Paper Title:

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Proposed Program Stream: literature

Abstract

Abstract text (no more than 500 words with no figures or tables)

“Translating Landscape Poetry in the Ancient Capital”

The beauty of the natural world is both fragile and enduring. It can be destroyed in a moment, and yet through the power of literature and the visual arts, it can survive down through the centuries, cross the seas and cross through cultures to create new art, and new understandings.

Nara was the ancient capital of Japan, and the old temples and shrines still exist, protected, as do the ancient treasures of poetry. The beauty of the natural world, the landscape of deer, snow, blossoms, sunrise and sunset and other motifs became the language of some of the greatest love poetry of the world, photographic and philosophic in its realism. The translations of this poetry are explored and recreated again all over the world, even today. Art can transform even a ravished landscape and recreate life and culture.