJoe Toh *Mojika* o shiron ni” [Self-Referential Furigana? EnJoe Toh’s *Mojika* as a Case Study], Taisho University, Tokyo, Japan, 16 February 2025.
- “The Visual Representation of Language and Why it Matters,” The Comparative Literature Luncheon Series, Pennsylvania State University, 6 November 2023.
- “What We (Don’t) Talk About When We Talk About Literature,” The Center for Japanese Studies, Portland State University, 21 November 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.
- “Early Cultural Responses to the AIDS Crisis in Japan.” Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture, University of Southern California. 21 April 2022.
- “Relative Risk and AIDS Literature, or Why There is No (Good) AIDS Literature from Japan.” Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA, 3 May 2019.

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

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

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

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

### **Workshop and Webinars**

“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.

“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.

“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. [In-person meeting 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.

“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.

“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.

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

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

### Refereed Conference Papers

“Zainichi Literature and Untranslatability: Language, Genre, Memory.” *32nd Annual Conference of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies (AJLS)*, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, 3 May 2025.

“Where Chinese Ends and Japanese Begins: Biscrptal Identity in Yokoyama Yūta’s *Wagahai wa neko ni naru*.” *Association for Asian Studies (AAS)*, Columbus, Ohio, 15 March 2025.

“Queer Orthographies; or, How to Visualize Resistance in Japanophonic Literature.” *Modern Language Association (MLA)*, New Orleans, Louisiana, 9 January 2025. [Paper read *in absentia* due to illness]

“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*].

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

“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*]

“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.

“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.

### **Other Symposia and Panels**

(‡ = indicates symposia organized by me)

“What We (Don’t) Talk About When We Talk About Literature.” The Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania (JASP), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 20 March 2025.

‡*MONKEY: Translators in Conversation* (9 April 2024), Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh. A 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. A two-day conference co-organized and fund-raised with Raja Adal (University of Pittsburgh). There were 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.

“‘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.

‡*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. I 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. I chaired and fundraised for the event; invited more than twenty scholars from Japan and the United States to participate.

## **Talks Organized**

Kurihara Yutaka (National Institute of Japanese Literature), “Shimazaki Tōson and the History of Methodology in Modern Japanese Literary Studies,” Carnegie Mellon University, Posner Hall LCAL Studio and Humanities Commons. 5 February 2026.

Kurihara Yutaka (National Institute of Japanese Literature), “A Discussion on the State of Modern Japanese Literary Studies in Japan,” Carnegie Mellon University, Porter Hall A19A. 4 February 2026.

Seth Jacobowitz (University of São Paulo) and Jonathan Abel (Pennsylvania State University), “The Crisis of the Humanities and the Future of Japanese Studies,” University of Pittsburgh, Posvar Hall 4130. 3 February 2026.

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.

## **RESEARCH TEAM LEADERSHIP**

Unicode and the Humanities: This project analyzed 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. 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. This project, composed of academics from a variety of fields and leaders of the Unicode Consortium—itsself composed of employees from Apple, Microsoft, Adobe, etc. —examined the state of Unicode today and considered its future through engaged dialogue and consultation between these two parties.

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

## **SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE, DEPARTMENT, AND PROFESSIONS**

### **Carnegie Mellon University**

Dietrich College Council, 2024—.

Center for the Arts in Society Advisory Board, 2023—.

### **Professional Leadership**

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.

### **Ad Hoc Journal Article Reviewer**

*positions: asia critique* (Duke University Press)

*Japan Forum* (Taylor and Francis)

### **Judge**

2024 SCREENSHOT: Japan Documentary Film Award (JDFA)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

(± = original course)

### **Carnegie Mellon University (2022-present)**

#### *Graduate Courses*

82705 Translation Workshop II

#### *Undergraduate Courses*

82173 Introduction to Japanese I

82279 Anime: Visual Interplay between Japan and the World

±82275 Queer Representation in Contemporary Literature and Culture from Japan

±82474 Readings and Discussions in Fiction, Culture, and Criticism from Japan

### **Macalester College (2021)**

±Advanced Workshop: Translating Contemporary Japanese Literature  
[Undergraduate capstone]

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

### **University of Washington (2012-2021)**

First-year Japanese

Summer Intensive First-year Japanese

Second-year Japanese

†Summer Intensive Second-year Japanese

±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