



LANGUES ET CIVILISATIONS
DE L'ASIE ORIENTALE

Sociétés et Humanités
Université Paris Cité



What's There to Laugh About? Humor and Seriousness in Japanese Literature

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

> 11-12 June 2026

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

Mori Gyokusen. Two geisha and a maid with shamisen (1821)

© The Trustees of the British Museum. Shared under a Creative Commons
Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0) licence.

Day 1, Thursday, June 11

Collège de France | Site Ulm
3, rue d'Ulm, Paris 5^e

09:15-09:40

Welcome

09:40-10:00

Opening Remarks

KEYNOTE 1

10:00-11:00

La Magie du rire

Alain Vaillant | Université Paris Nanterre

Session 1

Chair: Nicolas Mollard | Inalco

11:00-11:30

Rire des dieux et rire des hommes

François Macé | Inalco

11:30-12:00

Archiving Laughter: Comic Relief in the Documentary Genre (*ki*) at the Turn of the Tenth Century

Antonin Ferré | Princeton University

12:00-12:20

Q&A

12:30-14:00

Lunch break

KEYNOTE 2

14:00-15:00

Teaching through Nonsense: Education and Humour in *Toshiyori zuinō*

Jennifer Guest | University of Oxford

Session 2

Chair: Matthias Hayek | EPHE

15:00-15:20

Prendre au sérieux les rêves ou bien en rire ? Discours sur la valeur des songes dans le *Taiheiki* (14^e s.)

Ivan Grandclément | EPHE

15:20-15:40

Les parents sont-ils responsables de l'impiété filiale ? Lecture ironique des figures parentales dans les *Vingt parangons d'impiété filiale*

Sudō Rui | Université Paris Cité

15:40-16:00

Q&A

16:00-16:20

Coffee break

16:20-16:50

From Fear to Farce: Laughing at Disease in the Works of Jippensha Ikku (1765-1831)

Anna Dulina | Kyoto University

16:50-17:20

Laughing about Death and Social Criticism in Late Edo Memorial *Hizakurige mono*

Mario Talamo | University of Catania

17:20-18:00

Q&A

Day 2, Friday, June 12

Inalco | Pôle langues et civilisations | Amphitheatre 2
65, rue des Grands Moulins, Paris 13^e

09:30-10:00

Welcome

Session 3

Chair: Marianne Simon-Oikawa | UPC

10:00-10:30

Appropriating *Hyakunin isshu* in Late Eighteenth Century Japan

Laura Moretti | University of Cambridge

10:30-11:00

Looks can be Deceiving: Juxtaposing Humour and Seriousness in Early Modern Japanese "Mock" Books

Joseph Bills | Independent scholar

11:00-11:30

Shino's Gender Variance in *Hakkenden*: Derision and Interiorisation as Coming-of-Age Trial

Daniele Durante | Ca'Foscari University of Venice

11:30-12:00

Q&A

12:00-14:00

Lunch break

Session 4

Chair: Cécile Sakai | UPC

14:00-14:30

Self-Deprecation as Self-Defense: The Uses of Humor in Mita Masahiro's *Boku-tte nani?* (1977)

Pau Pitarch Fernandez | Waseda University

14:30-15:00

Seriousness Through Laughter: Ironic Discrepancy and Ordinary Dystopia in Tawada Yōko's *Kentōshi*

Caterina Mazza | Ca'Foscari University of Venice

15:00-15:20

Q&A

15:20-15:40

Coffee break

15:40-16:10

Le rire au bord du gouffre : stratégies comiques dans les romans japonais post-catastrophe du XXI^e siècle

Sugie Fumiko | CY Cergy Paris University

16:10-16:40

Manzai as a Rigorous, Existential Art Form in Matayoshi Naoki's *Spark (Hibana)*

Till Weingärtner | University College Cork

16:40-16:50

Q&A

16:50-17:00

Closing Remarks

Gérald Peloux | Inalco

Working languages: French and English. English summaries of presentations in French will be available.

The event will be held in person with a virtual attendance option.

ZOOM REGISTRATION LINK:



> https://u-paris.zoom.us/meeting/register/1xt0lL0gTjO45_THg54IWQ

This event is organized with the support of the CRCAO (East Asian Civilizations Research Centre), the Fondation de France and the IFRAE (French Research Institute on East Asia).

Marianne Simon-Oikawa : marianne.simon-oikawa@u-paris.fr

Gérald Peloux : gerald.peloux@inalco.fr

Daniel Struve : daniel.struve@u-paris.fr

