

## Anna Zielinska-Elliott

### Haruki Murakami and the Actors in His Theater of Imagination

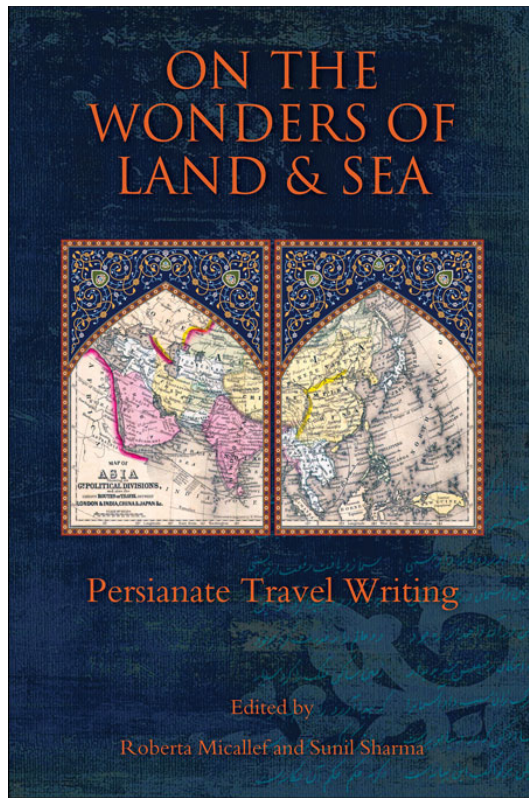
*Haruki Murakami and the Actors in His Theater of Imagination* (Warsaw: Japonica, 2016) analyzes the fluctuating category of gender in the writing of Haruki Murakami. Using the prominent trope of theater (Greek tragedy in particular, which Murakami studied at university), the study focuses on the evolution of male characters since Murakami's debut in the early 1980s, starting from characters based on American hard-boiled detectives. It demonstrates how the clear gender boundaries apparent in the first novels become blurred in later works and how gender roles are redefined and reassigned. The book further shows that Murakami's understanding of the psyche is based on Jungian and Freudian psychology, and as such includes both masculine and feminine elements. The book argues additionally that virtually all Murakami novels fit mythic archetypes, tales of journeys into the subconscious in which the hero searches for his identity in order to overcome alienation.



