

FEATURES

301 Navigating through the Dark Matter: Online Conference on Wikipedia Translation

The conference “Understanding Wikipedia’s Dark Matter: Translation and Multilingual Practice in the World’s Largest Online Encyclopaedia”, as announced in the previous issue of the newsletter, was successfully held from 15 to 17 December 2021, drawing more than 68 participants from ten time zones.



Over the years Wikipedia has become a source of knowledge to be reckoned with. Nevertheless, translation in Wikipedia has long been somewhat of a “dark matter”: mysterious, uncharted, and difficult to locate. As what is believed to be the first academic event dedicated to Wikipedia translation, the conference provided an excellent opportunity for participants to delve into a range of topics surrounding this massive multilingual database, including research methodologies, corpus-based studies, translation quality, collaboration in translation, and many more. In fact, as Conference Chair Prof. Mark Shuttleworth mentioned in his opening remarks, a number of proposals on topics the organizers had not anticipated were received, epitomizing the immense potential for academic research.

The conference featured three keynote speeches, two workshops, and 17 presentations. We were delighted to welcome back Dr. Julie McDonough Dolmaya (York University, Canada) and Dr. Henry Jones (University of Manchester, UK), both keynote speakers in previous conferences and symposiums organized by CTN, to reprise their roles, with Dr. Jun Pan (CTN Fellow) completing the line-up of keynote speakers. The workshops were convened by Prof. Shuttleworth and Mr. Zhilu Tu (PhD student of HKBU's Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies) respectively, who gave their insights about the more technical aspects in researching with Wikipedia.

Given the wide spectrum of topics covered, the conference is bound to inspire future endeavours and facilitate interdisciplinary exchanges. It is hoped that the conference will serve as a milestone in navigating through the "dark matter".

Workshop Convenors

Zhilu Tu

Workshop title:
Scraping Wikipedia articles

Mark Shuttleworth

Workshop title:
Digital tools for researching Wikipedia

Keynote Speakers

Julie McDonough Dolmaya

Keynote title:
Digital research methods to identify, analyze and visualize conflicts in Wikipedia's translation-related articles



Henry Jones

Keynote title:
Corpus-based Wikipedia studies: Theoretical and methodological challenges for translation scholars



Jun Pan

Keynote title:
Tales of the "fish in your ear": How does Wikipedia help to shape a public narrative on interpreting?



For more information, please visit
<https://ctn.hkbu.edu.hk/wikiconf2021/>

The keynote speeches and the workshops will be available soon. Please visit
<http://ctn.hkbu.edu.hk> for further updates.



302 BA students share their thoughts on first commissioned project

CTN once again had the honour to provide translation services to the Children's Council (兒童議會), an annual community project to which CTN attaches great importance. This year, 36 BA students from the course "Practical Translation" taught by Dr. Wai-ping Yau translated three motion papers. By assuming the roles of project manager-cum-proofreader and translator, they gained valuable experience in a real-world setting.

Most of the five students we interviewed had never undertaken a commissioned translation project before. It did not take long for them to spot stark differences between the project and their class assignments, the most important being the connection with the real world, in contrast to the hypothetical contexts used in class. The translated texts were used by the child councillors for the debate, and would be subsequently published in the event report. The fact that the translation would be used by third parties motivated the students to be extra meticulous about the accuracy of the translation, as they understood that the final product would be documented and available to the public.

The students also found it refreshing to cooperate with their peers since group projects are not the norm in the BA programme. The students considered the discussion between the project manager and the translators in the course of vetting and editing the translations to be particularly rewarding.



