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# 2020 KYOTO LECTURES

Wednesday, February 21st, 18:00h

Cody Poulton

SPEAKER

## Izumi Kyōka's Animistic Prose When the Semantic Becomes Mantic

Praised by younger writers like Tanizaki Jun'ichirō, Kawabata Yasunari, and Mishima Yukio, Izumi Kyōka (1873-1939) is today one of the most challenging of modern Japanese novelists to read, much less translate into a foreign language. His prose style is one of enchantment: as Nakajima Atsushi put it, it has the effect of a narcotic like heroin, taking the reader into an altered state of consciousness. Using examples from his own translation of the story, in this lecture the speaker will focus on *Sanjaku-kaku* ("Three Feet Square," 1898) and its sequel *Kodama* ("Echo") to explore how, through language, Kyōka makes the lost world of late-nineteenth century Fukagawa come alive.

**Cody Poulton** is Professor Emeritus at the University of Victoria, Canada, and currently serves as Director of the Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies. A specialist in Japanese performance, he is author of *Spirits of Another Sort: The Plays of Izumi Kyōka* (2001) and *A Beggar's Art: Scripting Modernity in Japan, 1900-1930* (2010). He is also chief editor and translator of *Citizens of Tokyo: Six Plays by Oriza Hirata* (2018), co-editor of *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Japanese Drama* (2014) and *Okada Toshiki and Japanese Theatre* (2021), and contributing editor to *The Cambridge History of Japanese Theatre* (2016).

**This hybrid lecture will be held on site (email required in advance) and via Zoom (meeting ID: 840 2211 1804).**



École Française d'Extrême-Orient (EFO)  
Italian School of East Asian Studies (ISEAS)

29 Bettō-chō, Kitashirakawa, Sakyō-ku, Kyoto, 606-8276 Japan

EFO | Tel. 075-701-0882 E-mail [efeo.kyoto@gmail.com](mailto:efeo.kyoto@gmail.com)

ISEAS | Tel. 075-703-3015 E-mail [info.iseas@iseas-kyoto.org](mailto:info.iseas@iseas-kyoto.org)