



Washin Kai presents

WHAT IS HAIKU?

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

7:00 – 8:30pm, Kane Hall 210

Register at <https://events.uw.edu/WhatisHaiku>

WHAT IS HAIKU?

It is well known that haiku are very brief Japanese poems, probably the shortest poems in the world. With their simple syllabic pattern and lack of rhyming, they are easy to write—even children can and do write beautiful haiku! Although they originated in Japan, many millions of haiku have been written in various languages in addition to Japanese. Today, haiku truly belong to the world.

How and why did haiku come about? Why are haiku so short? Why do they include precisely 17 syllables in a 5-7-5 arrangement? This talk, which presumes no knowledge of Japan or the Japanese language, will answer these

questions and more. In an engaging overview of this fascinating topic, Professor Paul Atkins will discuss the origins of haiku in medieval Japan, introduce the major classic poets, and explore the ways in which haiku is linked to other forms of Japanese literature and art. Haiku is not just a poetic genre—it is a way of looking at the world and, for many people, a way of life.

This talk will be followed by a moderated roundtable discussion between Professor Paul Atkins, and haiku poets Scott Oki and Mitsuko Miller.

The event is free and open to public. It will also be livestreamed. Audience is invited to attend in person or online, but registration is required in both cases. A reception to follow.

PARTICIPANTS



Paul Atkins (SPEAKER)

Paul S. Atkins is professor of Japanese in the Department of Asian Languages and Literature at the University of Washington, Seattle, where he teaches and writes about the literature, drama, and culture of medieval Japan. He holds a Ph.D. in Japanese from Stanford University.



Mitsuko Miller (ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPANT)

Mitsuko Miller has worked as a mortgage banker for 29 years while raising 3 sons. For the last 10 years, Mitsuko has been composing haiku as a member of Rainier Ginsha, a haiku association originally established in Seattle in 1932.



Scott Oki (ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPANT)

Scott Ok is a serial entrepreneur, venture capitalist, philanthropist, author, and community activist, in addition to being a prolific haiku poet. Scott has established 20 non-profits and has served on over 100 non-profit boards including serving as the President of the UW's Board of Regents.



Bruce Rutledge (MODERATOR)

Bruce Rutledge founded Chin Music Press, an independent book publisher, in 2005. Bruce was on the Monbusho English Fellows Program from 1985 to 1987, then worked for a series of news organizations in Japan including Universal News Japan, Nihon Keizai Shimbun, NHK, and J@pan Inc. magazine.

