



A woman reading a book by [Luriko Yamaguchi](#) via [Pexels](#)

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- Kristina Iwata-Weickgenannt, Nagoya University
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## Goals and Purposes of Research Unit

This is a book project that aims at producing an anthology of critical essays on Japanese Literature, 1989-2019, to be published by Sophia University Press in late 2023. The title will be *Multiple Voices in Heisei Literature: An Anthology of Critical Essays*. It will serve as a handbook for scholars, students, and non-specialists interested in the noteworthy literature and significant changes in Japanese language and writing in the past thirty years, organized by research and teaching modules.

### Activities in 2023

1) We held a roundtable “Literature in Heisei Japan” as part of Sophia Research Weeks on Nov 22, 2023. There were about 60 attendants, in-person and online

This roundtable includes several scholars who contributed to the forthcoming anthology of critical essays on literature in Heisei Japan, on the themes of “Language,” “Spaces Seen and Unseen,” and “Family, Identity, Gender, Body.” We hope to stimulate discussion on aspects of literary development in the 30 years of Heisei Japan and trace the creative impulses in a diverse body of work.



2) The edited volume *Literature in Heisei Japan* (Japanese title 「平成文学における様々な声」) was published by Sophia University Press in Jan 2024. Paperback and electronic version. Below is the content.

### PART 1: LANGUAGE

#### I. The Past in the Present

*Dissolution of the Novel: Asabuki Mariko's Ryūseki (Tracing the Flow)*

**KYOKO KURITA** / Pomona College

*Making Love to the Past in Takagi Nobuko's Narihirara*

**MATHEW W. THOMPSON** / Sophia University

#### II. Plurilingual Literature and Storytelling Toward a Hybrid “Literature in Japanese”:

*Japanese Literature in Plurilingual Contexts and the Case of Mizumura Minae's An I-Novel*

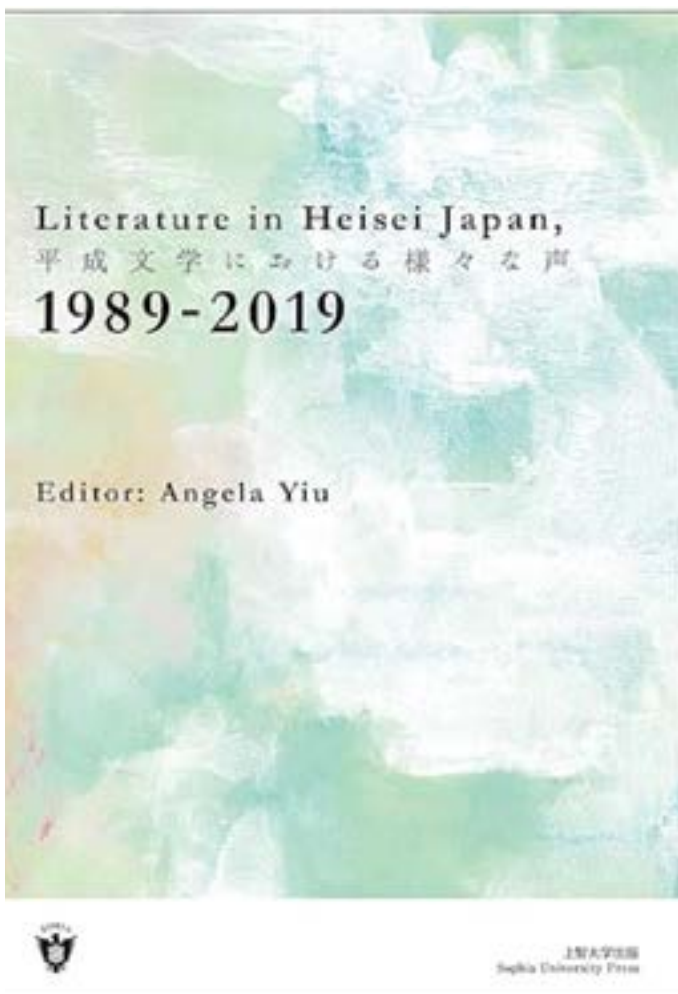
**SHION KONO** / Sophia University

*Murakami Haruki: The Power of the Story*

**MATTHEW C. STRECHER** / Sophia University

*Tsushima Yūko's Laughing Wolf as Confabulatory History*

**DENNIS WASHBURN** / Dartmouth College



## **PART 2: SPACES SEEN AND UNSEEN**

### **I. Space**

*Beyond the Now and Then: Crafting Memory in Yū Miri's Literature*

**KRISTINA IWATA-WEICKGENANT** / Nagoya University

*The Space of Memory: Existential Quest in Shiraishi Kazufumi's Fiction*

**JUSTYNA WERONIKA KASZA** / Seinan Gakuin University

*Tokyo's Hidden Spaces: Murakami Ryū and his Depiction of Kabukichō in In the Miso Soup*

**VALENTINA GIAMMARIA** / Sophia University

*Writing Back at Hate: Zainichi Fiction Between Korea-phobia, Korea-philialia, and Anti-Racism*

**ANDRE HAAG** / University of Hawai'i

### **II. The Environment**

*Through the Water Mirror of Amazoko in Ishimure Michiko's Lake of Heaven*

**MUNIA HWEIDI** / Sophia University

*3.11 Animal Stories: The Possibilities of Entangled Lives*

**DAN O'NEILL** / University of California, Berkeley

*After Postdisaster Theory*

**DOUG SLAYMAKER** / University of Kentucky

## **PART 3: FAMILY, IDENTITY, GENDER, BODY**

*Gender, Aging, and Family in Kore'eda Hirokazu's Kiki Kirin Films*

**BARBARA E. THORNBURY** / Temple University

*Awakening the Wild Things in Oyamada Hiroko's Stories of Women*

**ANGELA YIU** / Sophia University

*Learning Queerness: Pedagogy and Normativity in Tagame Gengorō's Otōto no otto*

**DARYL MAUDE** / Duke University

*Queering Heisei Patriarchy: Homosocial Narrative in Abe Kazushige's "Massacre"*

**MARIA ROEMER** / University of Leeds