## Petrus Liu

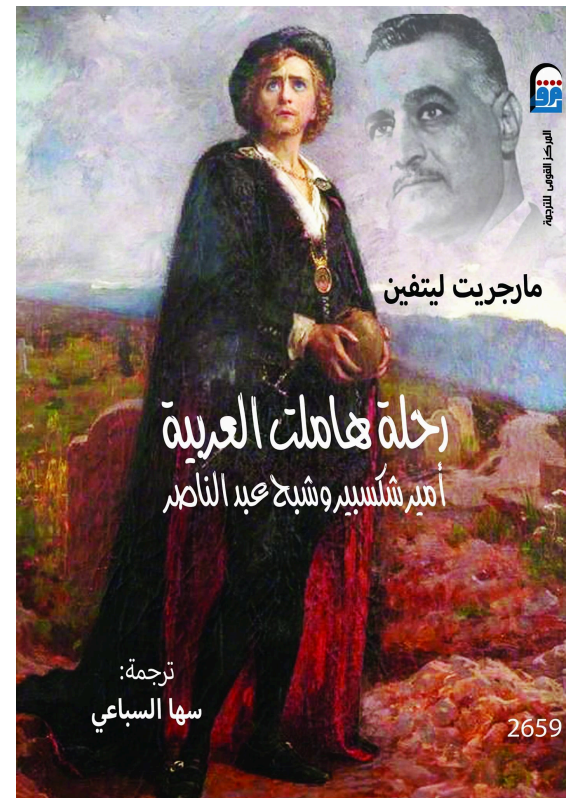
### Queer Marxism in Two Chinas

In *Queer Marxism in Two Chinas* Petrus Liu rethinks the relationship between Marxism and queer cultures in mainland China and Taiwan. Whereas many scholars assume the emergence of queer cultures in China signals the end of Marxism and demonstrates China's political and economic evolution, Liu finds the opposite to be true. He challenges the persistence of Cold War formulations of Marxism that position it as intellectually incompatible with queer theory, and shows how queer Marxism offers a nonliberal alternative to Western models of queer emancipation. The work of queer Chinese artists and intellectuals not only provides an alternative to liberal ideologies of inclusion and diversity, but demonstrates how different conceptions of and attitudes toward queerness in China and Taiwan stem from geopolitical tensions. With *Queer Marxism in Two Chinas* Liu offers a revision to current understandings of what queer theory is, does, and can be. Duke University Press, 2016.



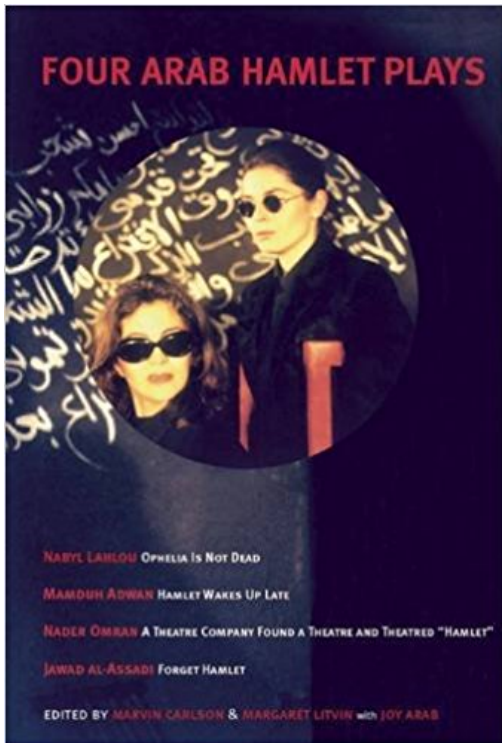
**Roberta Micallef and Sunil Sharma . eds.**  
 On the Wonders of Land and Sea: Persianate Travel Narratives

This collection of essays, published by Harvard University Press in 2013, was the result of two workshops held at BU during the years 2007-09 that brought together faculty and graduate students in the Boston area. It initiates a comparative study of non-European travel writers from the eastern Islamic world, a cultural domain that was linked together closely in the early modern period. Chiefly focusing on the literary and linguistic aspects of travelogues in Persian, Urdu, and English, as well as questions of genre and gender, the authors explore how the authors traveling to Europe and within Asia represented what they saw while questioning the social and historical transformations in the colonial and post-colonial periods. The success of the workshops and book inspired the editors to continue the collective project on travel writing through regular meetings of a reading group and another workshop in 2015, which resulted in a volume of essays that is forthcoming.



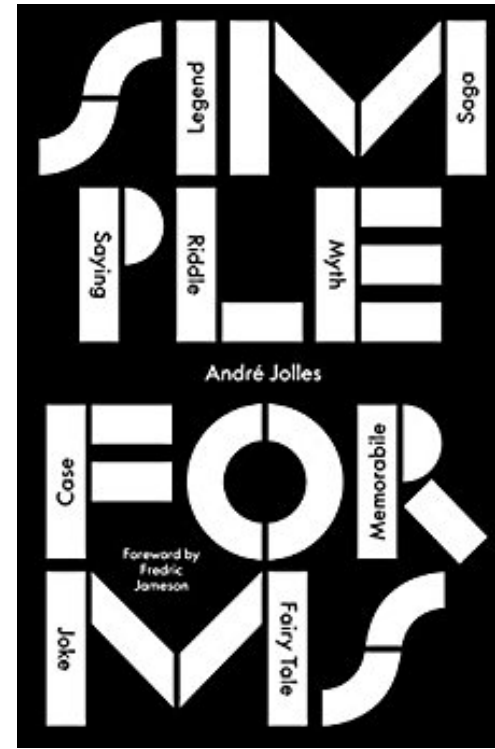
**Margaret Litvin**  
 Hamlet's Arab Journey [Arabic Translation]

