

#09 23/12/2024

NEWSLETTER

901 FEATURES



Kinopolitics and Kinopoetics in the Anthropocene: An International Symposium on Eco-Mobilities

Co-organised by the Centre for Translation within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, the Department of Humanities and Creative Writing, and the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies, this two-day international symposium explored the intricate ways in which movements, migrations and the varying speeds of mobility impact human cultural, social and political life in connection to the Earth and multispecies encounters. It examined how these experiences of mobility are depicted and contemplated in aesthetic forms.

The symposium commenced with a welcoming address by Prof Daniel Lai, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. He highlighted the significance of the theme, emphasising the examination of how movements, both human and non-human, influence cultural, social and political realms within the backdrop of climate change and mobility. The symposium served as a platform for engaging discussions on the sociopolitical consequences of our interactions with the environment. With an attendance exceeding 30 participants, the event featured seven panels spanning oceanic mobility, race and refuge, urban ecologies, digital kinopoetics, tourism, cross-cultural mobilities, eco-mobilities and concluded uniquely with a film screening.



On the first day, four panels discussed a diverse array of topics. The first panel, featuring Serpil Oppermann, Enoch Yee-lok Tam and Wenxi Hu, examined human aquatic mobilities and migration, the symbolism of the white dolphin and the vulnerabilities of China's marine ecosystems. The second panel, led by Andrew Baldwin, Emily Zong, and Kwai-cheung Lo, explored climate change and migration, conflicts between wildlife and humans in urban settings, and the (im)mobilities of Vietnamese boat people and the Chinese white dolphin in the Greater Bay Area. Panels three and four drew attention to urban ecology, with discussions led by Simon C. Estok, Creighton Connolly, Jamie Wang, Emily Zong, Choi Sin-yi, Emilie, Daren Shi-chi Leung, Fiona Y. W. Law, and Jessica Yeung on topics such as passive urban re-wilding, the mobility of pigs in colonial Hong Kong, and the transborder Hong Kong identity influenced by YouTubers.

The second day revisited cross-cultural and ecological mobilities across continents, ranging from the Amazon to the Great Barrier Reef and the snow-capped mountains of Tibet. Belinda Smaill, Benjamin Iaquinto, Alex K. Gearin, Haomin Gong, Wai Ping Yau, and Zimu Zhang explored captivating subjects such as tourism mobility and the concepts of eco-mobilities and migration in eco-cinema and eco-novels.



The symposium culminated with a screening and discussion of The Kongner Documentary - *Narrativity: 香 Heung*, which examines the role of names as defining, connecting and grounding forces in Hong Kong identities, exploring the profound relationship between Hong Kong, its residents and the incense trees shaping its culture. By bridging discussions on movement across disciplinary boundaries, this international symposium has offered a vital opportunity to rethink the ecocritical knowledge, imagination, and methodologies emerging in the Anthropocene.



Breaking Language Barriers in Humanitarian and Development Aid

Language barriers can mean the difference between life and death in crises - this fundamental truth stands at the core of my work as the new Fellow of the Centre for Translation at Hong Kong Baptist University. My research stems from a deep commitment to understanding and addressing experiences during crises. Through my past work in humanitarian and development contexts, I've witnessed how language barriers can profoundly affect communities' access to vital information, knowledge, and support. By focusing on translation and interpreting practices that promote social inclusion, we can ensure that every voice is heard, and every need is understood.

My research on linguistic minorities and environmental protection reveals how translation can transform crisis and development work. By emphasizing community participation and practical application, I explore ways in which effective communication can build sustainable futures. This work comes alive through service-learning and community engagement projects, where theoretical insights meet real-world challenges.

Currently, as a researcher in translation studies and development studies, I'm leading a crucial project examining the impact of language on Hong Kong's relief dissemination in Africa, particularly in Malawi. Along with my team, we aim to enhance the effectiveness of Hong Kong's disaster relief programs through better translation and interpretation practices. Hong Kong has transformed from an aid recipient in the 1960s to a significant aid provider today, with its Disaster Relief Fund growing to HK\$100 million annually. However, my initial research has revealed that language barriers remain a critical yet often overlooked challenge in aid delivery. This study comes at a crucial time, as I've observed Hong Kong's support to African countries has risen significantly, accounting for over 25% of total grants in 2020.



Dr. Marija Todorova



In collaboration with colleagues from the University of Geneva and Free State University in South Africa, my research will investigate three key areas: the translation challenges faced by Hong Kong-based humanitarian and development organizations, the linguistic obstacles encountered by affected communities, and the specific needs of local non-professional interpreters who facilitate relief distribution. In the past year, my research team has carried out field work in Malawi and established communication with NGOs in Hong Kong. As a result, we plan to develop a specialized training program for local interpreters and translators, aiming to improve communication between Hong Kong aid organizations and vulnerable communities.

