

**17<sup>th</sup> Annual Generative Anthropology Summer Conference**  
**June 13-15, 2024**  
**Tokyo, Japan**

## **Rapprochements East & West: Culture, Philosophy, Religion**

### **Biographical Notes**

**Jeremiah Alberg** studied at St. Louis University and Sophia University in Tokyo before doing his PhD in Philosophy at the University of Munich. He taught for a number of years at Sophia University, followed by positions in the United States. In 2009 he returned to Japan and has worked since then as Professor of Philosophy and Religion, as well as in Peace Studies at International Christian University. He has held several administrative posts there, including Director of the University Library. He has published a study of Rousseau's thought, titled *A Reinterpretation Rousseau: A Religious System* (Palgrave, 2007) and a work on hermeneutics - *Beneath the Veil of the Strange Verses: Reading Scandalous Texts* (Michigan State UP, 2013). He has also published several articles on the relationship between Rousseau and Kant. He is interested in the problem of the relationship between religion and violence and is past President of the Colloquium on Violence & Religion.

**Andrew Bartlett** taught "university writing" and literary analysis at Kwantlen Polytechnic University until his retirement in 2022. He has published reviews in *Subterrain*, *Canadian Literature*, *COV&R Bulletin*, and *Mise-en-Scene: The Journal of Film and Visual Narration*; and scholarly articles in *Southern Literary Journal*, *Contagion: Journal of Mimesis, Violence, and Culture*, and *Anthropoetics*. He is author of *Mad Scientist: Impossible Human: An Essay in Generative Anthropology* (Davies Group Publishers, 2014), a study of the Frankenstein myth. He continues to participate when possible at the annual meetings of COV&R (Colloquium on Violence and Religion) and GASC.

**Tobias Bartneck** is currently a PhD candidate at the Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Kyoto University. He obtained a first M.A. degree in Philosophy (2017) and a second M.A. degree in Japanese Studies (2020), both at the Eberhard Karls University Tübingen. His research interest concerns the reception of Christian theology in the thought of the Japanese Kyoto School, especially in the works of Nishitani Keiji. He is the initiator and co-organizer of the international *Nishitani Keiji Workshop on the Philosophy of Religion* held biannually at the Institute for Religion and Culture, Nanzan University.

**Oleksandra Bibik** is a PhD student at the University of Lille, France. Currently, she is preparing a dissertation on the *Image of Islam in the Early Works of Tanaka Ippei* (田中逸平). Research interests include Pan-Asianism, the history of religions in Japan, Islam in Japan and Japanese folklore.

**Ian Dennis** is a Professor of English at the University of Ottawa and Secretary-Treasurer of the Generative Anthropology Society and Conference. He is the author of four published novels, of the Girardian study, *Nationalism and Desire in Early Historical Fiction* (Macmillan 1997), and of *Lord Byron and the History of Desire* (Delaware 2009), a work of literary criticism making use of both mimetic theory and generative anthropology. He was the Chief Organizer of the 2009 and 2022 GASC conferences in Ottawa, and Co-organizer in 2013 at UCLA, 2019 in New York City and 2024 in Tokyo. He is currently working on a work of GA theory tentatively titled *Varieties of Aesthetic Experience*.

**Izumi Dryden** is associate professor at Mie Prefectural College of Nursing in Mie, Japan. She teaches liberal arts courses on reading in English, literature and medicine, and communications. Her current research interests include the publications and correspondence of Fyodor Dostoevsky, Anthony Burgess, E. M. Forster, Florence Nightingale, and Charles Darwin, in relation to the influence of William Shakespeare, as viewed through the perspectives of Generative Anthropology.

**Chris Fleming** is an Australian writer and translator whose work has appeared in both the scholarly and popular media. He is the author or editor of ten books, including *René Girard: Violence and Mimesis* (Polity, 2004), *Modern Conspiracy: The Importance of Being Paranoid* (Bloomsbury, 2014), and the acclaimed memoir *On Drugs* (Giramondo 2019). As well as theoretical work and translations in journals such as *Journal of Continental Philosophy*, *Body & Society*, *Anthropoetics*, and *Philosophy and Social Criticism* he has also published fiction, journalism, poetry, graphic stories, and visual art in places such as *The Guardian*, *Westerly*, *Island*, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. He was twice National Finalist in Australian University Lecturer of the Year and has been recently been shortlisted for the Island Nonfiction Prize and The Calibre International Essay Prize. He is currently Associate Professor in Humanities and a Member of the Writing and Society Research Centre at Western Sydney University.

