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# GALA MARIA FOLLACO

## Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale"

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## Profile

Gala Maria Follaco, Ph.D. (2012), University of Naples "L'Orientale", is Associate Professor of Japanese Studies at that University. She has translated the works of several Japanese writers, such as Yoshimoto Banana, Matsumoto Seichō, Yoshida Shūichi, Tanizaki Jun'ichirō, Hara Tamiki, Kawabata Yasunari and published articles on urban representation in modern and contemporary Japanese literature. Her monograph, *A Sense of the City. Modes of Urban Representation in the Works of Nagai Kafū* (2017), examines Nagai Kafū's literary construction of urban spatialities from the late 1890s to the late 1930s. She has curated a translation of seven stories by Higuchi Ichiyō (1872-1896) and excerpts from her diaries (2016), and edited a collection of essays focusing on urban representation in several areas of Asia (2018). At present, she is working on a project about early-Meiji *hanjōki*.

## Current Position

2021 - present, University of Naples "L'Orientale"

Associate Professor of Japanese Language and Literature at University of Naples "L'Orientale".

## Previous Positions

2011 - 2021, University of Naples "L'Orientale"

Assistant Professor of Japanese Language and Literature at University of Naples "L'Orientale".

March 2018: Awarded National Scientific Qualification to function as Associate Professor of Japanese Language and Literature.

## Education

2008 - 2011, University of Naples "L'Orientale"

PhD in East and South-East Asian Studies. Research topic: Urban Representation in Nagai Kafū's Literature.

2007 - 2009, Waseda University

Research student (kenkyūsei) in the MA Program in Japanese Literature, Graduate School of Education.

2000 - 2006, University of Naples "L'Orientale"

BA in Comparative Studies (Japanese and English). Thesis topic: the *zuihitsu* genre and its evolution.

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### Fellowships and other affiliations

October 2019, The University of Edinburgh

Visiting Lecturer under the Erasmus+ Teaching Staff Mobility Program.

August 2019, The University of Sydney

Visiting Scholar.

January-February 2019, National Institute of Japanese Literature

Visiting Researcher.

November 2016, National Institute of Japanese Literature

Visiting Researcher.

April 2007 - March 2009, Waseda University

Visiting Research Student under the Japanese Government Scholarship Program.

### Major Publications

2024

**Yoshimoto Banana: il destino e l'Italia**, in Teresa Ciapparoni La Rocca (ed.), *Fuori dal cono d'ombra: Storie di donne fra l'Italia e il Giappone*, Lindau, Torino. 160-173 [ISBN: 9788833539928].

2023

**Cultura Letteraria Giapponese. Le mille forme della scrittura dal VII al XXI secolo**, Hoepli, Milano [ISBN: 9788836010561].

**Review of *A Fictional Commons: Natsume Sōseki and the Properties of Modern Literature***, in «The Journal of Asian Studies», 82:2. 256-258 [ISSN: 0021-9118].

**Sound, Smell, Objects, and the Discursive Space of Nagai Kafū's 1920s Fiction**, in «Literature», 3:1 (2023). 123-132 [ISSN: 2410-9789].

**A Soundscape of Urban Prosperity: Voices, Sounds, and Urban Din in Early-Meiji Hanjōki**, in «Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies», 82:1. 1-36 [ISSN: 0073-0548].

2022

**Le foglie morte. Il tema della vecchiaia nell'opera di Nagai Kafū a partire da due saggi del 1943-44**, in «LEA. Lingue e letterature d'Oriente e d'Occidente», 11 (2022). 447-461 [ISSN: 1824-484X].

**The Sound, the Body, the Classics: Nagai Kafū and Traditional Theater**, in «Studies in Japanese Literature and Culture», 5 (2022). 107-129 [ISSN: 2434-1606].

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**“It’s not the world, it’s you”:** (Re)humanizing patterns in Higuchi Ichiyō’s fiction writing, in S. Köhn & C. Weber (eds.), *Crossing the Borders of Modernity: Fictional Characters as Representations of Alternative Concepts of Life in Meiji Literature (1868-1912)*, Harrassowitz, Wiesbaden. 143-161 [ISBN: 9783447118033].

