

## 1201 FEATURE



### 對倒書寫：由香港寫到北京 由北京寫到香港 人類搞出嚟嘅世界

A Symposium on Theorising Hong Kong, Theorising the Anthropocene

「對倒書寫」講座邀請了陳冠中先生與閻連科教授就「由香港寫到北京/由北京寫到香港——人類搞出嚟嘅世界」這個題目於2026年5月28日進行對談，兩位著名作家的精彩對話，恰如一曲雙城變奏，映照出兩位作家在身份與地域流轉中的創作心路。該講座由香港浸會大學文學及社會科學院的人類世專項學院研究領域小組、翻譯學研究中心、人文及創作系聯合舉辦，主持人為楊慧儀教授。

從香港移居北京的陳冠中先生，巧妙地串聯了三個橫跨百年的文本——羅伯特·佛洛斯特 (Robert Frost) 的詩、阿米塔夫·高希 (Amitav Ghosh) 關於氣候變化的論著，以及馬文彬 (Ackbar Abbas) 的香港研究。他以詩句「如何看待一件衰微之事」(What to make of a diminished thing) 為引，講述了自己在北京所感受到的「衰微」之下的懷舊情緒。他又指出了，我們當下面臨的正是高希在《大紊亂》(The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable) 一書中講到的人類世 (Anthropocene) 的想像力失敗與文化失靈。最後，他回顧了馬文彬「消失的文化」這一概念，探討在失落中是否仍存有創作的能量與新的可能。

從內地來到香港執教的閻連科教授，則以一貫的幽默，講述了香港如何意外地改變了他的文學生涯。他認為二十世紀文學早在七十年代就已經終結了，並坦言自己正進行一場「不為出版」的寫作，以求擺脫一切束縛，回歸創作本質。

這場對話不僅是地理交集的敘述，更是兩顆文學心靈在時代夾縫中，關於寫作信念、困境與終極自由的深刻反思。



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The public lecture, held on May 28, 2026, was co-organised by the Anthropocene Studies FNRA subgroup, the Centre for Translation, and the Department of Humanities and Creative Writing within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Moderated by Prof. Jessica Yeung, the event featured a profound exchange between renowned authors Mr. Chan Koon-chung and Prof. Yan Lianke.

Mr. Chan koon-chung, an Honorary University Fellow of HKBU, reflecting on his move to Beijing, intricately wove together three distinct texts—a poem by Robert Frost, a treatise by Amitav Ghosh, and a study by Ackbar Abbas. He used them to construct an argument tracing a personal feeling of cultural "diminishment" to a global "failure of imagination", questioning if new creative energy can emerge from disappearance.

Conversely, Prof. Yan Lianke recounted how his connection with Hong Kong unexpectedly reshaped his literary path. This experience led him to the stark conclusion that "20th-century literature has ended", prompting his radical decision to engage in "writing not for publication" as a means to achieve ultimate artistic freedom, detached from all external pressures.

## Director's Message:

Greetings, friends, and supporters of the Centre for Translation!

As we approach the end of the 2025–2026 academic year, I am pleased to report that the Centre has continued to thrive, hosting a successful research seminar series and a dialogue between two of the most exciting novelists writing in Chinese today. I am also delighted to share that the research projects of our Research Fellows—Prof. Clara Chuan Yu, Prof. Luis Damián Moreno García, and Prof. Nan Zhao—have been funded by the RGC's General Research Fund (GRF), securing a total of \$1,652,064. Warmest congratulations to them all on this fantastic achievement!



Prof. Wai Ping Yau



This semester, the Centre's seminar series featured significant research on translation and intercultural communication in a wide range of contexts with speakers from diverse backgrounds, each bringing unique perspectives. Prof. Reine Meylaerts examined official translation policies and practices for culturally and linguistically diverse communities in Brussels during the COVID-19 pandemic, using these findings to explore the broader global implications for the discipline of Translation Studies as a whole. Following this, Prof. Hanna Risku presented insights from her ethnographic workplace project, arguing that translation expertise should be reconceptualised as a collaborative, socio-material phenomenon distributed across teams and organisations rather than an individual trait. Finally, Dr. Michelle Ye delivered a compelling lecture on nineteenth-century Chinese newspapers, demonstrating how digital humanities tools and collaborative networks can help researchers map complex, non-linear translation zones within early periodical press cultures.