This is the first comprehensive study of its kind in Hong Kong's humanitarian sector, and I believe our findings will have significant implications for improving the effectiveness of international support and ensuring information and assistance reaches those who need it most.

New Book by Research Fellow

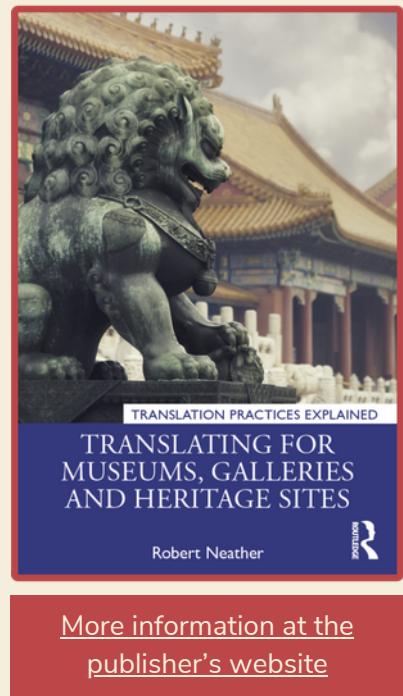
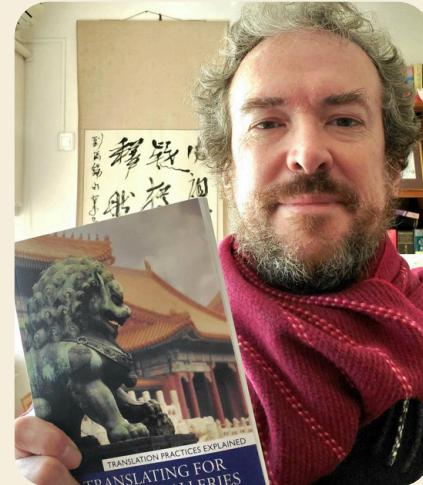


Translating for Museums, Galleries and Heritage Sites

by Dr. Robert Neather



Translating for Museums, Galleries and Heritage Sites was published in July 2024, and is the first book-length work to focus on translation in the museum world. In any museum, gallery, or heritage site that wishes to engage with foreign-language visitors, translation is clearly essential, and in the last two decades, there has been a gradually increasing interest in the many fascinating aspects of such translation, with a significant amount of research being undertaken, as publications such as the recent special issue (70) of the journal *Babel* testify. Despite this growing research interest, there has hitherto been little available in the way of practical training in this area of translation. This book aims to help fill that need.



The book begins with an initial introduction and an overview of key concepts in both museums and translation, before moving on to look at three broad groupings of interpretive and information texts from the museum text system: fixed labels and wall panels, leaflets and other portable learning resources, and catalogues and guides, including a section on websites. It also incorporates a chapter on practitioner perspectives and concludes with a call to place translation centre stage in museum, gallery, and heritage practice.

The book includes numerous exercises and points for discussion, and so will be of use as a coursebook for students at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, as well as for practitioners in the sector, and more broadly anyone wishing to understand more about the complex issues involved in translating museum texts. It is designed to be suitable for both individual and class-based learning, and employs examples from a range of languages, including Chinese, French, Spanish, Icelandic and Indonesian, to name only some. At the same time, since the writing draws extensively on the research literature, including that of the author, it will also be a useful reference point for those involved in research in this growing field.

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17 Oct 2024

Tom, Dick and Harry as Well as Fido and Puss in Boots are Translators: The Implications of Biosemiotics for Translation Studies

During the seminar, Professor Kobus Marais from the University of Free State gave a stimulating presentation on the essence of translation, questioning traditional perspectives that have long been shaped by linguistic and anthropocentric frameworks.

By introducing biosemiotics, Marais proposed a perspective that portrays translation as a universal process inherent in all living organisms. He structured this viewpoint around four central concepts - translation as a common activity performed by individuals who are not necessarily professionals, extending even to non-human organisms; the act of creating meaning and translating as activities carried out by all living beings, encompassing both plants and animals; adopting a biosemiotic approach to comprehend communication across different species; and rethinking the relationships between humans and non-human entities as a way to tackle the ecological crisis.

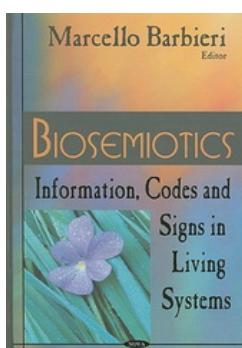
Marais's insights challenge the conventional boundaries of translation and broaden our comprehension towards a more comprehensive framework. By acknowledging the universal aspect of translation across various species and situations, a foundation can be laid for more enriched and ethical translation practices that align with the interconnected nature of our world - recognising that translation goes beyond merely human endeavors, but is an intrinsic feature of life. It is through this realization that we can initiate introspection on our roles within the wider ecological context.