For the past five decades, Arab intellectuals have seen themselves in Shakespeare's Hamlet: their times "out of joint," their political hopes frustrated by a corrupt older generation. Hamlet's Arab Journey traces the uses of Hamlet in Arabic theatre and political rhetoric, and asks how Shakespeare's play developed into a musical with a happy ending in 1901 and grew to become the most obsessively quoted literary work in Arab politics today. Published by Princeton University Press in 2011, this book appeared in an Arabic translation by Soha Sebaie from Egypt's national Center for Translation in 2017.



**Margaret Litvin, trans.**  
Four Arab Hamlet Plays

Jumping off from Shakespeare's tragedy, the Arab Hamlet tradition has produced bitter and hilarious political satire, musical comedy, and farce. Hamlet's Arab Journey samples that tradition with works by Moroccan Nabil Lahlou (1968), Syrian Mamduh Adwan (1976), Jordanian Nader Omran (1984), Iraqi Jawad al-Assadi (1994), plus an autobiographical sketch by Egyptian Mahmoud Aboudoma (2006). Co-edited and translated with Marvin Carlson. Martin E. Segal Theater Center Publication, 2016.

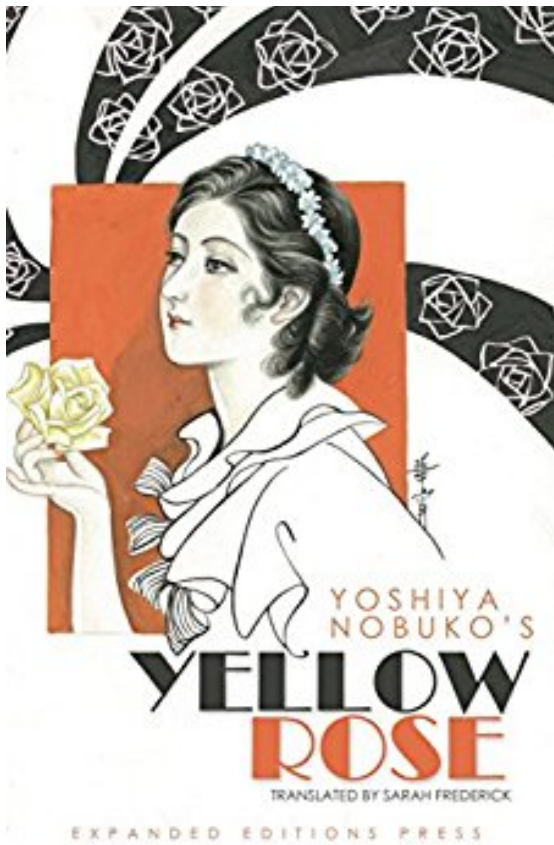


**Peter J. Schwartz, trans.**

Simple Forms: Legend, Saga, Myth, Riddle, Saying, Case, Memorable, Fairytale, Joke  
by André Jolles

Legend, saga, myth, riddle, saying, case, memorable, fairy tale, joke: André Jolles understands each of these nine "simple forms" as the reflection in language of a distinct mode of human engagement with the world and thus as a basic structuring principle of literary narrative. Published in German in 1929 and long recognized as a classic of genre theory, Simple Forms is the first English translation of a significant precursor to structuralist and narratological approaches to literature. Like Vladimir Propp's Morphology of the Folktale, with which it is often compared, Jolles's work is not only foundational for the later development of genre theory but is of continuing relevance today. A major influence on literary genre studies since its publication, Simple Forms is finally available in English. Verso Books, 2017.