In addition to these stimulating seminars, the Centre co-organised a public lecture with the Anthropocene Studies FNRA subgroup and the Department of Humanities and Creative Writing, featuring an exciting exchange between renowned novelists Mr. Chan Koon-chung and Prof. Yan Lianke. Drawing on diverse literary and theoretical texts, Mr. Chan koon-chung traced a personal feeling of cultural 'diminishment' to a global 'failure of imagination', exploring how new creative energy can emerge from disappearance. Prof. Yan Lianke recounted how his connection with Hong Kong reshaped his literary path, leading to his stark conclusion that twentieth-century literature has ended and prompting his radical decision to write solely for artistic freedom, completely detached from external pressures.

Lastly, I would like to extend warm wishes to each and every one of you for a restful summer and a successful year ahead!



Sharing knowledge,  
inspiring ideas:  
a look at our event speakers.

## Enhancing Video Game Localisation Education through Generative AI: Authentic Learning and Assessment via Synthetic Data, Scenario Creation and Adaptive Feedback

By Prof. Luis Damián Moreno García

I am Luis Damián Moreno García, Fellow from the Centre for Translation, HKBU. I am writing to share some encouraging updates from our recently concluded Teaching Development Grant project (TDG/2425/03), titled "Enhancing Video Game Localisation Education through Generative AI: Authentic Learning and Assessment via Synthetic Data, Scenario Creation and Adaptive Feedback". The primary aim of this initiative was to help bridge the divide between our academic instruction and the practical, rapidly evolving demands of the global video game sector.

At the heart of our approach is an instructional philosophy that embraces technology as a collaborative learning partner. By grounding our curriculum strictly in David Kolb's model of Experiential Learning, we designed a framework where learners actively experiment with AI. One of the most persistent barriers in our field has been industry copyright restrictions, so we deployed generative AI to create legally unencumbered, highly specific, synthetic game assets. This critical pedagogy allowed us to transform the classroom into an authentic, highly responsive laboratory. Through this process, learners shifted from being sole manual creators to orchestrators of a distributed cognitive system.

I am deeply humbled by the level of engagement we witnessed throughout this journey. Across the 2024-25 and 2025-26 academic years, we hosted 23 workshops that saw 410 student participations. It was truly rewarding to see our cohorts mature in their technical application. Over time, their prompt engineering strategies evolved significantly; they moved away from rigid commands and successfully internalized the importance of providing deep contextual grounding to the AI. Furthermore, we observed measurable improvements in their ability to detect technical errors and navigate the ethical complexities associated with AI-assisted workflows.

None of this would have been possible without the supportive environment cultivated here at HKBU. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to my Co-Investigator, Dr. Carme Mangiron, and our Research Assistant, Tianhao Yang, for their invaluable contributions to this project.

I look forward to continuing these explorations as we welcome the future of language, culture, and technology together.



The President's Award for Outstanding Performance of Academic/Teaching Staff was established to recognise outstanding performance, promote excellence in performance standards and encourage colleagues to press on for greater achievement.

This year, the recipient of the President's Award for Outstanding Performance in Early Career Teaching is none other than our Research Fellow, Prof. Luis Damián Moreno García.

We extend our warmest congratulations to Prof. Luis Damián Moreno García and look forward to his continued success.

### PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN EARLY CAREER TEACHING



Prof. Alex Wai (left), the President and Vice-Chancellor of Hong Kong Baptist University, presents the President's Award to Prof. Luis Damián Moreno García (right).

