

CHRISTOPHER L. HILL

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POSITIONS

University of Michigan	Chair, Department of Comparative Literature	2022 - present
	Associate Professor of Comparative Literature	2021 - present
	Associate Professor of Modern Japanese Studies	2019 - present
	Assistant Professor of Japanese Literature	2014 - 2019
Free University of Berlin	Postdoctoral Fellow, Friedrich-Meinecke-Institut	Fall 2014
Columbia University	Associate Director, European Institute	2012 - 2014
University of California, Berkeley	Visiting Associate Professor of Japanese Literature	Autumn 2011
École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales	Visiting Professor, Division of History and France-Japan Foundation	May - June 2011
Columbia University	Adjunct Associate Professor of Japanese Literature	2010 - 2011
Yale University	Associate Professor of Japanese Literature	2007 - 2010
	Assistant Professor of Japanese Literature	2001 - 2007
Harvard University	Lecturer, Program in History and Literature and Dept. of East Asian Languages and Civilizations	2000 - 2001
	Postdoctoral Fellow, Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies	1999 - 2000

EDUCATION

Columbia University	Ph.D. with distinction, Comparative Literature
Columbia University	M.A. with departmental honors, Comparative Literature
Stanford University	B.A. with highest honors, English

RESEARCH INTERESTS

The novel in comparative perspective; realism and modernism; narrative theory; history of social thought; transnational intellectual exchange; historical narrative; nationalism; Cold War; decolonization.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Japanese Writers in the Bandung Moment. Japanese writers' engagement with the decolonizing world after 1945; contributions to Afro-Asian solidarity organizations; efforts to imagine a position in the world not mediated by the United States or the USSR. Endō Shūsaku, Noma Hiroshi, Katō Shūichi, Nakano Shigeharu, Ōe Kenzaburō, and other writers.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Figures of the World: The Naturalist Novel and Transnational Form (Northwestern UP, 2020)

National History and the World of Nations: Capital, State, and the Rhetoric of History in Japan, France, and the United States (Duke UP, 2008)

Awarded Yale's Heyman Prize for outstanding junior-faculty scholarship; runner-up for H-Soz-u-Kult best book in non-European history, 2009

Refereed Articles

“Tokyo in Tashkent: Japanese Writers, the Afro-Asian Writers Association, and the Problem of Imperial Responsibility”; 12,000-word article under review

“American Naturalism’s Worldly History,” *New Centennial Review* 20:3 (Win. 2020), 1-22

“Crossed Geographies: Endō and Fanon in Lyon,” *Representations* 128 (Fall 2014), 93-123

“Nana in the World: Novel, Gender, and Transnational Form,” *Modern Language Quarterly* 72:1 (Mar. 2011), 75-105

“The Travels of Naturalism and the Challenges of a World Literary History,” *Literature Compass* 6 (Oct. 2009), 1198-210

“How to Write a Second Restoration: The Political Novel and Meiji Historiography,” *Journal of Japanese Studies* 33:2 (Sum. 2007), 337-56

“Mori Ōgai’s Resentful Narrator: Trauma and the National Subject in ‘The Dancing Girl,’” *Positions* 10:2 (Aut. 2002), 365-97

Essays and Book Chapters

“Misreading *Provincializing Europe*,” *Práticas da História* (Lisbon) 11 (2020), 53-61

“Haven’t we Met? On the Scales of Connection,” *Verge* 3:2 (2017): 86-89

“Conceptual Universalization in the Transnational Nineteenth Century,” *Global Intellectual History*, ed. Samuel Moyn and Andrew Sartori (New York: Columbia UP, 2013), 134-58

“Exhausted by Their Battles with the World: Neurasthenia and Civilization Critique in Early Twentieth-Century Japan,” *Perversion and Modern Japan: Experiments in Psychoanalysis*, ed. Nina Cornyetz and Keith Vincent (London: Routledge, 2010), 242-58

“The Naturalist Novel and the Boundaries of Japanese Literature,” *Proceedings of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies* 9 (2009), 71-75

