

A Note from the Editorial Office:

On page 111 of the recently published issue of *The Journal of the American Literature Society of Japan* (no. 14), the summaries of a workshop and two symposia held during our annual meeting at Kyoto University in 2015 were missing. We sincerely apologize for the omission. In addition to this PDF, we will make sure to feature these summaries in the next issue.

Day 2 (October 11, 2015)**Workshop**

11:55 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

Room 1**“Teaching American Literature in English”**

Moderator & Speaker	SEKIDO Fuyuhiko (Dokkyo University)
	PRONKO Michael (Meiji Gakuin University)
Speakers	SUZUKI Akiyoshi (Nagasaki University)

The workshop on Sunday discussed ways of approaching and working with American literature in English by discussing teaching methods and conceptions of language and literature that work with students. The ways to research, conceptualize and write about American Literature were explained as important to inform how and why and what we teach. In this panel, the presenters discussed productive, creative teaching methods for enhancing the concurrent study of American literature in English.

Michael Pronko presented on the use of questions as a central pillar of the literature classroom and an important way of motivating students to think more broadly and read more deeply. The purpose of using questions to focus attention on the details of literary works and to get students to use English more actively was explained from a theoretical standpoint. Specific examples of student questions were examined to see what types of questions students actually write. These student questions were discussed as examples of how students can develop autonomy to interact with literary texts by reading, discussing and responding at any English level. Lastly, model questions were presented together with methods for conducting question-asking and question-answering activities.

Fuyuhiko Sekido reported on “Ways of Using Short Stories to Make Learners Interested.” This approach focused on good stories that make students absorbed, e.g. “Three Hours between Planes” by Fitzgerald and “Long Walk to Forever” by Vonnegut. Students become absorbed when stories make them think about life or love as if they were real experiences. When that happens, the hurdle of

English is lowered. These stories have short films, which further stimulates learners' imaginations, and gives more opportunities to improve their language abilities. Overall, learners have a chance not only to acquire target language but also to think about their life.

Akiyoshi Suzuki made a presentation entitled "Academic Barbarism?" Taking the stance of pragmatism, he argued that people in workplaces in Japan require students to have abilities that correspond to what happens when reading literature. Additionally, reading literature assists students and others to build a resilient life in a globalized environment. How should they read? There are two types of approach to literary texts: first, reading people and the society in texts as if they were real people and a real society; and second, reading people and the society in texts as a product of human artistic creation. Roughly speaking, they can read texts from their own nose or read with theories. However, the latter way remains inside the confines of a narrow community aiming to analyze the text, thus alienating readers who would rather follow the first approach. World Literature as an approach requires the two to shake hands. Of course, many students have insufficient academic ability in English to read literature. One answer to finding a positive way of reading literature and engaging in communicative language teaching is to set up a "culminant task." The culminant task engages students strongly with a motivating and meaningful focus on both language and literature.

Symposia

1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

I Kansai Branch "The Pursuit of Happiness and its Consequences in American Literature"

Moderator & Panelist	KISHI Masayuki (Osaka University)
	SHIRAKAWA Keiko (Doshisha University)
Panelist	NITTA Reiko (Hiroshima University)
	TAKEMOTO Noriaki (Nara Women's University)

The Pursuit of Happiness is defined as one of the inalienable rights, together with Life and Liberty, in the Declaration of Independence. This symposium highlighted the pursuit of happiness, which, closely related to the American Dream, is the central driving force shaping American values, beliefs and ideals, and investigated how it has been represented, embodied and addressed in American Literature, thus exploring the orientation of American Literature from the Past to the Present and the Future.

Keiko Shirakawa introduced the Bizarre plantation case, which purportedly involved an illicit liaison between Richard Randolph and his wife's sister, Nancy Randolph, and resulted in a charge of infanticide. The Randolph trial was called the greatest scandal in eighteenth-century America and the life of Nancy, a sister of Jefferson's son-in-law, was exceptional; while it seems akin to those of the deprived heroines of seduction narratives, she actually subverted the narrative formula of death in childbirth or poverty, becoming the wife of Gouverneur Morris, one of the fathers of the Constitution. The case points to the precarious boundary between the notion of commonwealth and personal happiness both in history and literature.

After Shirakawa's presentation, Reiko Nitta discussed Truman Capote's happiness in memory in *The Grass Harp*, illustrating the discussion in Keynote. She took particular note of Capote's beautiful symbols such as Dolly's pink room, the tree house and the grass harp, in order to clarify the essential features of Capote's "home," which is inseparable from his happiness, as well as its limitations and the reasons why such happiness is only to be found in memory. Nitta developed this discussion into late 20th century social and family situations in the USA and defined some contemporary characteristics of happiness as her conclusion.