"A fundamental contribution to the endless, contentious, productive dialogue between morphology and history. André Jolles, the interlocutor of Aby Warburg and Johan Huizinga, is still provoking us with his work. The long overdue translation of a classic." – Carlo Ginzburg



**Sarah Frederick, trans.**  
Yellow Rose, by Yoshiya Nobuko

Yoshiya Nobuko is widely known for launching the genre of shōjo [girls'] fiction in Japan. For the first time in English, one of the most ardent and influential of her stories "Yellow Rose", is translated with a detailed introduction and list of further readings. Yellow Rose is available in e-book format at Amazon.com. 2016.



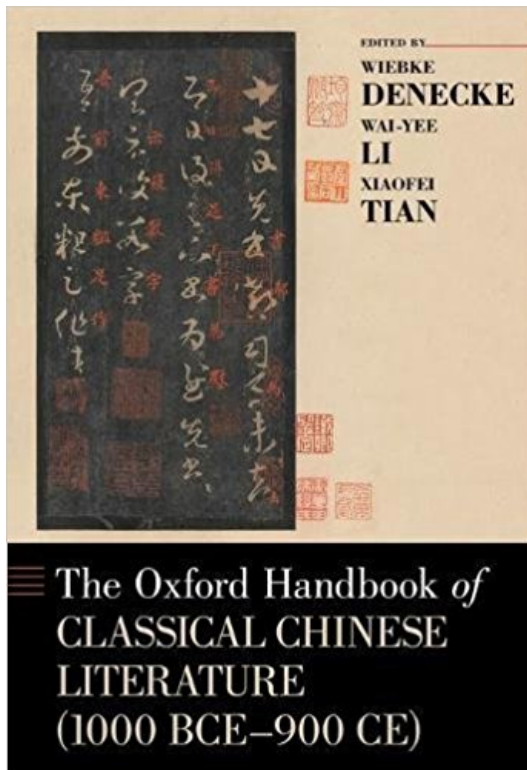
## Wiebke Denecke

A New History of Japanese "Letterature" [日本「文」学史 3-Volume series, Tokyo: Bensei shuppan]

Volume 1 (2015): The World of "Letters": The Age Before "Literature" [「文」の環境—「文学」以前]

Volume 2 (2017): "Letterature" and Its People: Continuities and Ruptures [「文」と人びと—継承と断絶]

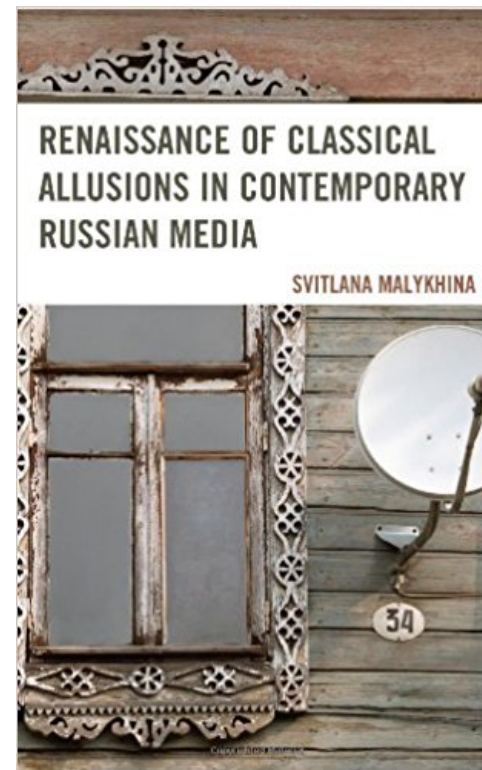
This revisionary 3-volume literary history breaks with a century-old tradition of writing the history of Japanese literature as the triumphal evolution of Japanese vernacular literature, at the expense of the authoritative tradition of Sino-Japanese literature. This modernist master narrative took root around the turn of the 20th century, when a "national" literary canon was created that centered around vernacular novels and diaries such as *The Tale of Genji* and *The Pillow Book*, as well as the repertoires of Noh drama, Puppet Theater, and Kabuki, which were not even considered "literature" in traditional Japan. Just at that moment the new notion of "bungaku" (文学), a term coined to translate contemporary European notions of "literature," and in particular the novel, was introduced into Japan and anachronistically applied to Japanese history. While recapturing the forgotten, much broader world of Japanese "Letters" within its East Asian context, this history of Japanese "Letterature" aims also to inspire comparable revisionary approaches to European cultural history. Coedited with Kōno Kimiko, Shinkawa Tokio, and Jinno Hidenori.



