



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

Project Leader: **Angela Yiu**, Faculty of Liberal Arts

Project: Literature in Japanese, 1989-2019 (book project)

This is designed to be an anthology not only for experts in the field (though we do expect the intellectual appeal to experts) but also students and teachers of Literature in Japanese. It is not meant to be a survey of the entire 30 years nor a comprehensive coverage of all the authors, but a selection of thought-provoking essays on some of the most captivating writers and themes in those 30 years, organized under the modules of Language; Spaces Seen and Unseen; Identity, Gender, Body.

We made substantial progress in the academic year 2020 even though we had to cancel our planned international (physical) workshop due to the pandemic.

We held two online events:

1) November 15, 2020. "Film and Translation in Literature in Japanese, 1989-2019"

This is a Sophia Research Weeks event (open to the public) sponsored by the ICC. There were two speakers:

- Dr. Barbara Thornbury (Temple University) delivered a lecture titled "Family and Society in Kore-eda Hirokazu's Kiki Kirin Films;"



Photo by Pixabay via pexels

- Dr. Stephen Snyder (Middlebury College) delivered a lecture titled “Translating Ogawa Yoko: Aesthetics meet the Market.”

The event was attended by about 90 people.

2) February 28, 2021. We held a workshop for the project group to share and discuss work-in-progress. There were two sessions with three WIP reports each, followed by a roundtable discussion. The titles of the reports are:

- Maria Roemer (New Castle University) “Locating Abe Kazushige within Heisei Literature”
- Douglas Slaymaker (University of Kentucky) “After Postdisaster Literary Theory”
- Dan O’Neil (UC Berkeley) “Curating the Creaturely: Animal Stories in Post 3.11 Japan”
- Anne McKnight (UCR) “The Other Worlds of Murata Sayaka”
- Daryl Maude (UC Berkeley) “Queer Heisei Literature: Sex, Normativity, and Tagame Gengorō’s Otōto no otto”
- Andre Haag (University of Hawaii) “Writing Back at Hate: Contemporary Zainichi Fiction Between Koreaphobia and Koreaphilia”

We have gathered 19 contributors to this book project, and our plan is to have the draft ready by March 2022, look for a publisher, submit for publication March 2023, and the target date for publication is 2024. Even though we will not be applying for funding in 2021 because the ongoing pandemic, we will be working on the manuscript and apply for funding in 2022 for workshop and editorial activities.