**Tomoya Fujihara** is a graduate student in a Master's degree program in the Religious Studies department at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His main research interest is occult metahistory seen in the context of Japanese modernization. Through analyzing thought, people, communities, and philosophies of mind that have not been given much attention, it aims to bring to light the "dark side" of Japanese modernization.

**Eric Gans** is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of French and Francophone Studies at UCLA, where he taught for 45 years. With *The Origin of Language: A Formal Theory of Representation* (California, 1981) he created the discipline of Generative Anthropology. His other major works in that area are *The End of Culture: Toward a Generative Anthropology* (California, 1985), *The Scenic Imagination from Hobbes to Freud* (Stanford, 2007) and *A New Way of Thinking: Generative Anthropology in Religion, Philosophy, Art* (Davies, 2011). A new edition of his 1990 *Science and Faith: The Anthropology of Revelation* appeared in 2015, along with a translation of Baudelaire's *Les fleurs du mal*, and, written with Adam Katz, *The First Shall Be the Last: Rethinking Antisemitism* (Brill). Since 1995, he has edited the online journal *Anthropoetics* and produced over 800 online *Chronicles of Love and Resentment*.

**Kiyoshi Kawahara** is Professor of translation and interpreting studies at Takushoku University in Tokyo, Japan. He specializes in linguistics, social semiotics, and intercultural communication theory. He is also a Buddhist monk, clinical spiritual care worker and clinical interfaith clergy, as well as a graduate student at a doctoral program in Sophia University in Tokyo. He is now researching the relationship between spirituality and language with the aim of integrating linguistics and religious studies on the basis of Eastern philosophy, and developing and deepening a comprehensive anthropology.

**Amir Khan** is Associate Professor of English in the Foreign Studies College at Hunan Normal University. His books include *Shakespeare in Hindsight* (2016) and *Comedies of Nihilism* (2017). He is managing editor of *Conversations: The Journal of Cavellian Studies*. He lives and works in China.

**Lihua Lin** is an Associate Professor of English at Gannan Normal University, People's Republic of China. She has written and published articles on Charles Dickens, Victor Hugo and other European authors and her interests include comparative Chinese and English Literature, the culture of English-speaking countries, and English/Chinese translation. She will be a Visiting Professor at the Department of English, University of Ottawa, from Summer 2024 to Summer 2025.

**Ken Mayers** teaches at the Bergen County Academies, a public magnet high school in Hackensack, New Jersey. He has a PhD in Comparative Literature from UCLA. He is actively involved in human rights work as the Chair of the North Africa Coordination Group for Amnesty International USA. His current research interests include, from a broader perspective, humanism and postmodernism, and, more specifically, the argument between Martin Buber and Emmanuel Levinas about relationships; Generative Anthropology offers important insights into these questions.

**Andrew J. McKenna**, Ph.D. Johns Hopkins, is emeritus professor of French at Loyola University Chicago. He is the author of *Violence and Difference: Girard, Derrida, and Deconstruction* (U of Illinois P, 1992), as well as of numerous articles on literary masterpieces (Molière, Melville, Pascal, Montesquieu, Baudelaire, Flaubert, Faulkner, Shakespeare, and others), and on art history, cinema, and critical theory. From 1996 through 2006, he was editor in chief of *Contagion: Journal of Violence, Mimesis, and Culture*. He is a founding member of *Anthropoetics* and a board member of *Imitatio*, a foundation sponsoring research forum in mimetic theory. From 2010 through 2020 (until COVID), he has taught writing-intensive literature courses and team-taught courses on Hebrew and Christian canons at Stateville Correctional Center in Illinois.

