

## Inaugural Phyllis Lyons Lectures in Japanese Studies Focus on Literary and Performative Cultures

On April 20 and 21, 2017, The Department of Asian Languages and Cultures hosted two eminent scholars of Japanese Literature and Culture to inaugurate a new annual departmental lecture series, the Phyllis Lyons Lectures in Japanese Studies.

Michael Emmerich is Associate Professor of Asian Languages and Cultures at UCLA, a prolific translator of modern and contemporary Japanese literature, and author of the book "The Tale of Genji: Translation, Canonization, and World Literature," published by Columbia University Press in 2013. He gave a lecture called "Singular and Fortunate Discoveries in Japanese Literature: Notes on the Early History of Translation" on the origins of literary translations from Japanese to English, and its multiple imbrications with matters of materiality, corporality, Orientalist aesthetics, and the politics of war.

Satoko Shimazaki is Associate Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures at USC, author of the book "Edo Kabuki in Transition: From the Worlds of the Samurai to the Vengeful Female Ghost," published by Columbia University Press in 2016, and co-editor of the book "Publishing the Stage: Print and Performance in Early Modern Japan, published by the University of Colorado Center for Asian Studies in 2011. She gave a lecture on "Stage Body Stage Gender: Early Modern Kabuki Actors and Print Identity" on the way that print records from Edo and early Tokyo construct the gender identities of male and female-role actors in the Kabuki theater. After Professor Shimazaki's presentation, Daniel Botsman, Professor of Japanese History at Yale University, offered comments on Kabuki theater as social history.

Professors Emmerich and Lyons also participated in a Global Humanities Translation Salon at Bookends and Beginnings in Downtown Evanston, hosted by the Global Humanities Initiative. Professor Lyons read from her forthcoming translation of "In Black & White," a novel by Jun'ichiro Tanizaki, and Professor Emmerich read from his 2004 translation of Sayonara Gangsters, a novel by Genichiro Takahashi.

Professor Emeritus Phyllis Lyons retired from Northwestern in 2016 after 37 years of teaching at Northwestern, during most of which she was the nearly sole university resource in the Asian Humanities broadly speaking, and Japanese literary scholarship more specifically. In the last few years she has been able to see the new Department of Asian Languages and Cultures grow up around her, and this lecture series serves to recognize her contribution to what is now a vibrant Northwestern community of faculty and students engaged in the study of Japanese language, literature, culture, and history.