

2017 EAJS International Conference in Lisbon Satellite Forum
900th Anniversary of Saigyō's Birth
"Saigyō's Travels and Literary Work: Transcending Time and Space"
Host: The Saigyō Society

August 29th, 2017 13:00-17:30

Location: T10 Room

Panel 1 "The Travelling Poet: Saigyō and the Poets of the World"

Organizer 阿部泰郎 (名古屋大学)
Yasuro Abe (Nagoya University)

Panelists 西澤美仁 (上智大学)
Yoshihito Nishizawa (Sophia University)

浦一章 (東京大学)
Kazuaki Ura (University of Tokyo)

水戸博之 (名古屋大学)
Hiroyuki Mito (Nagoya University)

Panel 2 "Translations and Adaptations of Saigyō's Literary Work: Transcending Time and Space"

Organizer 近本謙介 (名古屋大学)
Kensuke Chikamoto (Nagoya University)

Panelists エリザベス・オイラー (ピッツバーグ大学)
Elizabeth Oyler (University of Pittsburgh)

アラリ・アリク (タリン大学)
Alari Allik (Tallinn University)

平石典子 (筑波大学)
Noriko Hiraishi (University of Tsukuba)

西行学会 (The Saigyo Society)

saigyoujimukyoku@gmail.com

2017 EAJIS International Conference in Lisbon Satellite Forum
900th Anniversary of Saigyō's Birth
“Saigyō's Travels and Literary Work: Transcending Time and Space”
Host: The Saigyō Society

【Abstract】

The year 2018 marks the 900th anniversary of Saigyō's birth. The Saigyō Society was established in April of 2004 with the purpose of exploring the various ways in which Saigyō's work has permeated across the field of Japanese literature and culture. At this important juncture, we hope to promote the study of Saigyō on an international platform by holding a satellite forum at the EAJIS International Conference in Lisbon. Through this attempt to spread awareness of Saigyō's literary work and examining the significance of his contribution, we hope to gain new perspectives in the study of Saigyō.

Through the two panels of our forum, we will provide multifaceted approaches in discussing the issue of Saigyō's travels and his literary achievements.

In the first panel, “The Travelling Poet: Saigyō and the Poets of the World,” we will discuss the theme of “travel,” which has consistently been a point of interest in debates on Saigyō's literary work. In conceptualizing “travel,” we will consider the themes of “pilgrimage” (*jyunrei* 巡礼), “wandering” (*hyōhaku* 漂泊), and “vagabondism” (*hōrō* 放浪), and will also incorporate discussions on “banishment” (*rukei* 流刑) and embarking on an “escape journey” (*tōhikō* 逃避行). Utilizing a universal perspective, we will attempt to analyze Saigyō as a “travelling poet.” Within the range of our inquiry will be an analysis of the depiction of travel landscape as it appears in *Saigyō monogatari emaki* 『西行物語絵巻』 (also engaging with works such as *Ippen hijiri e* 『一遍聖絵』). A particular focus will be placed on a comparison of the image of Saigyō with the depictions of other travelling poets, not only within Japan, but also around the world. As such, by objectifying the texts and the world within these literary works, we hope to conduct a cultural study that is broadly concerned with the image of the travelling poet. We view these themes as particularly appropriate to be discussed in the city of Lisbon; a place with a history of great innovation and served as an important departure point for expeditions into the New World during the Age of Discovery.

In the second panel, “Translations and Adaptations of Saigyō's Literary Work: Transcending Time and Space,” we will pick up on the issues associated with translation and adaptations as a way to think about the construction and development of Saigyō's image. This panel is conceived in part as an effort to make Saigyō Studies more known outside of Japan, and focuses on how the formulation of a cultural history of Saigyō and the issues concerning the translation and adaptations of Saigyō's work are closely interrelated. While Saigyō's *waka* poems and legends have

been translated into many languages, we will focus on how the act of translation is deeply connected to one's cultural background, and will further deepen our discussion by addressing the various ways in which the image of Saigyō has been formulated through the translation of his work. At the same time, the image of Saigyō has also developed within Japan through its adaptations into *setsuwa*, *emaki*, the world of *noh* plays, and other various forms of literature. In considering the issue of adaptation, it is our hope that our analysis of the various aspects that developed through legends, visual art, and performance, will help us discern a cultural history of Saigyō that transcends time and space.

In this way, the “pursuit for a cultural history of Saigyō that transcends time and space,” which is to be undertaken through these two panels, will confront issues regarding the relationship between conceptions of travel and literary art and we have a firm conviction that it will help establish a place for Saigyō among the ranks of world literature.