Child councilors voting on a motion



A child councilor answering questions raised by other members

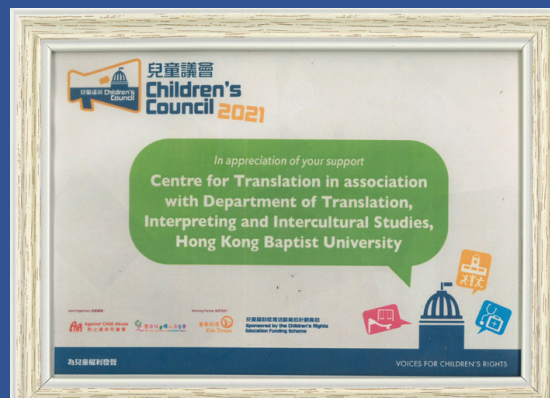
The students all concurred that being part of a community project was gratifying, and would welcome the inclusion of other types of projects in their course. However, as the saying goes, all good things must come to an end. The event has now drawn to a temporary conclusion. CTN would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Children's Council for their long-standing trust over the past 17 years. Going forward, we will continue to explore and engage in projects of a similar nature, so as to allow our student translators the opportunity to apply their translation skills to benefit the community.

A Message from the Coordinating Committee for Children's Council: Against Child Abuse and Hong Kong Committee on Children's Rights

We have highly treasured our collaboration with the Centre for Translation in association with the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies of Hong Kong Baptist University throughout the years. The kind and professional support from the students and teachers in helping to translate the motion documents prepared by the Child Councilors, and in providing simultaneous interpreting services on the day of the Children's Council Meeting have made the project more child friendly and inclusive by meeting the diversified needs of the Child Councilors recruited all over Hong Kong. HKBU's involvement provided easy access to the materials for the non-Chinese speaking panel and attending guests, allowing them to participate and communicate with the young people directly. This made the atmosphere of the discussion much more lively, genuine and meaningful. We would also like to express our heartfelt gratitude to your team, in particular Ms. Esther Kwok. She showed herself to be very attentive, sincere and selfless in supporting this project in various ways, such as arranging for the venue, facilities and support staff as we always needed to make last minute changes, particularly when the project faced the unstable social situation and pandemic conditions in recent years.

A Message from Dr Wai-ping Yau, Project Supervisor:

Working in small groups to translate speeches for the Children's Council, students were able to put to practical use the skills and knowledge learned from the course, and to contribute to a meaningful event that aimed to motivate and empower children to express views on important issues such as equal education access for all and children's right to political participation. Sadly, this was the last time the Children's Council was held. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the students for their efforts and thank the Children's Council for providing valuable learning opportunities for translation students over the years.



A plaque received from the organizers

“ Translation usually involves making decisions by yourself. It was interesting that we got to communicate with others and choose the best way to do the translation.

Nicole Chan, Student Translator

“ It was truly a real-life project. Other than feedback provided by our teacher, the client also gave us comments. It was almost like an internship.

Edwin Chan, Student Translator



THE LATEST FROM OUR FELLOWS

GRF project

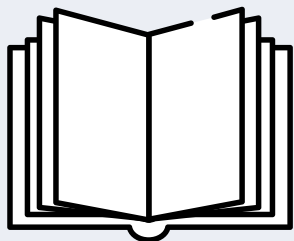
Digitally mediating Tibetan Buddhism for Han Chinese audiences: A study of the missionary milieu of Sinophone Tibetan Buddhism on WeChat

By Dr. Catherine Hardie

In the last few decades, Tibetan Buddhism has made deeper missionary inroads in Han Chinese society than ever before. Not only have Tibetan Buddhist teachers garnered dedicated followings in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Southeast Asia, the past two decades have also seen Tibetan Buddhism establish popular roots among mainland China's urban middle class. The growth of digital technology has played an important role in this religious spread, especially the mainstreaming of the smartphone and the popularisation of the mobile-based social media app, WeChat. In recent years, WeChat's 'official account' (Ch: gongzhonghao 公眾號), an intraplatform microblog, has been widely utilised as a religious propagation interface among Tibetan Buddhists in the PRC. In view of the cultural labour that hundreds of teachers and followers of Tibetan Buddhism have invested in producing and curating religious content that is accessible, relevant and appealing to Chinese-speaking audiences, I argue that WeChat official accounts should be recognised as a fertile site for investigating Tibetan Buddhism's "sinicisation" in contemporary China.

