

ASHTON LAZARUS
Assistant Professor of Japanese
Department of World Languages & Cultures
University of Utah
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EDUCATION

- 2014 Ph.D. Yale University, East Asian Languages and Literatures
2007 Certificate, Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies
2005 B.A. (*summa cum laude*) Tufts University, Japanese Language & Literature

EMPLOYMENT

- 2020– University of Utah
Assistant Professor of Japanese
Department of World Languages and Cultures
- 2017–20 Kyushu University
Assistant Professor of Japanese Literature and Performance
Graduate Faculty of Humanities
School of Interdisciplinary Science and Innovation
- 2014–17 The University of Chicago
Collegiate Assistant Professor in the Humanities
Harper-Schmidt Fellow in the Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Classical and medieval Japanese literature, theater and performance in Japan, sinographic writing, translation, sensory studies, sound studies

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- Performing Transgression: Crowds, Bodies, and Identification in Heian Japan*
(under review, peer-review stage, Harvard University Asia Center)
- Sensation and Renunciation in Premodern Japan, ca. 1010* (in progress)
- The Dancing Dust: A Complete Translation of Ryōjin hishō and Ryōjin hishō kudenshū* (in progress)

Journal Articles

- 2018 “Folk Performance as Transgression: The Great *Dengaku* of 1096.” *Journal of Japanese Studies* 44, no. 1 (2018): 1–23. <https://doi.org/10.1353/jjs.2018.0000>
- “Animate Objects: Kickball, Cosmology, and Ritualized Violence in Heian Japan.” (in progress)

Book Chapter

“Classically Vernacular: Scholars, Performers and Social Dynamics in Eleventh-Century Japan.” *Learning, Power and Performance in Medieval Eurasia*. (under review, peer-review stage, University of Edinburgh Press)

Co-edited Journal Volume

2020 *The Journal of Asian Humanities at Kyushu University*, no. 5 (April 2020): 123 pp.
<https://www.lib.kyushu-u.ac.jp/catalog/redirect/pub?code=jahq&vol=5&rows=50>

Translation

2018 Toshifumi Kawahira. “Chinese Poetry in Hiragana: *Kana-shi* in Thought and Practice.” *Journal of Asian Humanities at Kyushu University* 3 (2018): 21–37.
<https://doi.org/10.5109/1917881>

Book Reviews

2019 Review of *Monsters, Animals, and Other Worlds: A Collection of Short Medieval Japanese Tales*, edited by Keller Kimbrough and Haruo Shirane. *Japanese Studies* 39, no. 3 (2019): 405–407. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10371397.2019.1651616>

2018 Review of *Itineraries of Power: Texts and Traversals in Heian and Medieval Japan*, by Terry Kawashima. *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 81, no. 1 (2018): 180–81. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0041977X1800040X>

Conference Proceedings

2014 “Envisioning Difference: Social Typology and Exhaustive Listing in Fujiwara no Akihira’s *An Account of the New Monkey Music*.” *Proceedings of the Association of Japanese Literary Studies* 15 (2014): 89–101.

2013 “Retelling the Story of a Song: Devotion and Accomplishment in *Shakkyōka* and *Imayō*.” Waka Workshop, Yale University (2013): 1–5.
<http://elischolar.library.yale.edu/waka2013/8>

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AWARDS

2022 Summer Stipend Grant, National Endowment for the Humanities

2022 Asia Center International Travel Grant, University of Utah

2021 University Teaching Grant, University of Utah (with Dr. M.A. Mujeeb Khan)

2019–20 Kaken Grant-in-Aid for Young Scientists, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science <https://kaken.nii.ac.jp/grant/KAKENHI-PROJECT-19K13054/>

2014–15 Reischauer Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship in Japanese Studies, Harvard University (declined)

