

Hybrid Hallucinations:
A Virtual Workshop on the Theory and Practice of Japanese Literary Translation
for Heritage Speakers and People of Color

July 10th-11th, 2021
2-4 PM PST (5-7 PM EST // 10PM-12AM BST)
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In literary translation, we often hear the terms “native speaker” and “non-native speaker,” “source language” and “target language.” Embedded in these terms is often an implicit assumption that one cannot be a native speaker of more than one language, which leaves little room for more complex modes of inhabiting language, identity, and experience. At the same time, the concept of a “native speaker” of English elides the question of what kind of English, whose English we mean when we use this term.

In this workshop for BIPOC literary translators of Japanese, we will aim to address these questions as we ask why there are so few of us working in Japanese literary translation today. How do our identities and experiences as BIPOC and/or heritage speakers shape our relationship to language, to the practice of translation, and our mode of engagement with the text? How might we organize collectively with one another to rethink and remake the practice of Japanese literary translation on our own terms?

The workshop will span two days, and will have both a theoretical and a practical component. The first day will comprise readings and discussion on translation and translation theory, as well as a guest lecture by Andrew Leong. The second day will comprise a more hands-on workshop in which participants will collectively translate a short Japanese text with guest translator Asa Yoneda.

Prior experience with literary translation and/or reading fluency in Japanese is not a requirement to attend the workshop, though it is of course welcome!

[APPLY HERE](#) (Deadline: June 30, 2021)

About the Organizers

Kenji C. Liu was born in Kyoto and is the author of *Monsters I Have Been* (Alice James Books, 2019), finalist for the California and Maine book awards, and *Map of an Onion*, national winner of the 2015 Hillary Gravendyk Poetry Prize (Inlandia Institute). His poetry is in numerous journals, anthologies, magazines, and two chapbooks, *Craters: A Field Guide* (2017) and *You Left Without Your Shoes* (2009). Currently he is translating the poetry of pre-WWII issei Japanese immigrants in Los Angeles. An alumnus of Kundiman, the Djerassi Resident Artist Program, and the Community of Writers, he lives in Los Angeles.

Lisa Hofmann-Kuroda was born in Tokyo, raised in Texas, and currently lives in Boston. She is a writer, teacher, and translator from Japanese and is currently translating a novel by the Japanese writer/musician Ozaki Sekaikan.

About the Speakers

Andrew Leong was born in Oakland, California and currently teaches at UC Berkeley as an Assistant Professor of English. His research focuses on the literature of Japanese diasporas in the Americas and he is the translator of *Lament in the Night* by Nagahara Shoson, an author who wrote for a Japanese reading public in Los Angeles during the 1920s.

Asa Yoneda was born in Osaka, Japan, and currently lives in Bristol, U.K. She has translated works by Yukiko Motoya (*The Lonesome Bodybuilder*) and Banana Yoshimoto (*Moshi Moshi*) among others and is currently co-editing a chapbook series for Strangers Press (UEA) working with emerging translators.