“The Body in Naturalist Literature and Modern Social Imaginaries,” *Tradition and Modernity: Comparative Perspectives* (Beijing: Peking UP, 2007), 348-63

“National Histories and World Systems: Writing Japan, France, the United States,” *Turning Points in Historiography: A Cross-Cultural Perspective*, ed. Q. Edward Wang and Georg G. Iggers (Rochester: Univ. of Rochester Press, 2002), 163-84 (trans. in *Globalgeschichte: Theorien, Ansätze, Themen*, ed. Sebastian Conrad, Andreas Eckert, and Ulrike Freitag [Frankfurt: Campus, 2007], 220-47)

“Ideologies of Novelty and Agedness: Narrating the Origins of the Meiji Nation,” *New Directions in the Study of Meiji Japan*, ed. Helen Hardacre and Adam L. Kern (Leiden: Brill, 1997), 549-61

“Fashizumu to hyōshō no shutai—Maruyama, Adorno, yūtopia” (Fascism and the Subject of Representation: Maruyama, Adorno, Utopia), trans. Takeuchi Takahiro, *Hihyō kūkan* (Tokyo) 2:4 (Jan. 1995), 64-75

Reviews

Justin Jesty, *Art and Engagement in Early Postwar Japan*; in *Modern Language Quarterly* 82:1 (Mar. 2021), 133-35

Gavin Walker, *The Sublime Perversion of Capital*; in *American Historical Review* 123:3 (June 2018), 909-10

Robert Thomas Tierney, *Tropics of Savagery: The Culture of Japanese Empire in Comparative Frame*; in *Journal of Japanese Studies* 38:1 (Win. 2012), 158-62

Sebastian Jobs and Alf Lüdtke, eds., *Unsettling History: Archiving and Narrating in Historiography*; in *Social History* 36:3 (Aug. 2011), 380-82

Mark Anderson, *Japan and the Specter of Imperialism*; in *Journal of Japanese Studies* 37:2 (Sum. 2011), 418-21

Jonathan Zwicker, *Practices of the Sentimental Imagination: Melodrama, the Novel, and the Social Imagination in Nineteenth-Century Japan*; in *Journal of Japanese Studies* 43:2 (Sum. 2008), 449-53

Maeda Ai, *Text and the City: Essays on Japanese Modernity*, and Kamei Hideo, *Transformations of Sensibility*; in *Modern Language Quarterly* 66:2 (June 2005), 261-65

Massamiliano Tomasi, *Rhetoric in Modern Japan: Western Influences on the Development of Narrative and Oratorical Style*; in *Journal of Asian Studies* 64:2 (May 2005), 479-80

Ayako Kano, *Acting Like a Woman in Modern Japan: Theater, Gender, and Nationalism*; in *Journal of Japanese Studies* 29:2 (Sum. 2003), 379-84

James A. Fujii, *Complicit Fictions: The Subject in the Modern Japanese Prose Narrative*; in *Modern Fiction Studies* 40:1 (Dec. 1994), 187-89

Selected Translations

Takeuchi Yoshimi, "Okakura Tenshin: Civilization Critique from the Standpoint of Asia," *Review of Japanese Culture and Society* 24 (Dec. 2012), 15-25

Yamabe Rei, "Kawara On's Quantum Gravitational Body, or the Confinement of Space-Time and the Liberation of Consciousness," *On Kawara: Date Painting(s) in New York and 136 Other Cities* (New York: David Zwirner Gallery, 2012), 141-48

Mita Munesuke and Hashizume Daisaburō, "Does the Information/Consumption Society have a Future?" *ICC InterCommunication* 22 (Aut. 1997), 1-14

Matsuura Hisaki, "Screen: Disclosure and Exposure," *ICC InterCommunication Annual '96* (1996), 16-21