2021

**Il romanzo dell’inquietudine. Città, media e affettività nella narrativa giapponese contemporanea**, in Giuseppe Di Giacomo e Ugo Rubeo (ed.), *Il romanzo del nuovo millennio*, Mimesis, Milano. 799-818 [ISBN: 9788857571324]

2020

**Private Topographies: Visions of Tōkyō in Modern Japanese Literature**, in R. Rohleder & M. Kindermann (eds.), *Exploring the Spatiality of the City across Cultural Texts: Narrating Spaces, Reading Urbanity*, Palgrave MacMillan, London. 301-319 [ISBN: 9783030552688].

**Tōkyō, una metropoli asiatica. Trasformazioni e rappresentazioni del paesaggio urbano nel Novecento**, in «Memoria e Ricerca», 64:2 (2020). 267-288 [ISSN: 1127-0195].

**The unread critic. Higuchi Ichiyō’s diaries as *bungei hyōron***, in «Bunron», 6 (2019). 1-20 [ISSN: 2199-2754].

2019

**To the lighthouse: urban solitude and mediated relationships in *Akunin*, by Yoshida Shūichi**, in I. Sagiya & M. Castorina (eds.), *Trajectories: Selected papers in East Asian studies*, Firenze University Press, Firenze. 41-57 [ISBN: 9788884533944].

**The Ocean as a Space of Maturation in Nagai Kafū’s Critique of Modernity**, in B.P. Robertson, E.V. Kobeleva, S.W. Thompson & K.D. Weddle (eds.), *The Sea in the Literary Imagination: Global Perspectives*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle upon Tyne. 77-94 [ISBN: 9781527519619].

2018

**La città in Asia: letture critiche degli spazi urbani antichi e moderni**, edited volume, with G. Rampolla, Viella, Roma [ISBN: 9788833130361].

**Dai canali alle ferrovie: metafore cangianti della Tōkyō moderna**, in G.M. Follaco & G. Rampolla, *La città in Asia: letture critiche degli spazi urbani antichi e moderni*, Viella, Roma. 229-242 [ISBN: 9788833130361].

2017

**A Sense of the City: Modes of Urban Representation in the Works of Nagai Kafū (1879-1959)**, Brill, Leiden and Boston [ISBN: 9789004345379].

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**Nagai Kafū ga egaita saundosukēpu. Shōwa shoki no sakuhin ni okeru oto no zuzōsei**, in *Dai 40 kai Kokusai Nihonbungaku kenkyūshūkai kaigiroku*, National Institute of Japanese Literature, Tokyo. 71-80 [ISSN: 0387-7280].

**Tokyo Literature**, in F. Jacob (ed.), *Critical Insights: Modern Japanese Literature*, Salem Press, New York. 38-53 [ISBN: 9781682172599].

2016

Higuchi Ichiyō, **L'ultimo dell'anno e altri racconti**, Aracne, Roma [ISBN: 9788854892842].

**The Soundscape East of the River: Sonic Icons in Nagai Kafū's Writings**, in *The IAFOR International Conference on the City 2016: Official Conference Proceedings*. 43-54 [ISSN: 2432-4264].

**Hyōshō kūkan toshite no furusato. Tanizaki ga mita Shōwa shoki no Tōkyō – Geidan o shisa toshite**, in *Ajia yūgaku 200*. Chiba Shunji, Qian Xiaobo (eds.), *Tanizaki Jun'ichirō no Chūgoku taiken to monogatari no chikara*, Benseisha, Tokyo. 162-168 [ISBN: 9784585226666].

**Geidan ni miru sanjūnendai Tanizaki no bungaku, bungakushakan**, in *Riyu jiao yu ribenxue, Huadong ligong daxue chubanshe*, Shanghai. 29-36 [ISBN: 9787562845164].

**Close yet far. Fractured identities in Nagai Kafū's American Writings**, in «AION (or)», 75 (2015). 173-190 [ISSN: 0393-3180].