My current GRF project therefore takes as its focus Chinese language WeChat official accounts dedicated to Tibetan Buddhism, and seeks to investigate how Tibetan Buddhism is being constructed as an object of knowledge and religious consumption for Sinophone audiences. Not only do I seek to critically examine the visual and linguistic discourses through which Tibetan Buddhism is being represented within this context, I also plan to ethnographically explore, through fieldwork in China, the social processes through which these accounts and their content are produced and consumed. The influence of WeChat official accounts dedicated to Tibetan Buddhism among ethnic Tibetans in China and among Tibetan Buddhist followers in Hong Kong and Taiwan will also be investigated. Through my research findings, I hope to enrich current understandings of the locally-inflected transmission of Tibetan Buddhism in contemporary Han Chinese society and the importance of the digital in this process.

Note: GRF stands for "General Research Fund", provided by the University Grants Committee of the Hong Kong Government.



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New Book by Honorary Research Fellow

Fathoming Translation as Discursive Experience: Theorization and Application

By Prof. Chunshen Zhu

This book consists of eight chapters. The scene-setting first chapter begins by arguing, with all due respect to critics favouring the turn-taking narrative, for a 'paradigm-expansion' perception of the development of translation studies as an academic discipline, before introducing positive translation studies as the conceptual framework for the research featured in the subsequent chapters. To study translation positively, the book adopts an issue-driven, phenomenon-focused, and theorization-oriented approach in looking into a variety of issues fundamental to the linguistic nature and textual operation of translation, such as meaning making (Chapter 2), unit of translation (Chapter 4), transitivity augmentation by modification (Chapter 5), signification of repetition (Chapter 6), and cognitive effects of syntactic iconicity (Chapter 7). From this positive perspective, translation is viewed as an undertaking of cross-cultural and trans-societal text production and dissemination, which, as observed in the book, is in essence an operation of sign making that may generate in receivers various, and sometimes conflicting, discursive experiences as conditioned by actual social situations (e.g. Chapters 2 and 8). A critical engagement with systemic functional linguistics and speech act theory, among other linguistic, literary, sociocultural, and aesthetic theories, enables the author to identify information structuring as the basis for meaning-experience correlation in translation, as well as other modes of communication. As such, discursive experience, varying as it may be from situation to situation, is, and must be, an 'undergoing' alongside the 'doing' in John Dewey's terms (*Art as Experience*) that is textually accountable in both source text interpretation and target text creation. As argued and demonstrated in the book, positive translation studies, as an ever-expanding intellectual paradigm encompassing theories and methodologies individual researchers may adopt, has as its ultimate goal to help facilitate and advance humans' understanding of themselves and of the world.



Fathoming Translation as Discursive Experience

Theorization and Application

Chunshen Zhu



<https://www.routledge.com/Fathoming-Translation-as-Discursive-Experience-Theorization-and-Application/Zhu/p/book/9781138335875>

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY FELLOWS

Min-hua Liu

- Nicodemus, Brenda, Minhua Liu, and Sandra McClure. 2021. "The Reading Habits of Professional Signed and Spoken Language Interpreters." *Translation and Interpreting Studies* (DOI: [10.1075/tis.20079.nic](https://doi.org/10.1075/tis.20079.nic))
- Pöchhacker, Franz, and Minhua Liu. 2021. "Editorial." *Interpreting* 23.2: 165-167. (DOI: [10.1075/intp.00064.edi](https://doi.org/10.1075/intp.00064.edi))

Robert Neather

- Neather, Robert. 2021. "Comment." Invited scholarly comment on "[Value in Context: Material Culture and Treblinka](#)", by C. Sturdy Colls and R.M. Ehrenreich. *Current Anthropology* 62.5: 559-560.
- Neather, Robert. 2021. "Museums and Translation." In *Handbook of Translation Studies*, Vol. 5, edited by Luc van Doorslaer and Yves Gambier, 159-164. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. (DOI: [10.1075/hts.5.mus2](https://doi.org/10.1075/hts.5.mus2))

Catherine Hardie

- Hardie, Catherine. "Liberating Lives." In [Voices from Larung Gar: Shaping Tibetan Buddhism for the Twenty-First Century](#), edited by Holly Gayley, 175-208. Boston: Shambhala Publications.