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

Associate Professor Support Fund, University of Michigan	2021
Member Scholarly Leave Grant, Center for Japanese Studies, University of Michigan	2019
Toward an Open Monograph Ecosystem (TOME) Grant, for <i>Figures of the World</i>	2019
Postdoctoral Fellowship, Friedrich-Meinecke-Institut, Free University of Berlin	2014
Faculty Residential Research Award, University of California, Berkeley	2011
Heyman Prize, Yale University, for <i>National History and the World of Nations</i>	2008
Asakawa Fellowship, Yale University and Waseda University	2007
Japan Foundation Short-Term Research Fellowship	2007
Hilles Publication Fund Grant, Yale University	2007
Junior Fellow, Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University	2005 - 2006
Morse Fellowship, Yale University	2004 - 2005
Griswold Faculty Research Grant, Yale University	2002, 2004
Postdoctoral Fellowship, Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University	1999 - 2000
Japan Foundation Doctoral Research Fellowship	1995 - 1996
Javits Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education	1994 - 1999
Weatherhead Fellowship, Columbia University	1993 - 1994
Robert Bennett Award, Columbia University, for master's thesis	1992
Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities	1991 - 1993

UNIVERSITY SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

University of Michigan

Department of Comparative Literature: Chair (Fall 2022-present); Graduate Student Third-Term Review Committee (2021-22); faculty mentor (2021-22)

Department of Asian Languages and Cultures: Director of Graduate Studies (Winter 2021-Winter 2022); Interim Director, Japanese Language Program (2020-2021); Curriculum Committee (Fall 2020); Executive Committee (2018-2019); Graduate Program Committee (2018-2019); Chair, Tenure Review Panel (Fall 2020); lecturer promotion and renewal committees (six); faculty search committees (three)

Center for Japanese Studies: Faculty Research Grant Committee (2018-2019); M.A. Admissions Committee (2014-2016); Graduate Fellowships Committee (2014-2016); Publications Committee (manuscript reviews)

University Libraries: Search Committee, Head of Asia Library (2014-2015)

International Institute: II Student Fellowships reviews

Columbia University

European Institute: Associate Director and Program Director for M.A. program

Yale University

Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures: Director of Undergraduate Studies; faculty searches; untenured faculty reappointment and promotion reviews; lector reappointment and promotion reviews

Council on East Asian Studies: Graduate Admissions, Postdoctoral Fellowship, Grant, and Prize Committees; delegate to Inter-University Center for Japanese Studies and Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies boards; conceived and led Title VI-funded \$4 million, four-year initiative on use of foreign languages in undergraduate study

Richard U. Light Fellowships: Executive Committee for program sending students to study Chinese, Japanese, and Korean in East Asia

Yale College Language Study Committee

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Modern Language Association: Delegate Assembly member, Forum Japanese Literature Since 1900, 2018-2021

Association for Asian Studies: Distinguished Speakers Bureau of Northeast Asia Council, 2018-2021

Modernism/Modernity: Editorial Board (2019-present)

Manuscript reviews: *American Historical Review*; *Comparative Literature*; *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*; *Contributions to the History of Concepts*; *Diacritics*; *Electronic Journal of Turkish Studies*; *Historical Journal*; *Japan Forum*; *Journal of Japanese Studies*; *Literature Compass*; *Modern Asian Studies*; *Monumenta Nipponica*; *PMLA*; *Radical History Review*; Columbia University Press; Cornell East Asia Series; Oxford University Press; Palgrave Macmillan; Studies of the East Asian Institute (Columbia Univ.)

Grant evaluations: Irish Research Council; National Science Center (Poland); Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (Sweden)

Norton Anthology of World Literature: Editorial Consultant for nineteenth- and twentieth-century Japanese literature (3rd ed.)

Japan Society, New York: Education Consultant; created curricular modules on Japanese literature for use in secondary schools; led workshops for teachers in tri-state area; wrote general-education essays

TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

Keynote address

“Universalization on the Periphery,” Intellectuals, Universalisms, and the Logics of Universalization, Univ. of Helsinki, Oct. 2014

Invited Talks

“Ōe, Africa, and Mr. Delchef: Non-Aligning Japan,” Weatherhead East Asia Institute, Columbia Univ., Feb. 2020

“Tokyo in Tashkent: The Afro-Asian Writers Conference and the Problem of Colonial Responsibility,” Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies, Univ. of California Los Angeles, Feb. 2020