2014 Marston Anderson Dissertation Prize, Yale University

2012–14 Prize Fellowship in East Asian Studies, Yale University

2011–12 Japanese Studies Doctoral Fellowship, Japan Foundation

INVITED TALKS

- 2020 “‘The Realm Beyond Our Senses’: Sensation and Renunciation in *The Tale of Genji*.” Reiterations of the Past: Negotiations through Practice. Kyushu University (online). December 10.
- 2019 “Scholars and Performers in Heian Japan: Addressing Commoners in Fujiwara no Akihira’s Writings.” Performances of Learning and Power in Premodern Cultures (PAIXUE). University of Edinburgh. December 14.
- 2016 “‘The Age of the Crowd’: Folk Performance and the Politics of Culture in Early Medieval Japan.” East Asia Center, Indiana University. March 25.
- 2016 “Folk Performance and the Acoustic Ecology of Medieval Japan.” Textures of Sound: Orality, Performance, and the Visual Arts in Premodern Japan. Jōsai University. January 14.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Workshops Organized

- 2022 “Japanese Paleography Workshop.” University of Utah. April 7–9. (co-organizer)
- 2019 “Rethinking Object and Performance in Japan and Beyond.” Kyushu University. March 1.

Symposium Organized

- 2019 “The Many Shapes of Meaning: Object and Performance in Asia Across Time.” Kyushu University. December 6–8. (co-organizer)

Panels Organized

- 2023 “Comparing Contact Zones in Northeast Asia: Mediations, Negotiations, and Reversals.” AAS-in-Asia Conference. Daegu, South Korea. June 25. (accepted)
- 2023 “Performing Across Rupture: Text, Body, and Sound in Contemporary Mediascapes.” Association for Japanese Literary Studies Annual Conference. University of Pittsburgh. May 13. (accepted)
- 2018 “Mapping Movement in Medieval Japan.” New Terrains in Asian Humanities. Kyushu University. September 22.

Discussant and Panelist

- 2018 “Mapping Movement in Medieval Japan.” New Terrains in Asian Humanities. Kyushu University. September 22. (discussant)
- 2017 “Traditional Japanese Theater and Theater Studies in a Global Age.” The Yanai Initiative Japanese Performing Arts Program. UCLA. May 5. (panelist)

Conference Presentations

- 2023 “Becoming a Courtier in Heian Japan: Simulating Subjectivity in Epistolary Exchange.” AAS-in-Asia Conference. Daegu, South Korea. June 25. (accepted)

- 2023 “The Sound of a Nation: History, Listening, and the Politics of Conservation in *100 Soundscapes of Japan*.” Association for Japanese Literary Studies Annual Conference. University of Pittsburgh. May 13. (accepted)
- 2021 “Raucous Rhythms: The Audiopolitics of Medieval Japanese Folk Music.” International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF) 2021 Congress. Helsinki, Finland (online). June 19.
- 2020 “‘The Realm Beyond Our Senses’: Sensation and Renunciation in *The Tale of Genji*.” AAS-in-Asia. Kobe, Japan (online). September 2.
- 2019 “Animate Objects: *Kemari* as Symbolic Pursuit in Early Medieval Japan.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference. Denver, CO.
- 2017 “Contexts of Ephemerality: *Imayō* Between Text and Performance.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference. Toronto, Canada.
- 2015 “Folk Performance After 3/11: Agriculture, Ideology, Locality.” Performance Studies International, Fluid States: Tōhoku. Aomori, Japan.
- 2015 “Performing Everyday Objects with Hana Sanjin’s *Shikata banashi*.” Reading Kuzushiji Summer Workshop Symposium. University of Chicago. Chicago, IL.
- 2015 “Signals of Excess: Commoner Noise in Japan’s Early Medieval Soundscape.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference. Chicago, IL.
- 2015 “The Great *Dengaku* of 1096: Encountering the Open Crowd in Fujiwara no Munetada’s *Chūyūki*.” Rethinking Premodern Japan Symposium. University of Chicago.
- 2014 “Experiencing *Dengaku*: Towards an Embodied History of Medieval Folk Performance.” Weissbourd Symposium, Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts. University of Chicago.
- 2014 “Tactical Tricks: *Sangaku*, Illusion, and Radical Corporeality in Medieval Japan.” Japanese Theater Workshop. Yale University.
- 2013 “Envisioning Difference: Social Typology and Exhaustive Articulation in Fujiwara no Akihira’s *Shin sarugaku ki*.” Association of Japanese Literary Studies Annual Conference. University of Chicago.
- 2012 “Scenarios of Agricultural Performance: Commoner Crowds and Elite Identifications in *Dengaku*.” Asian Studies Conference Japan. Rikkyō University.
- 2009 “Rhetoric and Writing in Genpei War Narratives: Representing the Event.” New England Association of Asian Studies. Brown University.