2015-2009

Hara Tamiki, **Il Paese dei desideri: il ricordo di Hiroshima**, Atmosphere Libri, Roma, 2015 [ISBN: 9788865641514].

**The Quest for a Place to Be. Fictional Portrayals of Tokyo in Contemporary Japanese Literature**, in «Interférences Littéraires/Littéraire Interferenties», 13, 2014. 103-114 [ISSN: 2031-2790].

**Tōkyō che cambia: modelli di rappresentazione urbana nell'opera di Nagai Kafū**, in: «Le forme e la storia», n.s., V (2012), 2013. 165-181 [ISSN: 1121-2276].

**Il senso della città. Le fotografie di Nagai Kafū**, in: T. Wada e M. Casari (eds.), *Giappone e Italia: le arti del dialogo*, I libri di Emil, Bologna 2010. 117-130 [ISBN: 9788896026311].

**Mondi d'acqua. Il motivo del fiume nell'opera di Nagai Kafū**, in: C. Negri e G. Tamburello (eds.), «L'acqua non è mai la stessa». *Le acque nella tradizione culturale dell'Asia*, Olschki, Firenze 2009. 179-190 [ISBN: 9788822258151].

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## Major talks and lectures

2023

10 October: Workshop “Edizioni & Traduzioni / Editori & Traduttori” organised by the CESET - Centro per lo Studio e l’Edizione dei Testi: **La diaristica giapponese moderna come oggetto di edizione e traduzione: il caso di Higuchi Ichiyō.**

2022

12 November: International Symposium “Dynamism and Statics of Cultural Transmission” organised by the National Institute of Japanese Literature: **Meiji hanjōki wa Meiji bungaku de aru no ka. Ekurichūru, kanteikusutosei o chūshin ni.**

3 May: Symposium “Tokyo [r]evolution: ripensare una città che cambia” organised by Università degli Studi di Bergamo: **Cronache di fioritura: gli hanjōki del primo Meiji.**

2021

27 August: EAJS Conference (online): **An icon in the (re)making: Takahama Kyoshi’s “Marunouchi”**, in the panel: *Popular Representations of Science and Technology in Pre-War Japanese Magazines.*

13 February: International Symposium “The Body in Japanese Traditional Performing Arts” organised by the National Institute of Japanese Literature: **Nagai Kafū no dentō geinō kan: pafōmansu no busshitsusei to kibun tenkan no geijutsu.**

2020

11 September: International Symposium “The Body in Japanese Traditional Performing Arts” organised by the National Institute of Japanese Literature: **Butai no oto: Nagai Kafū Hyōshigi monogatari o megutte.**

26 June: Kyoto Lectures 2020, organised by EFEO & ISEAS: **Early Meiji “Accounts of Prosperity”. The Making of an Urban Literary Canon.**

10 January: International Symposium “Crossing the Borders of Modernity: Fictional Characters as Representations of Alternative Concepts of Life in Meiji Literature (1868-1912)” at Köln Universität: **«Who ever said that...?» Higuchi Ichiyō’s revolution as seen through her characters.**

2019

23 October: Asian Studies Seminar Series, School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures, The University of Edinburgh: **The Inebriating City: Nagai Kafū in Shanghai and the ‘othering’ of space.**

29 August: Lecture co-hosted by the Department of Japanese Studies, the Department of French and Francophone Studies, and the International

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Comparative Literature and Translation Studies Program, The University of Sydney: **Paris nous appartient. Kafū's French writings and the conceptualisation of the city as narrative.**

24 May: 7th Treffen des Forums für literaturwissenschaftliche Japanforschung at Universität Heidelberg - Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies: **Unfiltered criticism: Higuchi Ichiyō's diaries as *bungei hyōron*.**

8 April: CEAS Colloquium Series at Yale University: **Resistant then Compliant then Accomplice: Gradations of Resilience in Nagai Kafū's Work on Ginza-Shinbashi.**

2018

6 November: "Urban Narratives in Modern Japan: Space, Technology, and Material Culture" International Conference at University of Naples "L'Orientale": **Self as Metaphor and Art as Commodity: Nagai Kafū's Search for 'Congruity' in the City.**