“Ōe Kenzaburō’s Non-Alignment: Political Solidarity in the Bandung Era,” Center for East Asian Studies, Univ. of Chicago, Jan. 2020

“Tokyo in Tashkent: The Afro-Asian Writers Conference and the Problem of Colonial Responsibility,” University Seminar on Modern Japan, Columbia Univ., Dec. 2019

“Tokyo in Tashkent: The Afro-Asian Writers Conference and the Problem of Japanese War Responsibility,” Global History Colloquium, Free Univ. of Berlin, Oct. 2019

“Naturalist Fiction and Transnational Form,” Comparative Literature Colloquium, Univ. of Michigan, Mar. 2019

“Endō Shūsaku reads Frantz Fanon: Deimperialization Meets Decolonization,” Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, May 2018

“Crossed Geographies: Endō and Fanon in Lyon,” University Seminar on Modern Japan, Columbia Univ., Nov. 2014

“Conceptual Universalization in the Transnational Nineteenth Century,” Global History Colloquium, Free Univ. of Berlin, Oct. 2014

“Translating the Realist Body: Naturalism’s Nervous Mimesis,” Chico State Univ. Humanities Center, Feb. 2014

“Endō Shūsaku and Frantz Fanon: Imperial Crossings,” New York Univ. Intellectual History Seminar, Feb. 2013

“The Teleologies of Modernism,” Comparative Literature Luncheon, Pennsylvania State Univ., Mar. 2012

“The Teleologies of Modernism,” Northwestern Univ., Jan. 2012

“Conceptual Universalization in the Transnational Nineteenth Century: An Approach to Global Intellectual History,” Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, June 2011

“The Role of the Past in ‘Modern’ Japan of the Meiji Era,” Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, June 2011

“Naturalism in the World History of the Novel,” Working Group on the Novel, Stanford Univ., Jan. 2011

“Tengai, Zola, and the Unbound Woman: The Naturalist Novel and Transnational Form,” Univ. of Washington, Jan. 2011

“Tengai, Zola, and the Unbound Woman: The Naturalist Novel and Transnational Form,” Univ. of Tokyo, May 2010

“Exhausted by their Battles with the World: Neurasthenia and the Late-Meiji Writer,” Stanford Univ., Oct. 2009

“Enlightened Japan: Local Reading and European Universalism,” European Univ. Institute, Nov. 2008

“Shinkei suijaku to bunmei hihan” (Neurasthenia and Civilization Critique), Waseda Univ., Oct. 2007

“Generic Self-Awareness and the Genres of Modernity,” Wakō Univ., May 2007

“The Body in Naturalist Literature and Modern Social Imaginaries,” Univ. of California, Berkeley, Sept. 2005

“The Body in Naturalist Literature and Modern Social Imaginaries,” Australian National Univ. and Univ. of Sydney, Mar. 2005

“Naturalist Literature and Social Imaginaries,” Univ. of Michigan, Jan. 2005

“Comparative Literature, World Systems, and the Specialist,” lecture series East Asia and Future Directions of Comparative Literature, Princeton Univ., Apr. 2004

“Mori Ōgai’s Resentful Narrator: National History and National Allegory in ‘Maihime’,” Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard Univ., Feb. 2000

Conference Papers

“Ōe Kenzaburō’s Decolonial Positionality,” accepted for Assoc. for Asian Studies, Mar. 2020 (conference cancelled)

“Realist Moments and Modern Breakthroughs,” The Scandinavian Moment in World Literature, Univ. of Tromsø, Dec. 2016

“The Chronogeography of the Novel: On the Transnationalization of Literary Forms,” Sociology and History of World Society, Forum Internationale Wissenschaft, Univ. of Bonn, Nov. 2016

“Tokyo in Tashkent: Japanese Writers and the Afro-Asian Writers Conference,” Postimperial Japan and East Asia, Columbia Univ., Apr. 2016

“Centers and Peripheries in Transnational Literary Fields,” The Geopolitics of European Intellectual Space, European Univ. Institute, Mar. 2016

“Tokyo in Tashkent: Japanese Writers and the Afro-Asian Writers Conference,” Assoc. for Asian Studies, Mar. 2015