## Wiebke Denecke

The Oxford Handbook of Classical Chinese Literature

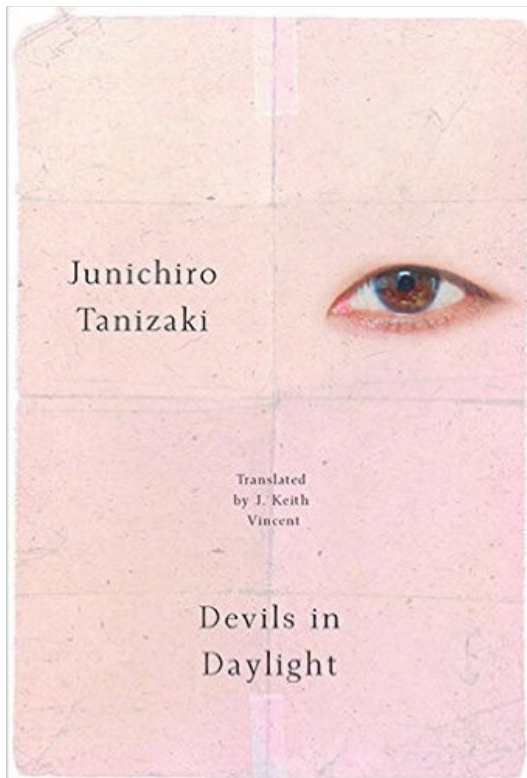
This volume introduces readers to classical Chinese literature from its beginnings (ca. 10th century BCE) to the tenth century CE. Its goal is to offer a new conceptual framework for thinking about classical Chinese literature. The first section discusses the basics of literacy and includes topics such as writing systems, manuscript culture, education, and loss and preservation in textual transmission. It is followed by a second section devoted to conceptions of genre, textual organization, and literary signification throughout Chinese history. A third section surveys literary tropes and themes. The final section takes us beyond China to the surrounding cultures that adopted Chinese culture and produced Chinese style writing adapted to their own historical circumstances. The volume is sustained by a dual foci: the recuperation of historical perspectives for the period it surveys and the attempt to draw connections between past and present, demonstrating how the viewpoints and information in this volume yield insights into modern China and east Asia. Co-edited with Wai-Yee Lee and Xiaofei Tian, Oxford University Press, 2017.



## Svitlana Malykhina

Renaissance of Classical Allusions in Contemporary Russian Media

Renaissance of classical allusions in contemporary Russian media presents the results of a study how allusions to Russian classical canon are used by Post-Soviet media to fictionalize the social reality by deconstructing the past. The book builds on studies of Russian and Soviet readership to show how various repetitions and permutations of allusions to shared literary canon provide comfortable paths to shape a nation's thinking. Malykhina explores the common space of mainstream and alternative Russian media where Russians understand each other through a handful of classical references that have been distilled into clichés and stock phrases. In fact, quotation and allusion from the literary canon set Russian journalism apart from Western counterpart. Lexington Books, 2014.