24 September: International Symposium "The Body in Japanese Traditional Performing Arts" organised by the National Institute of Japanese Literature at Università degli Studi di Milano: **Kafū *Edo geijutsu ron ni okeru dentō geinō no chikara.***

13 March: International Workshop "Trades, Migration, Belief: Crossing Early Modern Asia, 16th-18th Centuries" organised by University of Naples "L'Orientale" and The University of Tokyo at University of Naples "L'Orientale": **Colours and sounds of the Yoshiwara: between city-branding and literary imagination.**

27 February: International Symposium "Realms of Words: Literature, Performance and the Media in Japan" at Sapienza Università di Roma: **The time is ripe and the place is right: on Nagai Kafū's opera *Katsushika jōwa* (1938).**

2017

3 October: German Anthropological Association (GAA) Conference 2017 "Belonging: Affective, moral and political practices in an interconnected world" at Freie Universität Berlin: **To the lighthouse: Urban Solitude in *The Villain*, by Yoshida Shūichi** [Skype presentation], in the panel: *Transient Identities: Shifting Urbanity, Media Infrastructure, and the Unsettling of Belonging in Asia.*

17 March: Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) at Sheraton Centre, Toronto: **Autumn in Shanghai: The Emergence of Nagai Kafū's Urban Sensibility in his "Chinese" Works**, in the panel: *The City as Representation, Interpretation, and Memory: Urban Spaces in Modern Japanese Literature* (panel organizer).

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2016

20 November: The 40th International Symposium of Japanese Literature at National Institute of Japanese Literature, Tokyo: **Nagai Kafū ga egaita saundosukēpu. Shōwa shoki no sakuhin ni okeru oto no zuzōsei.**

17 July: The IAFOR International Conference on the City 2016, at NH Collection Barcelona Constanza, Barcelona: **The Soundscape East of the River: Sonic Icons in Nagai Kafū's Writings.**

13 May: International Symposium "From the Roots to the Flowering Branches of Japanese Literature" at Sapienza Università di Roma and Istituto Giapponese di Cultura in Roma: **The city as literary practice. Nagai Kafū's *meisho*, old and new.**

2015

22 November: Tanizaki Jun'ichirō International Symposium at Tongji University, Shanghai: **Geidan ni miru sanjūnendai Tanizaki no bungaku, bungakusha kan.**

20 June: The Nineteenth Asian Studies Conference Japan (ASCJ) at Meiji Gakuin University, Tokyo, with the panel: *Metropolis in Asia: Representations and Reconfigurations of Contemporary Urban Spaces* (panel organizer & discussant)

2013-2010

24 March 2013: Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) at San Diego Park Hyatt: **Close yet Far. Fractured Identities in Kafū's American Writings.**

8 September 2012: "Narrating Spaces - Reading Urbanity" International Conference at Universität Hamburg: **The City in Motion. Visions of Tōkyō in the Work of two Modern Writers.**

6 September 2012: British Association for Japanese Studies (BAJS) Conference at University of East Anglia: **Poetry Translation and the Genesis of Modern Poetics. Meiji Translations of Poetry from *Shintaishishō* (1882) to *Sangoshū* (1913).**

14 September 2011: International Symposium of Japanese Literature organized by the National Institute of Japanese Literature (NIJL) "Interactions between Modes of Expression" at Università degli Studi di Bologna: **Shigaku wo nasu shiyaku: Nagai Kafū *Sangoshū* ni tsuite.**

3 April 2011: Joint Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) & International Convention of East Asia Scholars (ICAS) at Hawai'i Convention Center: **«To go where one's never been». Deletion as a Storytelling Device in Nagai Kafū's "Kitsune".**

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15 October 2010: Association for Japanese Literary Studies (AJLS) Nineteenth Annual Meeting “Technology and Japanese Literary, Film and Performance Studies” at Yale University: **Dokumentarii. Kindai Tōkyō wo saguru Nagai Kafū no shashin.**

10 September 2010: British Association for Japanese Studies (BAJS) Triennial Conference at SOAS University of London: **Westward and beyond: Nagai Kafū's travelogues in China and the West.**