

April 30, 2014 CSULB Carl Anatol Center (AS Bldg.) 5-7PM

# THESE THINGS HERE AND NOW: JAPANESE POETRY IN THE WAKE OF THE 2011 DISASTERS

CSULB College of Liberal Arts Scholarly Intersections and the Japan Arts & Globalization Multi-campus Research Group host scholar and translator Dr. Jeffrey Angles for a lecture and discussion.

\* The March 11, 2011 earthquake that shook northeastern Japan also released seismic shock waves through the Japanese literary world. Novelists and critics responded to the disasters, but the segment of the literary world that felt the forces of 3/11 most strongly was the poetry establishment. Although sometimes seen as a rarified mode of expression, poetry quickly took on a new social role as poets through Japan began responding to the disasters through Twitter, newspapers, and countless journals. Meanwhile, poets of different backgrounds and styles began to work together, leveling the usual hierarchies and animosities to produce poetry readings, vigils, musical collaborations, and public exhibitions throughout the nation.

\* What did their writing reveal about 3/11? What modes of expression did poets use to deal with disaster on such a colossal scale? What themes recurred in their work? Since 2011, Dr. Angles has been translating the work of poets who have used their writing to respond to the new realities of post-earthquake Japan. In this presentation, Dr. Angles will share some of his translations and will show that 3/11 brought about not only a social crisis but also a crisis in language and literary representation.

Contact Prof. Jordan Smith at [Jordan.Smith@csulb.edu](mailto:Jordan.Smith@csulb.edu) for questions. Co-hosted by Jordan Smith (Dept. of Comparative World Literature), Prof. Kendall Brown (Dept. of Art History), Prof. Michiko Takeuchi (Dept. of History).

## JEFFREY ANGLES

Jeffrey ANGLES is an associate professor of Japanese and translation at Western Michigan University. He is the author of *Writing the Love of Boys: Origins of Bishōnen Culture in Japanese Modernist Literature* (University of Minnesota Press, 2011) and translator of *Killing Kanoko: Selected Poems of Itō Hiromi* (Action Books, 2009), *Forest of Eyes: Selected Poems of Tada Chimako* (University of California Press, 2010), *Twelve Views from the Distance* (University of Minnesota Press, 2012), and numerous other works of prose and poetry.

