



UNIVERSITATEA
BABEŞ-BOLYAI



Mutual
Images

Seasonal Imagery in Japanese Language, Culture and Literature

4th and 5th November 2022

Seasonal imagery is omnipresent in many aspects of Japanese life and culture. Hanami and momijigari have become central elements in Japanese soft culture and attract numerous viewers both from Japan and abroad. The sensitivity to the fleeting nature of seasons and by association of life, is an important part of Shintō and Buddhism. The focus on the cycles of the Earth and on the agrarian calendar has been manifested in the seasonal festivals and activities. Japanese architecture also reflects this closeness to nature. The shinden structure that emerged in the Heian period created a closeness to nature and the changing seasons. The ubiquity of seasonal imagery in Japanese language, culture and literature is not a recent phenomenon. The earliest known anthology of Japanese poetry, *Kokinshū* (10th century) abounds with elements of the natural world. *Waka* and other forms of pre-modern poetry use nature as one of their primary themes and inspired modern Japanese literature and visual culture. From *The Tale of Genji*, for example, in which most female characters are named after a natural object or phenomena which is associated with a specific season (Shirane, 2012) to the many examples of the seasonal trope in Japanese manga.

This workshop will take place during the celebrations of Japan's Culture Day and will coincide with the 50th anniversary of Kawabata's death. To commemorate his passing, we especially welcome papers considering how the seasons play a central role in Kawabata's novels in understanding the Japanese spirit and worldview.

Event date: 4-5.11.2022

Online workshop

*Workshop language: English

*Participation details: free event for all participants.

Preregistration required for non-presenters.

Paper presentations may include, but are not limited to the following topics:

- Symbolism of the seasons;
- Transience of nature and passing of seasons;
- Hanami, tsukimi and momijigari;

- Seasons and Japanese language: kigo, saijiki...;
- Seasons in pre-modern Japanese literature: kanshi, waka, renga, haikai;
- Seasons and haiku;
- Seasons in Japanese modern and contemporary literature: fiction and non-fiction;
- Seasons in Kawabata's novels;
- Pictorial representations of the seasons;
- Seasons in Japanese architecture;
- Seasons and religion: evanescence, annual observances and religious rituals, ...;
- Seasons in Japanese mythology and religion;
- Seasons in popular culture;
- Japanese seasonal celebration in Western culture and literature;
- Seasons and tourism in Japan.

We encourage submissions with an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach.

This conference is open to both postgraduates and academics at any stage of their career.

In addition to individual submissions, we welcome the submission of pre-formed panel proposals. Please send an abstract for each paper, as well as the title of your panel proposal.

DEADLINE: 300 words abstracts should be submitted by **15th September 2022**. Please note that the presentations should be of around 20 minutes, followed by a 10 min Q&A session.

Abstracts should be submitted to the following address: mutualimages@gmail.com

This conference is organized in collaboration between The Sembazuru Japanese Centre for Japanese Studies (Faculty of Letters, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania) and Mutual Images Research Association (MIRA). More information on www.mutualimages.org

WRITING RECOMMENDATIONS

Abstracts should *be sent in* Word format with the following information and in this order:

1. a) title of abstract, b) body of abstract, c) up to 6 key words, d) author(s), e) affiliation, f) email address.

Please use plain text (Garamond 11) and abstain from using footnotes and any special formatting, characters or emphasis (such as bold, italics or underline).

E-mails should be entitled: "MUTUAL IMAGES 2022".

All abstracts will be anonymously reviewed. Authors will be notified via email on the results of the review by 10th October 2022.

We acknowledge receipt and answer to all paper proposals submitted. If you do not receive a reply from us in a week you should assume we did not receive your proposal. We suggest, then, to resend it.

Papers might be considered for publication in the peer-reviewed open access *Mutual Images Journal*.

Joint Organising Chairs:

Prof. Dr. Habil. Rodica Frentiu, The Sembazuru Japanese Centre for Japanese Studies, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania

Lect. Dr. Florina Ilis, The Sembazuru Japanese Centre for Japanese Studies, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania

Lect. Dr. Oana Birlea, The Sembazuru Japanese Centre for Japanese Studies, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania

Dr. Ciliana Tudorica, The Sembazuru Japanese Centre for Japanese Studies, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania

PhD Ioana Tosu, The Sembazuru Japanese Centre for Japanese Studies, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania

Dr. Aurore Yamagata-Montoya, Mutual Images Research Association, France

Dr. Maxime Danesin, Mutual Images Research Association, France

For further details of the conference, please visit: <http://mutualimages.org>

For any further information, you can contact us at: mutualimages@gmail.com