“Modes of Production, Modes of Exchange, and the Ages of World Pictures,” From Modes of Production to Modes of Exchange, Duke Univ., Apr. 2014

“Crossed Geographies: Endō and Fanon in Lyon,” Bandung Humanisms, Columbia Univ., Apr. 2014

“‘Mimesis’ as *Ansatzpunkt* in the Transnational Naturalist Field,” American Comparative Literature Assoc., Mar. 2014

“Crossed Geographies: Endō and Fanon in Lyon,” American Comparative Literature Assoc., Apr. 2013

“Geochronic Models of Periodization, or When Was Japanese Naturalism?,” Modern Language Assoc., Jan. 2013

“Tokyo via the World: Tangled Paths from Naturalism to Modernism,” Society for Novel Studies, Apr. 2012

“Inductive Histories,” American Comparative Literature Assoc., Mar. 2012

“The Eighties Were Elsewhere,” ACL(x) panel on the Eighties, American Comparative Literature Assoc., Mar. 2012

“Translating the Realist Body,” American Comparative Literature Assoc., April 2011

“Facing the World: Against the Comforts of Comparison,” Modern Language Assoc., Jan. 2011

“Conceptual Universality in the Transnational Nineteenth Century,” Conference on Global Intellectual History, New York Univ., April 2010

- “Nationalism as Comparative and International History,” American Historical Assoc., Jan. 2009
- “Simultaneity, Unevenness, and the Failures of Modernity,” Modern Language Assoc., Dec. 2008
- “*Nana* in the World: The Naturalist Novel and Its Fellow Travelers,” American Comparative Literature Assoc., Apr. 2008
- “Generic Self-Awareness and the Genres of Modernity,” Edogawa Rampo and Modernism as Global Culture, Ritsumeikan Univ., Dec. 2007
- “The Naturalist Novel and the Boundaries of Japanese Literature,” Assoc. for Japanese Literary Studies, Nov. 2007
- “Generic Self-Awareness and the Genres of Modernity,” Edogawa Rampo: Delinquency and Crimes of the Modern, New York Univ., Apr. 2007
- “Affect and Imperial History in *Kajin no kigū*,” Modern Language Assoc., Dec. 2006
- “The Urban *Sakariba* and Naturalist Representation,” Assoc. for Asian Studies, Apr. 2006
- “Naturalism, the Book, and the Mediatization of Society,” Asian Studies Conference Japan, June 2005
- “The Body in Naturalist Literature and Modern Social Imaginaries,” Tradition and Modernity: Comparative Perspectives, Beijing Univ., Mar. 2005
- “National Histories and World Systems: Writing Japan, France, the United States,” Turning Points in Historical Thinking: A Comparative Perspective, State Univ. of New York at Buffalo, Aug. 1999
- “‘Intercourse’ and the Space of Nation-States in Early Meiji Historiography,” Assoc. for Asian Studies, Mar. 1998
- “‘Intercourse’ and the Constitution of the Nation-State in Early Meiji Histories of Civilization,” Comparative Perspectives in Contemporary Asian Studies: Culture, Politics, Literature and Art, Rutgers Univ., Apr. 1997
- “Histories of the Present: Narrative and Meiji’s Ideology of the ‘Break’,” Conference on Meiji Studies, Harvard Univ., May 1994

Other Presentations

- Book talks on *Figures of the World*: University of Hong Kong, Nov. 2021; Northwestern University Press, Oct. 2020; Center for Japanese Studies, University of Michigan, Oct. 2020
- Discussant, “Music and Meiji Literature,” Modern Language Assoc., Jan. 2017
- “Humanities Classrooms and the Data-Seeking Student,” workshop Japan and the Humanities Crisis, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dec. 2015
- Discussant, “Blood on the Scales: Japanese Literary History and the Sins of Translation,” Assoc. for Asian Studies annual meeting, Mar. 2014
- Discussant, Jeremy Yellen, “Japan’s Hybrid Empire: The Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere,” Modern Japan Seminar, Columbia Univ., Feb. 2014
- Discussant, Richard Calichman, “Abe Kōbō: Thinker of the Social,” Modern Japan Seminar, Columbia Univ., Feb. 2013
- Discussant, “‘Travel’ of People and Texts in East Asia and Beyond,” Assoc. for Asian Studies, Mar. 2012
- Appearance on Modern Language Assoc. radio show “What’s the Word,” discussing Guy de Maupassant’s “Le Bonheur,” Jan. 2010
- “Maedakō Hiroichirō: Bi-, Trans-, and Inter-national in Japanese History,” Modern Japanese History Workshop, Nov. 2009