Noriaki Takemoto talked about two aspects of Richard Brautigan's *Trout Fishing in America*. While Brautigan deplored the environmental disruption, he optimistically enjoyed playing childish games. He was at his best in the optimistic aspect. *Trout Fishing in America*, which consists of 47 short episodes, is fragmentary not only in form but also in the images of nature such as water, insects, and animals. Along with these images, the key phrase "trout fishing in America" has multiple meanings. Takemoto concluded that Brautigan found

happiness in creating artifacts out of fragmentary and multi-faceted materials, just like a child who enjoys playing games.

Masayuki Kishi discussed the pursuit of happiness and its destruction in Edward Albee's *The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?* (2002). Kishi addressed problematics of the social convention, which regards the doer of bestiality as an aberrant. Reconsidering the play's subtitle "Notes toward a definition of tragedy," he argued that the real destroyer of happiness is dominant ideology-induced values, preconceptions and "common sense" views, which incite violence toward the Other. Thus, he concluded that *The Goat* represents the dominant ideology as a potential plague undermining human hearts capable of tolerating the Other, asserting that more tolerance would lead to a further development of the interface between the Other's pursuit of happiness and the social paradigm.

II Kyushu Branch

"Away from the Traditional Marriage System: The Representation of Illicit Love Affairs in American Literature"

Moderator & Panelist	TAKANO Yasushi (Kyushu University)
Panelist	ZETTSU Tomoyuki (Rikkyo University)
	TAKAHASHI Michiko (Fukuoka University)
Commentator	OI Koji (Kwansei Gakuin University Professor Emeritus)

Numerous literary works have been devoted to describe adultery as a central motif, because it always arouses people's imagination and curiosity. Adultery is at once condemned as a deviation from the social norm and regarded as the object of desire: thus, the mixture of the sense of fascination and guilt has tempted many authors and readers to those works.

Tomoyuki Zettsu, Michiko Takahashi, and Yasushi Takano respectively picked out three authors from the early 20th century, in which sexuality was gradually liberated from the former genteel tradition of the 19th century and from the oppressively stifling patriarchal marriage system, in order to reconsider those authors from the viewpoint of adultery. After the presentations of these lecturers, they discussed with Koji Oi as a commentator, who published *Erotic*

America in 2013, an immensely informative book on deviated sexualities of 19th century Victorian America.

The first speaker, Takano dealt with Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*. This novel is apparently not about the story of adultery, but in fact was born from the author's desire for it. As is widely known, the novel became popular among contemporary readers as a roman à clef, and actually most of the characters were based on real people. The hero-narrator, Jake Barnes, the thinly disguised author himself, openly desires Brett Ashley, who is based on Duff Twyseden, only to be frustrated because of his sexual impotence from war wound. The erasure of Hemingway's wife from the text and the introduction of Jake's impotence lead us to a hidden desire for Duff and the sense of guilt on the part of the author.

Takahashi examined the desire of Dick and Nicole Diver for illicit love affairs in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender Is the Night*, and considered the author's wavering attitude toward the traditional marriage system. Nicole's final decision not to continue her illicit relationship with Tommy Barban and instead to marry him after divorcing Dick apparently suggests that she prefers to stay in the traditional marriage system; however, it may also be implied that by making use of the system, she will choose a better husband after another according to her needs and desires in the future. If we regard Dick's situation at the end of the novel as a positive outcome of his release from the heavy burden of a marital relationship, we might have to reconsider the received interpretation of the novel that it is about Dick's fall and disintegration. Considering that Rosemary as well lives her life without being restricted by matrimony, *Tender Is the Night* is a novel portraying various modes of deviation from the traditional marriage system.

Zetsu reconsidered Willa Cather's *O Pioneers!* and *A Lost Lady*, along with a collection of her letters published for the first time in 2013, focusing on the author's homosexual desire and its relationship to her fictional representation of adultery. Cather's quarrel with the norm of heterosexual coupling as represented in her work can be read as a creative attempt to deconstruct the institution of marriage, a system based on the ideology of romantic love. Drawing on the notion of "polyamory" as an alternative to monogamy, Zetsu argued that the

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polyamorous life and work of Cather resist the socially forced system of marriage that perpetuates the logic of exclusion. Ultimately, Cather's fiction aims to open up new possibilities whereby sensual relationships may be acknowledged in plural terms and human beings can love and support each other in various ways.