TEACHING

University of Utah

JAPAN 4780	Premodern Japanese Literature	(S2023, F2021, F2020 (online))
JAPAN 4710	Classical Japanese	(S2023, S2022, S2021 (online))
JAPAN 4750	Theater and Performance in Japan	(S2022)
JAPAN 4740	Japanese Soundscapes	(S2021 (online))

JAPAN 4900 Readings in Japanese Literature (F2021)
JAPAN 4880 Directed Reading (BA-level) (S2023, F2022)
JAPAN 6880 Directed Reading (MA-level) (S2022, F2021)

Kyushu University

Graduate

Japan: A Literary History (S2020 (online), F2018)
Reading *The Tale of Genji* (S2018)
Theater and Performance in Japan (F2019)
Introduction to *Kobun* (S2020 (online), S2019, S2018)
Advanced *Kobun* (F2019, F2018)
Research, Readings, and Methods (co-taught) (AY2019–2020, AY2017–2018)
Master's Thesis Guidance (co-taught) (AY2018–2019)
History and Visual Culture Fieldwork (co-taught) (S2018)

Undergraduate

Intro. to Japanese Literature and Languages I (S2019)
Global Performance Theory (S2020)
Approaches to Language and Communication (S2020)

The University of Chicago

Performance and Literature in Medieval Japan (W2017)
Reading Cultures 1: Collection (F2016, F2015, F2014)
Reading Cultures 2: Travel (W2017, W2016, W2015)
Reading Cultures 3: Exchange (S2016, S2015)

ADVISING

University of Utah

Doctoral Students

2023 Estée Crenshaw. "Poetic Discourse: Rhetorical Uses of *Waka* in Heian Japan." Department of Writing and Rhetoric. (in progress; committee member)

Master's Students

2023 Miho Wilson. Department of World Languages & Cultures (WLC). World Languages MA. (in progress; committee head)
2022 Ayuka Suemasa. "*Katakana* Usage Among Proficient English Speakers." WLC. MA in Language Pedagogy. (committee head)

Undergraduate Students

2023 Gabrielle Bowlby. "Translation of Ōgawa Yoko's 'Shijin no ransō.'" WLC. BA in Japanese. (in progress; project advisor)
2023 Molly Rhodes. "Ariwara no Narihira." Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program project. (in progress; project advisor)

2022 Jacob Brennan. "Translation of *Climbers Magazine*, Issue 24." WLC. BA in Japanese. (project advisor)

Kyushu University

Master's Students

- 2020 Zitao Li. "Female Apparitions Trapped by Love in Yuan *Zaju* and Noh." International Master's Program (IMAP) in Japanese Humanities. (committee head)
- 2020 Bryan Alexander Wood. "Gatekeepers of the Way of Tea: The Voices that Defined the Japanese Tea Ceremony." IMAP in Japanese Humanities. (committee head)
- 2020 Jason Alexander. "The Racial Ideology of *Naisen Yūwa*: (Dis)harmony between Japanese and Koreans in the Imperial Metropole in the 1920s and '30s." IMAP in Japanese Humanities. (committee member)
- 2019 Kavitha Kalaivanan. "The Transmission of *Setsumwa*: The Storytellers and Their Audience." IMAP in Japanese Humanities. (committee head)
- 2019 Snorri Snorrason. "Kakinomoto Hitomaro: Evaluating Public and Private." IMAP in Japanese Humanities. (committee head)
- 2019 Indra Bayu. "Code-switching Between Japanese and Indonesian: A Case Study of Language Use Among South Sulawesi Students and Workers in Japan." IMAP in Japanese Humanities. (committee member)
- 2019 Lindsey Mitchell. "Okinawan Identity Through Language: Uchinaaguchi Versus Uchinaa-yamatoguchi." IMAP in Japanese Humanities. (committee member)
- 2019 Gregory Sattler. "Japan's Early Private Traders: The Lives and Activities of Overseas Merchants, ca. 800–1126." IMAP in Japanese Humanities. (committee member)
- 2018 Budoor Alzubairi. "Tea Orthodoxy and Variant Practices in Fukuoka: The Influence of Kyoto Grandmasters." IMAP in Japanese Humanities. (committee member)
- 2018 Jemma Gallagher. "Mindfulness in Japan: An Evolving History." IMAP in Japanese Humanities. (committee member)