## 1

25 Feb 2026

## How to Ensure Effective Translation Policies and Practices for Official Communication with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities? Lessons from COVID Pandemic



This seminar examined the failure of official translation policy in Brussels during the COVID-19 pandemic. The city's legally mandated bilingual (French/Dutch) framework proved critically inadequate for its hyper-diverse population, leaving many Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities without access to vital health information. Professor Reine Meylaerts argued that the official top-down communication failed because even ad-hoc translation efforts were insufficient, often using inaccessible formats or inappropriate language variants. This fundamental mismatch between rigid policy and on-the-ground reality created a dangerous information vacuum for the most vulnerable residents.

The communication gap was ultimately bridged by community-led, bottom-up practices. Non-profits, volunteers, and local leaders leveraged trusted channels like WhatsApp, using multimodal formats such as voice notes and videos in community-specific language variants. This fostered "thick trust" in embedded mediators, contrasting with the "thin trust" placed in official sources.

To watch this seminar, please visit [here](#).

Reine Meylaerts is a Full Professor in the Department of Translation Studies at KU Leuven. She served as vice-rector of Research Policy from 2017 to 2021, and as vice-rector of Social Sciences and Humanities from 2021 to 2025. Her research focuses on translation policy related to minorities, intercultural mediation, and cultural transfer in multilingual societies, both historically and today. She has authored or edited approximately 150 articles, book chapters, and books on these subjects (<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8088-1519>). She was keynote speaker/invited expert at some 40 International Conferences/Expert Workshops and has been lecturing at Harvard University, Beijing Foreign Studies University, Beihang University, Copenhagen University, Universidade Estadual de Santa Cruz (Brazil), Abu Dis University among others. She has been coordinating national and international research projects and supervising more than 20 doctoral students.

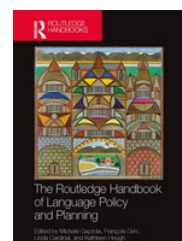
Prof. Reine Meylaerts concluded that effective communication requires a paradigm shift towards proactive, inclusive policies that formally integrate community collaboration and multimodal translation. Such an approach was essential for ensuring equitable access to information, not just in crises, but as a cornerstone of a functioning democratic society.

### Background readings

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Meylaerts, R. (2024). "Public services and translation policy." *The Routledge Handbook of Language Policy and Planning*, edited by F. Grin, M. Gazzola, L. Cardinal, and K. Heugh, 497–509. Routledge.

Meylaerts, R., Macreadie, R., Bouyzourn, K., & Pym, A. (2024). "How should we study interactions between translation policies, practices, and beliefs? Comparing case studies from a time of crisis." *Perspectives: studies in translatology*, 34(1): 169–187.



# 2

26 Mar 2026

## Beyond Individual Mastery: Translation Expertise as Collective, Distributed Enaction

Prof. Hanna Risku challenged the traditional, individual-centric view of translation expertise, arguing that the model of the "solitary expert" was insufficient. The talk proposed a paradigm shift towards understanding expertise as a collective and distributed phenomenon. Drawing on socio-cognitive theories and ethnographic field research within translation agencies, the speaker posited that true expertise emerges not from individual mastery alone, but from the dynamic interplay between people, technologies, and organizational structures. This perspective moved away from simply measuring performance to understanding the collaborative, situated, and socially constructed nature of professional translation work.



The research identified five key dimensions of this distributed expertise, including the formation of shared identities, acting as a social unit, and learning collectively. By observing real-world practices, the study revealed that expertise lay in the entire system's ability to coordinate, solve problems, and adapt. The conclusion reframed translation as a "team sport," where the interplay of diverse contributions was more critical than individual records. This approach called for a re-evaluation of how we research, teach, and value translation, emphasizing collaboration and systemic understanding over isolated skills.

To watch this seminar, please visit [here](#).

Hanna Risku is professor for translation studies and head of the Research Group Socio-Cognitive Translation Studies (socotrans) at the University of Vienna, Austria. Her research areas include translation and cognition, translation workplace and network research, and translation expertise. Prior to her work in Vienna, she was professor for translation studies at the University of Graz, professor for applied cognitive science and technical communication, head of the Department for Knowledge and Communication Management and vice rector at the Danube University Krems, guest professor at the University of Aarhus, Denmark, and lecturer at different universities in Austria, Finland and Sweden. In 2010, she was awarded the TCeurope Award for Services to Technical Communication in Europe. In 2023, she was CETRA Chair professor at KU Leuven and DOTSS Guest professor at Tampere University. She is a member of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters.