Discussant for New York premiere of HBO documentary *White Light/Black Rain* (dir. Steven Okazaki), Asia Society, June 2007

“Narrative Form as Historical Evidence,” Modern Japanese History Workshop, Oct. 2006

“National Histories and World Systems,” Cross-Lingual Poetics Working Group, Yale Univ., Dec. 2005

Discussant, “The Space Between: The Cartographic Imagination of Japanese Modernism,” Center for Japanese Studies, Univ. of California, Berkeley, Oct. 2005

“Naturalism, the Book, and the Mediatization of Society: Examples from Japan,” Whitney Humanities Center, Yale Univ., Sept. 2005

Discussant, Workshop on Nobility and Civility, Heyman Center for the Humanities, Columbia Univ., May 2005

Discussant, keynote address by Naoki Sakai, “The Face of Another” conference on Japanese film, Yale Univ., Feb. 2002

“Naturalism and Social Observation in Late-Meiji Japan,” Asian Cultural Studies Workshop, Harvard Univ., Feb. 2001

“Interdisciplinarity and Discipline Problems in East Asian Studies,” Modern Japanese History Workshop, Oct. 2000

“Frame, Time, and Politics in *Setchūbai*,” Reading Practices Group, Harvard Univ., Dec. 1999

“Time as Ideology: Historicism in a Global Context,” Ph.D. Kenkyūkai, Univ. of Tokyo, Sept. 1996

PANELS AND WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED

Panel “Dreams of Nonalignment: Legacies of Bandung in Japanese and Korean Literature,” Assoc. for Asian Studies, Mar. 2015

Panel “Auerbach’s Theory of Mimesis and Non-Western Literatures” (with Christopher Bush, Northwestern Univ.), American Comparative Literature Assoc., Apr. 2014

Lecture and workshop by popular-culture scholar Tatsumi Takayuki (Keiō Univ.), Yale Univ., Apr. 2009

Roundtable “The Problem of Nationalism in a Global Frame,” American Historical Assoc., Jan. 2009

Panel “Urban Space and the Urban Gaze: Literature, Ethnography, Art,” Assoc. for Asian Studies, Apr. 2006

Workshop with cultural critic Ueno Toshiya (Wakō Univ.), Yale Univ., Nov. 2005

Workshop with Narita Ryūichi (history, Japan Women’s Univ.), Iyotani Toshio (economics, Hitotsubashi Univ.), and Hirata Yumi (literature, Osaka Univ. of Foreign Studies), Yale Univ., Oct. 2005

Workshop with literary scholar Komori Yōichi (Univ. of Tokyo), Yale Univ., Apr. 2002

Workshop with Japanese literary scholars Kōno Kensuke (Nihon Univ.) and Kanai Keiko (Waseda Univ.), Yale Univ., Apr. 2002

Faculty-graduate student workshop on Media, Modernism, and Avant-Garde, Yale Univ., 2001-02

Panel “Coercive Universalities: History, Law, and Money in Meiji Japan,” Assoc. for Asian Studies, Mar. 1998

LANGUAGES

Reading, writing, and speaking proficiency in modern Japanese and French

Reading proficiency in classical Japanese, Italian, and German

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Comparative Literature Association

American Historical Association

Association for Asian Studies

Modern Language Association

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Japanese to English translator on topics including art, film, and sociology, 1995-present

Correspondent, Dow Jones News Services, New York and Tokyo, 1988-1991

Reporter, Watertown Daily Times, Watertown NY, 1988

Assistant English Teacher (JET), Fujiyoshida City, Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan, 1986-1987