**J. Keith Vincent, trans.**

Devils in Daylight, by Jun'ichirō Tanizaki

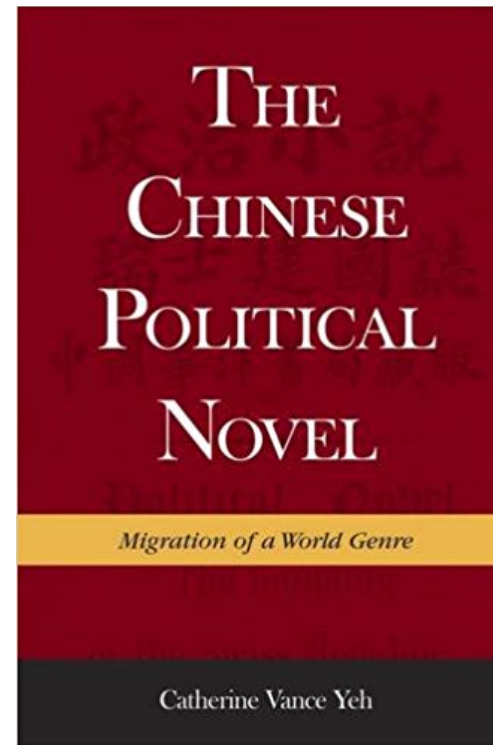
**A suspenseful early novella about obsession, voyeurism, and Tokyo's seedy criminal underworld**

"Tanizaki laminates a murder mystery and psychological study onto a rumination about the nature of fiction itself." (Kirkus Reviews)

"Vincent's translation of Tanizaki's work adopts a more formal style of speech common among affluent English speakers in the early 20th century. The voice and language are well suited for a narrative that frequently references works by Edgar Allen Poe and Arthur Conan Doyle." (Publishers Weekly)

"The outstanding Japanese novelist of this century." (Edmund White)

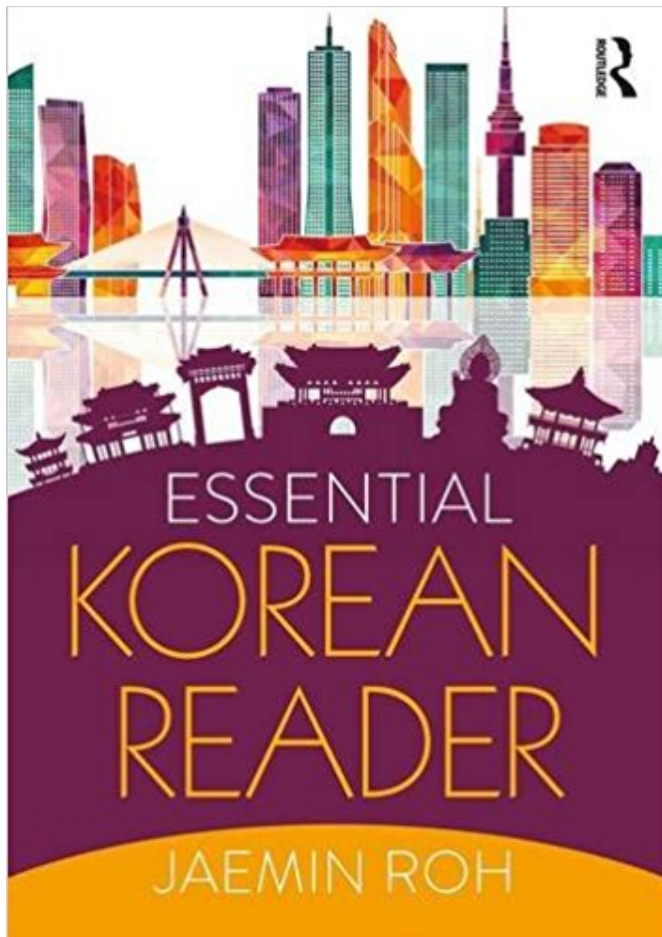
"Atmospheric, erotic, and tense, Devils in Daylight is an early work by the master storyteller who "created a lifelong series of ingenious variations on a dominant theme: the power of love to energize and destroy" (Chicago Tribune). New Directions, 2017.