### Background readings

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Schlager, D., and H. Risku. (2024). "[What Does It Take to Be a Good In-House Translator? Constructs of Expertise in the Workplace.](#)" *The Journal of Specialised Translation*, vol. 42, 2–19.

Schlager, D., and H. Risku. (2023). "Contextualising Translation Expertise: Lived Practice and Social Construction." *Translation, Cognition & Behavior*, 6 (2): 231–252.

H. Risku., and Rogl, R. (2022). "[Praxis and Process Meet Halfway: The Convergence of Sociological and Cognitive Approaches in Translation Studies.](#)" *The International Journal of Translation and Interpreting Research*, 14 (2): 32–49.

Risku, H., and R. Rogl. (2021). "Translation and Situated, Embodied, Distributed, Embedded and Extended Cognition." In *The Routledge Handbook of Translation and Cognition*, edited by F. Alves, and A. L. Jakobsen, 478–499. London: Routledge.

Research Group Socio-Cognitive Translation Studies (socotrans): <https://socotrans.univie.ac.at/>

Research Project Rethinking Translation Expertise: A Workplace Study (RETREX): <https://socotrans.univie.ac.at/retrex-fwf-project/>

# 3

30 Apr 2026

## Translation Seminar: Translation Zones in Nineteenth-Century Chinese Newspapers: Digital Resources, Methods, and Problems

This seminar positioned 19th-century Chinese newspapers, particularly Cantonese-run ones, as active "translation zones" rather than passive imitators of Western models. Dr. Michelle Jia Ye applied this concept materially, analyzing transliterated words and translated news segments as keys to unlocking global information circuits.



Using digital archives, the research traced the transmission of news stories—from an Austrian avalanche to a conflict in Borneo—revealing a complex network where these newspapers actively selected, rewrote, and circulated information. This methodology highlighted the crucial role of Cantonese bilinguals and their press in early globalization. However, it also confronted significant problems, including the limitations of digital databases, such as OCR errors and navigational difficulties, which necessitated specialized manual and computational recovery methods.

To watch this seminar, please visit [here](#).

Dr. Michelle Jia YE (葉嘉) is Assistant Professor at the Department of Chinese Language Studies at the Education University of Hong Kong. Trained in translation studies, she publishes bilingually on transcultural and translanguaging practice in 19th- and 20th- century Chinese periodical press in reputable venues, including *Modern Chinese Literature and Culture*, *Translation Studies*, and *Journal of Chinese Studies*. She authored a monograph (2021) on translation in early Republican Shanghai literary journals, and published Chinese translations of social scientific works. Her work has been supported by Early Career Scheme (ECS), General Research Fund (GRF), and Collaborative Research Fund (CRF) awarded by the Research Grants Council of University Grants Committee, HKSAR. She is completing her second monograph, which traces the emergence of early Chinese cinematic knowledge in Chinese periodical writings circa 1900.

### Background readings

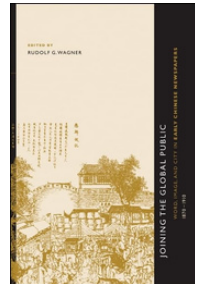


Apter, Emily (2011). *The Translation Zone: A New Comparative Literature*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Gentz, Natascha (2007). "Useful Knowledge and Appropriate Communication: The Field of Journalistic Production in Late Nineteenth Century China." In *Joining the Global Public: Word, Image, and City in Early Chinese Newspapers, 1870–1910*, edited by Rudolf G. Wagner, 56–62. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.

*Translation and/in Periodical Publications*. Special issue of *Translation and Interpreting Studies*, 14:2 (2019).

