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The Institute for Advanced Study  
is pleased to announce

A Translation Seminar Event

**Adam L. Kern**  
Professor of Japanese Literature  
and Visual Culture  
University of Wisconsin–Madison



## Haiku: A New Paradigm

In his forthcoming *Penguin Book of Haiku* (London: Penguin Classics), an anthology of one thousand Japanese verses in English translation, Adam L. Kern takes issue with the received wisdom of haiku as an ancient Japanese form of Zen nature poetry. Instead, Kern argues, the haiku is a kind of cultural propaganda based on an invented tradition of surprisingly recent origins, going back no further than the late nineteenth century. Prior to that, verses in the seventeen-syllable “form” that today are inevitably mistaken for haiku—or deliberately expurgated—actually existed in as many as thirty different manners or “modes,” including a variety of for-profit literary word games, sociopolitical satire, even “dirty sexy verse.” In his talk, Kern addresses how this new paradigm affects not only our understanding of the haiku, but also the practice of its translation in these various other modes.

Adam L. Kern is editor and translator of *The Penguin Book of Haiku* (London: Penguin Classics, forthcoming). Kern studied Japanese literature at Harvard University, where he earned his PhD in East Asian Languages and Civilizations before joining the faculty for nearly a decade. His experiences in Japan (aside from affiliations with the University of Kyoto, the University of Tokyo, and the National Institute of Japanese Literature) include stints as a staff reporter for a large metropolitan newspaper (*Kyoto Shimbun*) and an editorial intern in the manga division of Kōdansha Publishers. Kern teaches Japanese literature and visual culture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Thursday, October 26, 2017

4:00 p.m.

Institute for Advanced Study

The Translation Seminar Series, coordinated by Professors Russell Valentino and Bill Johnston, is open to the IU community and general public. Coffee and tea will be served.

This event is cosponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences' Office of International Affairs.

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