**Catherine Yeh**

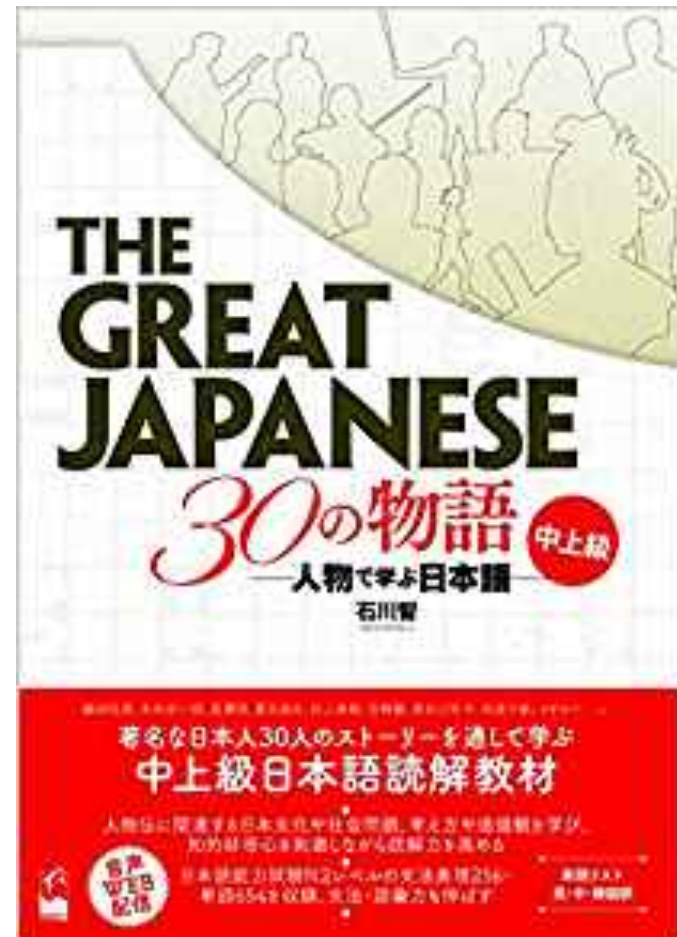
The Chinese Political Novel.

The political novel, which enjoyed a steep yet short rise to international renown between the 1830s and the 1910s, is primarily concerned with the nation's political future. It offers a characterization of the present, a blueprint of the future, and the image of the heroes needed to get there. With the standing it gained during its meteoric rise, the political novel helped elevate the novel altogether to become the leading literary genre of the twentieth century worldwide. Focusing on its adaptation in the Chinese context, Catherine Vance Yeh traces the genre from Disraeli's England through Europe and the United States to East Asia. Her study goes beyond comparative approaches and nation-state- and language-centered histories of literature to examine the intrinsic connections among literary works. Through detailed studies, especially of the Chinese exemplars, Yeh explores the tensions characteristic of transcultural processes: the dynamics through which a particular, and seemingly local, literary genre goes global; the ways in which such a globalized literary genre maintains its core features while assuming local identity and interacting with local audiences and political authorities; and the relationship between the politics of form and the role of politics in literary innovation. Harvard Asia Center, 2015



**Jaemin Roh**  
Essential Korean Reader

Essential Korean Reader offers supplementary reading material for students in the early stages of learning Korean. The readings included have been specially written for heritage students in their second semester or non-heritage students in their third semester of study. Students are exposed to interesting cultural topics while expanding their active vocabulary and developing reading and writing skills. The topics covered focus on aspects of modern and traditional Korean life and cultural differences between Korea and the rest of the world. Routledge, 2017.



**Satoru Ishikawa**  
The Great Japanese: 30 stories Intermediate to Advanced Levels

This is a reading textbook for intermediate to Advanced Japanese levels. In this book 30 great Japanese people are introduced including Soseki Natsume, Haruki Murakami, Akira Kurosawa, Yayoi Kusama and so on. The purpose of the book is not only to enhance Japanese proficiency level, but to deepen knowledge of Japanese culture and values in order to foster inter-cultural competence. Tokyo: Kurso (2016).