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Luis Damián Moreno García

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Robert Neather

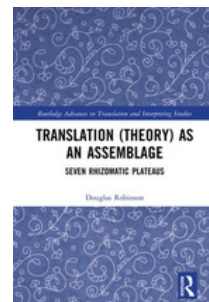
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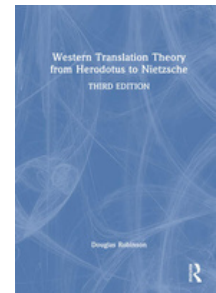
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Douglas Robinson

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- Robinson, Douglas. 2026. *Western Translation Theory from Herodotus to Nietzsche*, 3<sup>rd</sup>. Reprint. 85,000-word expansion (total 360,000 words). London and New York: Routledge.



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## Zaixi Tan

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## Chuan Yu

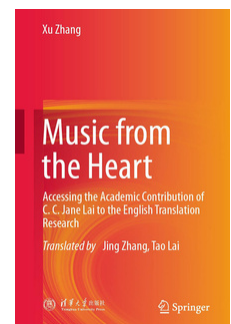
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## Nan Zhao

- Zebo Xu, Shaoyun Yu, Mark Torrance, Guido Nottbusch, Nan Zhao, and Zhenguang Cai. 2026. "A Stroke-Level Large-Scale Database of Chinese Character Handwriting and the OpenHandWrite\_Toolbox for Handwriting Research." *Behavior Research Methods* 58(6), Article 162. (DOI: [10.3758/s13428-026-03001-4](https://doi.org/10.3758/s13428-026-03001-4)) (full text)
- Nan Zhao, Xufeng Duan, and Zhenguang G.Cai. 2025. "The Missing Half of Language Learning in Current Developmental Language Models: Exogenous and Endogenous Linguistic Input." *Open Mind* 9: 1543-1549. (DOI:[10.1162/OPMI.a.33](https://doi.org/10.1162/OPMI.a.33)) (full text)
- Nan Zhao and Yumeng Lin. 2025. "The roles of language proficiency, working memory, and anxiety in speech error repairs in consecutive interpreting." *Target* 37(2): 184-212. (DOI:[10.1075/target.00032.zha](https://doi.org/10.1075/target.00032.zha)) (full text)

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## Chunshen Zhu

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- 盧淼苓、朱純深，2026，〈譯者的主觀懸置、話語體驗與翻譯方法——與朱純深談〈夜鶯與玫瑰〉的翻譯〉，《中國翻譯》第三期。

### Translation Seminars

Prof. Carme Mangiron (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona ), Prof. Ricardo Muñoz Martín (the University of Bologna) and Prof. Haina Jin (Communication University of China) will present seminars between September and November 2026.



Visit our [website](https://ctn.hkbu.edu.hk/academic-activities/translation-seminar-series/) for details on the latest Translation Seminars!

<https://ctn.hkbu.edu.hk/academic-activities/translation-seminar-series/>

### Call for Applications: The Martha Cheung Award

**Eligible Publication Period:** Articles published between 1 November 2024 and 31 October 2026

**Application Deadline:** 31 October 2026



Only applications submitted via [the online form](#) will be accepted



Visit this page for more details on eligibility:

<https://ctn.hkbu.edu.hk/martha-cheung-award.html>

### Symposium

**Title:** Translating Extinction and Climate Change in the Museum: An International Symposium

**Venue:** Hong Kong Baptist University

**Conference Chair:** Prof. Robert Neather

**Date:** 2027

More information will be announced soon.

#### Centre Members

*Director* Wai Ping YAU

*Associate Director* Jessica YEUNG

*Research Fellows* Robert NEATHER, Janice Jun PAN, Clara Chuan YU, Nan ZHAO, Luis Damián MORENO GARCÍA

*Honorary Fellows* Jane LAI, Douglas ROBINSON, Zaixi TAN, Xu ZHANG, Chunshen ZHU, Min-hua LIU, Mingjiong CHAI

*Senior Executive Officer* Esther KWOK

*Senior Project Assistant* Yibei LI



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