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



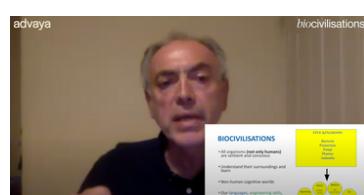
Kobus Marais is Professor of Translation Studies at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein. He has published three monographs, namely *Translation Theory and Development Studies: A Complexity Theory Approach* (2014), *A (Bio)Semiotic Theory of Translation: The Emergence of Social-Cultural Reality* (2018) and *Trajectories of Translation: The Thermodynamics of Semiosis* (June 2023) and an edited volume *Translation Beyond Translation Studies* (2022).

Background Readings



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The world of biosemiotics: Communication in nature – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4V9TWzeLXk4>



Defining biosemiotics with Alison Sealy- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URmmUHtCdrg>

Conference Interpreting at International Organisations



Lucía Ruiz Rosendo is an associate professor at the University of Geneva's Faculty of Translation and Interpreting (FTI), where she is the Director of the Interpreting Department. Her main line of research is interpreting in conflict zones, the history of interpreting, and interpreting at international organisations.

Drawing on her extensive experience in interpretation, Dr. Lucia Ruiz Rosendo discussed her recent research on interpreting in conflict zones and the intricacies of conference interpretation within international organizations during the seminar. She explored the different types of international organisations such as the United Nations and the World Health Organization, emphasizing the significance of comprehending their cultures, mandates and ideologies, along with the essential skills needed for interpretation in conference environments within these organizations, including preparatory work, speed, and concentration.

Dr. Rosendo then shifted her focus to interpreter training, providing examples of how the interpreting programme at the University of Geneva prepares students to navigate the complexities of interpreting in diverse international settings. This includes hands-on training, where students engage with authentic speeches and scenarios, and managing terminology and documentation, which are often extensive in international organizational contexts. She also explored the impact of technology on interpretation, covering the utilisation of artificial intelligence tools and remote interpreting. Concluding, she emphasised the necessity of continuous research and discourse on the future of interpretation, particularly in relation to technology and its effects on training and professional practice.

Background Readings

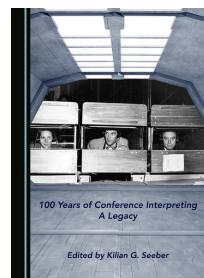
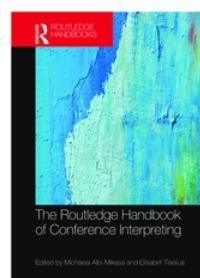
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905 RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY FELLOWS

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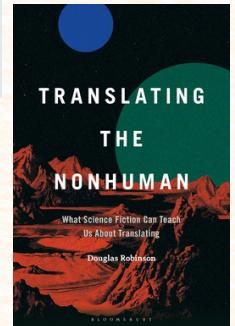
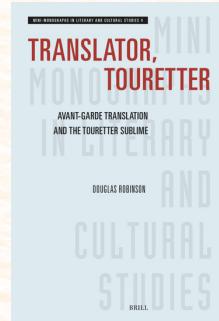
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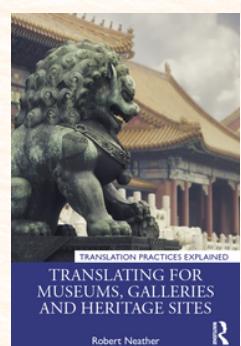
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Translation Seminars**1. Language Teaching in the Platform Age:****The Discursive Construction of Language and Culture for Self-branding**

Nate Ming Curran (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

16 Jan 2025

2. Translating Extinction:**Museum Narratives of Ecological Crisis in Chinese and English Exhibitions**

Robert Neather (Hong Kong Baptist University)

Mar 2025



Visit our website for details on the latest Translation Seminars!

<https://ctn.hkbu.edu.hk/activities/translation-seminar-series/>**Forum****The 11th Asia-Pacific Translation and Interpreting Forum (APТИF 11)****Title:** Culture, Connectivity and Technology: Translating Communities, Transforming Perspectives**Dates:** 21-23 May 2025**Venue:** Hong Kong Baptist University**Mode:** Face-to-face**Featured Speakers:** Mona Baker, Chan Sin-wai, Satoshi Nakamura, Jemina Napier, Alison Rodriguez, Yifeng Sun, Tan Zaixi**2nd call for papers:** <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=aptif11>
(Submission deadline extended to: 15 Jan 2025)**Summer School****International Research School for Media Translation and Digital Culture****Featured Theme:** Human and Artificial Intelligence in Media Translation**Dates:** 23-28 June 2025**Venue:** Hong Kong Baptist University**Mode:** Face-to-face**Teaching team:** Jonathan Evans, Henry Jones, Kyung Hye Kim, Luis Pérez-González, Neil Sadler

Stay tuned for more information!

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