

Biosketch

February 2015 for Girona, rev. 2019 12/13, Bellingham

Michiko YUSA is a professor of Japanese Thought and Intercultural Philosophy at Western Washington University in Bellingham, in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and the Center for East Asian Studies. She received her Ph.D. in 1983 from the Department of Religious Studies at the University of California Santa Barbara, where she worked closely with Raimon Panikkar and Ninian Smart.

She has published widely, including four books, *Zen and Philosophy: An Intellectual Biography of Nishida Kitarō* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2002); *Japanese Religious Traditions* (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2002), *Denki Nishida Kitarō* [A biography of Nishida Kitarō in Japanese] (Kyoto: Tōeisha, 1998), and *Basic Kanji* with Matsuo Soga, (Tokyo: Taishūkan, 1989, fifth printing 2007). The *Japanese Religious Traditions* has been translated into Portuguese, Spanish, German, and Japanese. She co-edited volumes, *Isamu Noguchi and Skyviewing Sculpture: Proceedings of Japan Week 2003* (Bellingham: Western Washington University, 2004), and *CIRPIT Review 5* (2014)—a special issue of the symposium on Raimon Panikkar held in Baltimore in 2013. Most recently, her edited volume, *The Bloomsbury Research Handbook of Contemporary Japanese Philosophy*, has been published (London, 2017, paperback 2019).

She is the past president of the Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy, 2006-2007, and is currently serving as its Program Chair for the American Academy of Religion. Her ongoing research includes Nishida Kitarō's thought, Women's spirituality in Japanese Buddhism, women philosophers, ecosophy, philosophy of artistic creativity (including the poet Matsuo Bashō and Natsume Sōseki), and the dialogical philosophy of Raimon Panikkar. She is also developing her interest in visual art in its connection to the philosophical expressions as representing the Zeitgeist of each epoch.

She was a recipient of the Japan Foundation Research Fellowship, 1993-94; held the Roche Chair, Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture, 2016-17; and is awarded the Second Kanazawa University International Prize in 2019 in recognition of her life-long work on Nishida Kitarō.

Her essay on R. Panikkar, N. Smart, and the Kyoto School thinkers, "Intercultural Philosophical Wayfaring: An Autobiographical Account in Conversation with a Friend," contains the description of the earlier phase of her global career (See the *Journal of World Philosophies* 3.1, 2018, 123-134).