

SFWJ50: ISFS2 Kickoff

“Japan, Science Fiction, Translation:
Reappraising Chiaki Kawamata’s *Death Sentences*”

(Moderator) Takayuki TATSUMI

(Panelists) Thomas LAMARRE, Chiaki KAWAMATA, Kiyoshi KASAI, Yoshio ARAMAHI

Time: 5:00-7:30 pm, July 4th, 2012

Place: Josai International University-Kioicho Campus

<http://www.josai.jp/en/>

Membership Fee: Free

Reception: 8:00-10:00 pm

Hotel Le Port Kojimachi / Kojimachi Kaikan, Sapphire Room (2F)

http://www.axscom.co.jp/portfolio/hotel/01775/index_e.php

Membership Fee: 6,500 yen

In honor of the 50th anniversary of Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of Japan (SFWJ) in 2013, we are launching a series of International Science Fiction Symposia, which will take a new look at global negotiations between western science fiction and Japanese science fiction. In the hope of reviving the spirit of the first International Science Fiction Symposium held in Japan in 1970, where Eastern bloc writers first met Western bloc colleagues, we are styling our series ISFSII.

In the wake of Cool Japan of the 1990s, the first decade of the 21st century saw a veritable boom of Japanese science fiction in translation, accelerated by a number of ambitious publishers bringing the masterpieces of the genre into English: Kurodahan Press, Vertical, Haikasoru, and the University of Minnesota Press which recently published the American edition of Chiaki Kawamata’s Japan SF Grand Prize winner *Death Sentences* (1984), beautifully translated by Thomas Lamarre and Kazuko Behrens. With this global boom in Japanese science fiction, distinctions between Japanese science fiction and science fictional Japan are becoming more tenuous. To address such questions, we members of SFWJ decided to restart the International Science Fiction Symposium with the kickoff project, “Japan, Science Fiction, Translation:

Reviving Chiaki Kawamata's Death Sentences," with Professor Thomas Lamarre of McGill University as the keynote speaker and distinguished writers Chiaki Kawamata, Kiyoshi Kasai and Yoshio Aramaki as panelists. This special event will give us a chance to reconsider not only the way Japanese science fiction has been translated into foreign languages, but also the way Japanese science fiction has imbibed and re-appropriated the fruits of western science fiction in translation for over fifty years. We would also like to consider the role "Japan" has played in the history of science fiction. Please join us on July 4th, 2012!!!

From Who May's "Another World"

"A fish. Dobaded. Its eyeball is sliced down the middle. Sections quivering. Images reflected on the split lens reflects are stained with blood. Dobaded. The city of people mirrored there is dyed madder red. Reversal of pressure, dobaded, and there you go! It's taking you there. ..."

Death Sentences

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