

# Writing Away from Home

## POETRY READING, TALK AND BUTOH

Since the ages of Dante and Saigyō poets have left their homelands yet kept writing in their mother tongues. Contemporary poets explore this centuries old tradition through readings of poems in Cantonese or Japanese with English translations and a panel discussion in English. Several poets will discuss their experiences of leaving their homelands and writing in foreign environments. How is their poetry affected by the places where they write? Can poetry in the mother language become a substitute for Home?

**Chris Song** is a poet, translator, and editor based in Hong Kong and Editor-in-Chief of Voice and [Verse Poetry Magazine](#). He is an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto.

**Mary Wong Shuk Han** is a poet, writer, filmmaker and comparative literature scholar, based in Hong Kong.

**Yasuhiro Yotsumoto** is a poet and translator. His most recent book, *Dante meets Li Po*, is an anthology of translations of classic poetry from around the world into Japanese. He spent 34 years in the US and Germany, before returning to Japan in 2020. He organizes *Poetry Talks Live at Hikari no Uma in Okubo*, Tokyo.

**Tian Yuan** was born in Henan Province, China in 1965. In the nineties, he moved to Japan, where he currently lives and works as a



Date and Time:  
**July 3rd,**  
**19.00 till 21.00**

Venue:  
**Sophia University,**  
**Building 6,**  
**Room 404**

This event is organized by John Williams (Professor of English, Sophia University)

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teacher, translator and poet. He translates from Japanese and writes in both Japanese and Chinese.

**Kendall Heitzman** is Associate Professor at the University of Iowa, a translator and researcher in Japanese literature. He has published translations of work by four recent IWP participants: Nakagami Nori, Shibasaki Tomoka, Fujino Kaori, and Takiguchi Yūshō.

**Yubusha** is a butoh dance unit, formed by Keiko & Yuko Tokuyasu.

Panel Discussion Moderated by **John Williams**, DES, ICC, Sophia University.

For longer biographies of the participants please see the ICC Website: [Writing Away from Home \(icc-sophia.com\)](https://www.icc-sophia.com/)