INTERNAL SERVICE

University of Utah

- 2023 Japanese Section Head, spring semester (department service)
- 2023 Guest Lecture: "Attachment and Detachment in *The Tale of Genji*," HIST 3520 ("Pre-modern Japan," Dr. Ryan Moran). February 16. (university service)
- 2022 Asia Center Workshop Presentation. "Performance as Contagion: Excess, Suggestibility, and Identification." December 9. (university service)
- 2022–23 Asian Studies Library Liaison (university service)
- 2022 Foreign Language and Area Studies Selection Committee (university service)
- 2021–22 Japanese Section Co-Head (department service)

- 2021–22 World Languages & Cultures Executive Committee (department service)
- 2021 Foreign Language and Area Studies Selection Committee (university service)
- 2021 Guest Lecture: “Japanese Literature,” ASTP 3001 (“Exploring Asia,” Dr. Kim Korinek). October 6. (university service)
- 2020–21 Teaching Advisory Committee, Peer Reviewer (department service)

Kyushu University

- 2019–20 Institute for Asian and Oceanian Studies, Cultural Change Cluster (university service)
- 2019–20 Graduate School of Humanities, International Exchange Committee (college service)
- 2019, 2020 School of Interdisciplinary Science and Innovation, Admissions Committee (college service)
- 2019, 2020 Faculty of Humanities, Admissions Committee (college service)
- 2018–19 Co-Chair, International Master’s Program and International Doctorate in Japanese Humanities (department service)
- 2018 New Faculty Lecture. 中世前期における庶民芸能と社会秩序—田楽と猿楽を中心に [“Folk Performance and Social Order in Early Medieval Japan, with a Focus on *Dengaku* and *Sarugaku*”]. May 23.

University of Chicago

- 2015–16 Co-Chair, Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts (department service)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2023 Manuscript reviewer, *Japan Review*.
- 2018–19 Consulting Editor, *Journal of Asian Humanities at Kyushu University*.
- 2015 Manuscript reviewer, *Journal of World Literature*.
- 2015 Dissertation review of Shiho Takai, *Prostitutes, Stepmothers, and Provincial Daughters: Women and Jōruri Puppet Plays in 18th Century Japan*. <https://dissertationreviews.org/women-and-joruri-puppet-plays-in-18th-century-japan/>
- 2014 Dissertation review of Saeko Shibayama, *Ōe no Masafusa and the Convergence of the “Ways”: The Twilight of Early Chinese Literary Studies and the Rise of Waka Studies*. <https://dissertationreviews.org/chinese-literary-studies-waka-studies/>

OUTREACH

- 2019 Lecture. “An American in Japan, Japanese Literature in America: Thoughts on Cross-Cultural Experience.” Ōhori Middle School, Fukuoka, Japan. April 16.
- 2017 Event organizer and host. “Yoko Hiraoka, *Biwa* Performer: Class Visits and Public Recital.” University of Chicago. February 16–17.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCIES

Japanese (fluent)
Classical Japanese (reading)
Kanbun (reading)
Classical Chinese (reading)
Mandarin (intermediate-mid)
French (reading)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Asian Studies
Modern Language Association
Association for Japanese Literary Studies
Association for Asian Performance

REFERENCES

Available upon request