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Posthumous Autobiographies: Suicide and Fiction in Yukio Mishima and Osamu Dazai

Ryan R. Haddad

Western University, relhadda@uwo.ca

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Postmortem Autobiographies: Suicide and Fiction in Yukio Mishima and Osamu Dazai

Ryan Haddad

Major Research Paper

MA Comparative Literature – 2022

My research focuses on suicide in twentieth-century Japanese literature as a reaction to the nation's rapid modernization efforts as it quickly transitioned from a feudal state to its current position as an ultra-modernist, technologically driven economic powerhouse in the post-World War II international arena. My research focuses on two novels, *No Longer Human* (1948) and *Runaway Horses* (1969), and attempts to trace the protagonists' suicides within the larger context of grand societal and cultural changes, showcasing unique cases of individual alienation during a unique setting in world history.