Douglas Robinson

- Robinson, Douglas. 2022. [The Strange Loops of Translation](#). New York: Bloomsbury Academic.
- Robinson, Douglas. 2021. "[George Steiner's Hermeneutic Motion and the Ontology, Ethics, and Epistemology of Translation](#)." In *Jahrbuch für Übersetzungshermeneutik/Annual for Translational Hermeneutics*, Vol. 1, edited by Marco Agneta, Larisa Cercel, and Brian O'Keefe, 103-38. Hildesheim, Germany: Hildesheim University Press and Olms Verlag. (full text)
- Robinson, Douglas. 2021. "The 心 of the Foreign: The Feeling-Based Hermeneutics of Translation as Influenced by Ancient Chinese Thought." In [Cognition and Comprehension in Translational Hermeneutics](#), edited by John Stanley, Brian O' Keefe, Radegundis Stolze, and Larisa Cercel, 169-204. Bucharest, Romania: Zeta Books.
- Robinson, Douglas. 2021. Review of *The Lost Journalism of Ring Lardner*, edited by Ron Rapoport. [American Literary History online review series XXI](#).

Chunshen Zhu

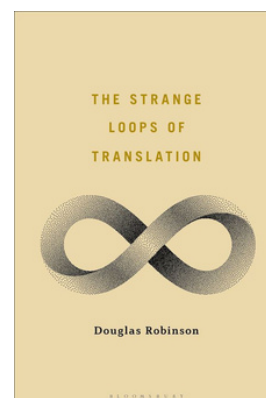
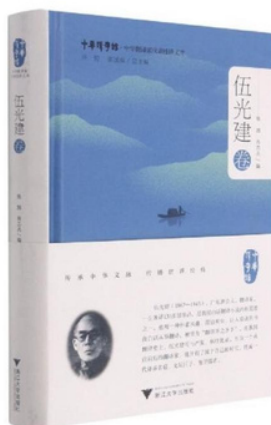
- Zhu, Chunshen. 2021. Fathoming Translation as Discursive Experience: Theorization and Application. London: Routledge. (DOI: [10.4324/9780429443497](https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429443497))

Zaixi Tan

- 譚載喜，2021，〈關於中國譯學話語體系建設的思考〉(Reflections on the development of a Chinese discourse on translation)，《上海翻譯》(Shanghai Journal of Translators) 2021(4): 7-8。
- 譚載喜，2021，〈翻譯的界、兩界與多界：一個關於翻譯的界學闡釋〉(The duality and multiplicity of translation: A boundary theory based interpretation)，《外語教學與研究》(Foreign Language Teaching and Research)，2021(6): 937-947。
- 譚載喜，2021，《西方翻譯史學研究 (Researching the Historiography of Translation in the West)》，北京：外語教學與研究出版社。

Xu Zhang

- 張旭，2021，《現代時期詩譯莎劇活動尋蹤》，《中國翻譯》2021(6): 29-37。
- 張旭、肖志兵編，2021，《中華翻譯家代表性譯文庫：伍光建卷》，杭州：浙江大學出版社。
- 張旭、張鼎程編，2021，《中華翻譯家代表性譯文庫：馬君武卷》，杭州：浙江大學出版社。



UPCOMING EVENTS

Conference

The 3rd HKBU International Conference on Interpreting: Technology and Interpreting

Date: 7-9 December 2022

Keynote Speakers:

Sabine Braun, University of Surrey

Claudio Fantinuoli, University of Mainz

More details to come at <https://ctn.hkbu.edu.hk/>

Talk

Arts Does Method Lecture on corpus methodology

Date: 10 February 2022

Speaker: Bart Defrancq, Ghent University

More details to come at <https://ctn.hkbu.edu.hk/>

Translation Seminars

Prof. Silvia Hansen-Schirra (University of Mainz, Germany) and Prof. Masaru Yamada (Rikkyo University, Japan) will hold their seminars in the first half of 2022.



Visit our website for details on the latest Translation Seminars!
<https://ctn.hkbu.edu.hk/activities/translation-seminar-series/>



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