**Junichi Ono**, Ph.D., University of Tokyo, is Associate Professor at Jichi Medical University in Tochigi, Japan, where he teaches Philosophy and Ethics. He specializes in Philosophy of Language and Philosophy of Religion, focusing in particular on metaphysics, imagination and mysticism. His most recent Japanese book is *Toshihiko Izutsu: Philosophy of Dialogue with the World*, Keio University Press, 2023. He is translator of Toshihiko Izutsu's English work on language emergence, *Language and Magic*, Jennifer M. Saul, *Lying, Misleading, and What is Said: An Exploration in Philosophy of Language and in Ethics*, Oxford University Press, 2012, and her "Dogwhistles, Political Manipulation and the Philosophy of Language," in Daniel Fogal, Daniel W. Harris and Matt Moss: *New Work on Speech Acts*, Oxford University Press, 2018.

**Jan Gerrit Strala** studied Japanology, Philosophy, and Anthropology at the University of Cologne in Germany and in Japan. He completed a Master's thesis on the concept of Pure Experience in the works of Nishida Kitarō and William James. Later, he obtained his PhD under Prof. Elberfeld at the University of Hildesheim, focusing on Nishida's philosophical language. After the founding of the *European Network of Japanese Philosophy (ENoJP)*, he Co-founded the *European Journal of Japanese Philosophy* as the first multilingual Journal in this field and was involved in the upbringing of the Publishing Venture *Chisokudo Publications*. He is a Professor of International Communication at Kinjo Gakuin University in Nagoya, Japan.

**Matthew Taylor** is Professor of English at Kinjo Gakuin University in Nagoya, Japan. He teaches courses in English as a Foreign Language (EFL), academic writing, teacher training and culture. He has written on EFL pedagogy, literature, the intersection of science and the humanities, film, social issues, mimetic theory, and generative anthropology. He has co-authored textbooks with National Geographic Learning and Macmillan LanguageHouse. His essays for *Anthropoetics* and *Contagion* have explored social phenomena in Japan, socioeconomic issues, generative anthropology, mimetic theory, and the novels of Jane Austen.

**Richard van Oort** is Professor of English at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, where he has been teaching since 2007. He has been interested in generative anthropology since he was an undergraduate student, from 1989 to 1992, at the same university at which he now teaches, an interest that led him, from 1996 to 2002, to the University of California, Irvine to study with Eric Gans and Wolfgang Iser. His doctoral dissertation, "The Origin and Function of the Aesthetic Sign," was written at under the co-direction of Iser and Gans. He has written about generative anthropology in a number of books and articles, including in his trilogy *Shakespeare's Big Men* (University of Toronto Press, 2016), *Shakespeare Mad Men* (Stanford University Press, 2023), and, most recently, *Shakespeare's Exiles*, which is forthcoming from Routledge. He is a founding editorial board member of *Anthropoetics*, and has served a term, from 2018 to 2022, as president of the Generative Anthropology Society and Conference.

**Alex Wang** is a Ph.D. candidate at Shanghai International Studies University, specializing in English Language and Literature. His research interests encompass a diverse range of topics, including apocalyptic fiction, Hegelian philosophy, gender studies, feminism, and Generative Anthropology. With a previous master's degree in Translation and Interpreting, he hopes one day to serve as a bridge connecting Chinese culture and history with that of the West and to promote cross-cultural communication and understanding. Throughout his academic journey, his goal is to offer nuanced insights that enrich scholarly dialogue and contribute to the advancement of interdisciplinary fields crucial to the pursuit of equality, freedom, and collective well-being.

**Magdalena Zlocka-Dąbrowska** is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, and a member of GASC since 2015. She is the author of books *Generative Anthropology in Contexts and Texts* (Warsaw 2022), *Analyse de l'œuvre de Georges Dumézil, un maître à penser* (Toruń 2013) and articles that include "Cratos as Cognition: Gans and Dumézil in Dialogue on Language and Violence", "Generative Anthropology in the Cosmic Realms of the Mahabharata", "Generative Anthropology's Scene of Origin in Cognitive and Axiological Contexts", "GA Among Giants. Gans' Scene of Language and Culture Origin in Reference to Cassirer's and

Heidegger's Vision of the Human", "Cratos, Crisis and Cognition in Reference to Generative Anthropology and the Scene of Language/Culture Origin, "Cognitive and Neurocognitive Potentials of GA's Acts from the Scene of Language Origin", "The Hand Gesture as Sign Act in the Gansian Originary Scene of Language and Culture", which enter into the pathway of originary thinking and scenic logic. Professor Złocka-Dąbrowska was the organizer of the 2018 GASC conference held at Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw.