



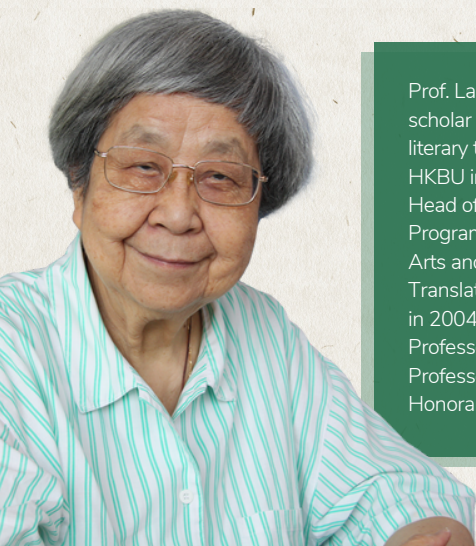
FEATURES

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CTN: How it Started; How it Grew

An interview with Prof. Jane Lai

Year 2024 marks the 30th anniversary of the Centre for Translation. In nearly three decades' time, CTN has grown from a humble group in an emerging university to one of the leading research units in translation and interpreting studies in Asia. The academic visibility CTN has attained today is largely attributable to the leadership of and solid foundation laid by Prof. Jane C. C. Lai, CTN's founding director, who steered its development for more than ten years. As CTN marches towards this monumental milestone, we are honoured to have Prof. Lai take us on a journey through the incubation, expansion and evolution of CTN. In this issue, she will mainly focus on lesser-known stories of CTN's initial phase.



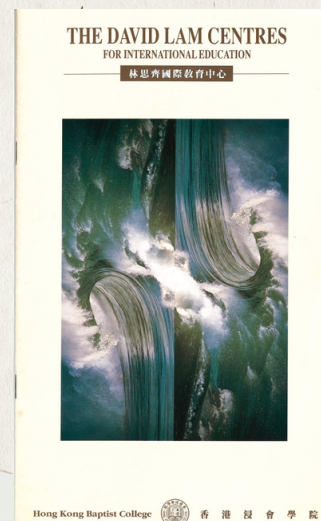
Prof. Lai is a distinguished scholar and an award-winning literary translator. She joined HKBU in 1990, and served as Head of the Translation Programme, Dean of Faculty of Arts and Chair Professor of Translation before her retirement in 2004. She is now Emeritus Professor, and Honorary Professor of Translation and Honorary Fellow of CTN.

Prof. Lai is also an instrumental figure in the Hong Kong theatre scene. She co-founded the Seals Theatre Company back in 1978, and is a founding member of the Hong Kong Federation of Drama Societies (HKFDS) and the International Association of Theatre Critics (Hong Kong). More importantly, she is a pioneer in normalizing English-Cantonese playscript translation and popularizing translated plays, including one of her favourites, *King Lear* by William Shakespeare. Her contributions to translation and theatre have won her a number of accolades, including the Distinguished Translators Award at the 18th Hong Kong Drama Awards by HKFDS in 2009, Honorary Fellow of the Hong Kong Translation Society in 2017, and most recently, the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 31st Hong Kong Drama Awards by HKFDS on 14 June of this year.

What motivated you to set up a research centre for translation back in 1994? What were your hopes and dreams when you conceived of the idea of a translation centre?

At the period when you started the Centre, why was the Centre meaningful not only to HKBU but also to Hong Kong? How was the Centre personally meaningful to you at the time?

In the early 1990s, the then Hong Kong Baptist College had, in the David C. Lam Building, a "David Lam Centres for International Education". It had three centres and one school: the Centre for East West Studies, Centre for Applied Ethics, and Centre for Translation, and the School of Continuing Education with its own international programmes. The Centre for Translation was intended to promote activities, research and publication for Translation and its related disciplines. The Centre had a Director, and its activities were meant to be supported by the related personnel of the Translation Programme.



This brochure published in the early 1990s introduces the newly established research centres under the David Lam Centres for International Education, including the Centre for Translation.

Centre for Translation

The Centre for Translation (CT) is a new centre established to make available translations mainly from English to Chinese and Chinese to English of archival, documentary, research and other related material. Through this important work, the Centre hopes to contribute to international research and scholarship, and to build up a body of work in translation previously inaccessible to scholars because of the language barrier.

The Centre aims to collect and preserve in its archives significant documents relevant to the promotion of the discipline of translation for study and research.



A double-page spread in the brochure details the functions and aspirations of the Centre for Translation written by Prof. Lai.

The Centre is committed to academic research and projects through the translation of material from diverse fields as it is committed to promoting the discipline of translation to match the rapid development and needs of the present day world.

Contributing to the work of the Centre will be:

- Student research assistants
- Academics specialising in translation within the College
- International scholars and researchers in the translation field
- Academics and scholars from related disciplines

Director Designate:
Jane C C Lai Tel: 339-7205

When the Translation Programme was set up in the then Baptist College, we were very small: five staff members and 30 students in the first cohort, and hidden in the English Department with no indication of our existence. Nobody knew we were there nor what we did.

Yet the programme designed by Dr. Simon Chau was innovative and professionally oriented, requiring a lot of interaction with the workplace and the community to enable the desired training and year-long placement for our students. We needed an appropriate title to help us do what we wanted to do: offer consultancy work, voluntary participation from our students in large group projects and deal with clients on year-long placements. "The Centre for Translation" gave us a window to the world. That was the practical side of things, but it enabled us to attract public interest in our public lectures and gained us partners in our consultancy plans and placement arrangement. Moreover, it led us to explore for ourselves the pedagogy for management of major translation projects. Through the hard work and dedication of the staff and students, the outcome apart from the usual programme output was *Hong Kong Collage: Contemporary Stories and Writing* (in English), *An Illustrated Chinese Materia Medica in Hong Kong* (in English) and a nine-volume *Oxford's Children's Encyclopedia* (translated into Chinese by our students) published by the Oxford University Press. What we did for the Centre was meaningful in promoting a new approach in teaching-and-learning in our programme and in the college and it gained a lot of trust and confidence in the community for our students.

As for hopes and dreams, we wanted to build up a body of translated works previously inaccessible to scholars because of the language barrier, to accelerate academic research in diverse fields and in translation. There was an urgent need at that time.



Prof. Lai chaired the Translation Seminar by Prof. Theo Hermans in July 2013.



Participants of the Hong Kong Translation Research Summer School in 2009, when Prof. Lai gave a talk on drama translation

What support did you have that helped you start and grow the Centre?

What were the major challenges? What were some of the hard conversations you had with university administrators when setting up the Centre?

Support from the university was very generous in terms of space, and funding for tool books for the Centre library/workroom. There was ample space for group work, discussion and editing for staff, students, and student volunteers. The crunch came when the dream grew ambitious. The Associate Director the late Professor Martha Cheung and I as the Director, seeing the importance of updating academic research in those days, wanted to initiate a series of translations of new innovative books recommended by colleagues in various disciplines to help scholars locally and in China to have access to information in spite of the language barrier. The idea was attractive enough to an eminent scholar/editor to want to join the Centre. The university was, however, at that stage, not ready to expand in the direction of developing a university press back-to-back with a sizeable team of translators. There was no need for a hard conversation: our team was small, and our sympathetic would-be editor had by then left us to accept an offer he could not refuse.

Since its inception, CTN has made various attempts to contribute to the development of the discipline, including the publishing of book series, taking up consultancy/commissioned community projects, organizing the monthly Translation Seminar Series since 2001 (which has been held online/in hybrid mode since 2019), setting up a consultancy arm in 2008, introducing the Translation Research Summer School from the UK to Hong Kong in 2009, holding international conferences and symposiums, etc. What initiatives do you find most meaningful? Why?

Since we were not yet ready to follow one of the possible directions of development, we followed other possible channels. We published book series to contribute to academic dialogue. We kept up consultancy and commissioned work to maintain the trust in the quality of our, and our students' work. We started taking in doctoral and master's level research students, gradually increasing their numbers until they formed a viable group. The late Professor Martha Cheung was indefatigable in this endeavour. At the prompting of the students, and in line with our plans, we turned our occasional public lectures from visiting academics into regular monthly Translation Seminars. Apart from lectures from visiting academics from

abroad, we had lectures from local academics from sister institutions, and from local research students, presentations, test runs of their new theories and ideas. Over the years, these seminars became a hub for translation research, and it is good that the work is still going on. Since, at my retirement, the late Professor Martha Cheung succeeded me as Director, she was particularly interested in the education of doctoral students and their position and fellowship with students and academics from abroad, as well as her own fellowship with international scholars. The Research Summer School, and the conferences and symposiums in her time were the fruit of her hard work.

“

In part two of the interview, I will share my fondest memories at CTN, comment on its current status and influence, and open up on how I envisage the Centre's future development.

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CTN Research Fellow Honoured with President's Award for Outstanding Performance



The President's Award for Outstanding Performance is an accolade at HKBU presented annually to recognize academic or teaching staff members who have made important breakthroughs in or exerted a profound impact on their respective fields. Members of CTN and colleagues from the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies (TIIS) are no strangers to it. This year, the recipient of the President's Award for Outstanding Performance in Early Career Teaching is none other than our Research Fellow Dr. Catherine Ellen Hardie.

Dr. Hardie is currently Assistant Professor at TIIS and the department's Research Postgraduate (RPg) Coordinator. She teaches research methodology on ethnography to RPg students, while specializing in religion and cultural translation, as well as Tibetan culture and language at the undergraduate level. Her student evaluations are always excellent, exemplifying her brilliance in teaching. Not only does she provide personalized feedback to students and prompt response to questions, but she also endeavours to create an inclusive learning environment and encourage rich discussion in the classroom.

Dr. Hardie has been a member of CTN since September 2021. In her capacity of Research Fellow, she engages in research on various anthropological and cultural issues of Tibetan Buddhism, with a focus on contemporary Sino-Tibetan Buddhist religiosity. At CTN, we are incredibly proud to have a scholar like Dr. Hardie, who excels in both teaching and research, while spurring the development of the RPg programme. We are delighted that Dr. Hardie's achievements are being acknowledged, and would like to take this opportunity to send her our heartfelt congratulations.

Dr. Catherine Ellen Hardie

President's Award for Outstanding
Performance in Early Career Teaching

Dr. Hardie's presence was not CTN's only involvement in the Award. For the second year in a row, we were commissioned to provide Chinese and English translation for video subtitles of awardees' acceptance speeches.



THE LATEST FROM OUR NEW FELLOW

Arts Faculty Impact Project

Voices from the Field:

Multilingual and Multicultural Crisis Communication through the Lens of Translation

One of the motivations that drives me in my research is my curiosity about people – in particular, ordinary citizens who deploy language and translation as tools for self-expression, representation, and empowerment, whether it is my investigation of online collaborative translation on the Chinese internet engaged by volunteers or the ongoing project that examines the linguistically and culturally mediated communication needs of Hong Kong's ethnic minority communities.

In the growing yet still relatively small body of literature investigating crisis communication vis-à-vis translation, scarce attention has been paid to Hong Kong (HK) despite that it is located in the most disaster-prone region of the world, i.e., the Asia-Pacific. HK, as an international metropolis, is also population-diverse with residents and visitors from various linguistic, cultural, and ethnic communities. Although the city has sophisticatedly outlined contingency plans, there is more that can be done to cater to the communication needs from its diverse population, especially in crisis scenarios. Towards this end, translation plays an important role in bridging communication gaps. Through this project, I wish to empower the citizens and other stakeholder groups with the knowledge and skills in communication in preparing for a crisis.

According to existing studies on the linguistic needs of ethnic minorities in HK, there are eight most frequently requested minority languages in the sector of medical interpreting. In the past year, the scope of this project has been narrowed down to focus on the Nepali and Urdu languages as the result of the survey questionnaire undertaken among the ethnic minority communities, and the ethnographic fieldwork with both the ethnic minorities and local NGOs. Initial research reveals some key challenges that service providers and ethnic minority communities encounter regarding crisis communication in minority languages. With the former, the challenges include staff capacity, training and professional development in translation and interpreting, the use of translation technologies, outreach to ethnic minority communities and ethnic minority youth development. With the latter, the challenges include the availability of crisis information in minority languages, and the accessibility and acceptability of those translated in both digital and non-digital formats.

To tackle the abovementioned challenges, one experimental workshop titled "Translating for South Asians in Preparation for Crisis" was organised and held in September 2022, aiming to introduce to the South Asian community members living in HK the fundamentals of translation and translation skills so that they can exert their own agency and help each other in times of crisis. Currently, I am organising and analysing the initial data collected in preparation for moving the project further.



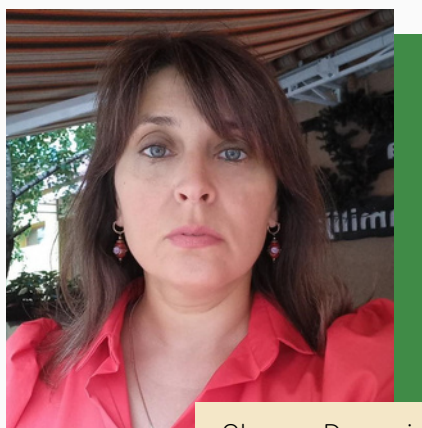
Dr. YU Chuan, Clara

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12 Jan 2023

Bible and Liturgical Domains of Translation Studies: The Ukrainian Perspective

Talk 1: Ukrainian Bible Translation: The Case of Resistance and Exile



Oksana Dzera is Doctor Habilitated and Head of the Hryhoriy Kochur Department of Translation Studies and Contrastive Linguistics of Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Ukraine. Her research interests are intertextuality and translation, history of literary translation in Ukraine, reception of Ukrainian literature in the Anglophone world, contrastive Bible phraseology and phraseography.

The spotlight of this seminar is on religious translation in Ukraine. Ukrainian culture and language suffered harsh suppression from Russia over the course of history. It is therefore conceivable the translation of religious texts into Ukrainian also faced immense difficulties. In the first part of this seminar, Prof. Oksana Dzera guides us through the adversities Ukrainian Bible translation experienced from the 16th century onwards, and describes how this process was forced to be done outside Ukraine as it fell victim to the russification policy of the Russian Empire and Soviet Union. After all, Russia's attitude towards the Ukrainian language can be summarized by the following quote in the anti-Ukrainian *Valuyev Circular* issued in 1863: "the Ukrainian language never existed, does not exist, and shall never exist".

Talk 2: Liturgical Translation as a Domain of Translation Studies

Other than biblical translation, religious translation also includes liturgical translation and theological translation. The second half of the seminar, presented by Dr. Taras Shmiher, focuses on liturgical translation, a domain that receives much less attention than biblical translation. He delves into the different parameters in liturgical translation, namely the dogmatics, poetics, and musical aspects, before concluding with an account of the fundamental principles and ideas essential for a comparative study of liturgical traditions.

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



Taras Shmiher is Doctor Habilitatus and Professor at the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Ukraine. His research interests include translation studies, medieval literature, and liturgical translation, reception and perception. He is laureate of the Hryhoriy Kochur Literary Prize, and a full member of Shevchenko Scholarly Society.

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30 Mar 2023

Information Economics and the Procurement of Translation Services



Callum Walker is a Lecturer in Translation Technology and Director of the Centre for Translation Studies at the University of Leeds. He is also a freelance translator and owner of a translation business. His research interests include translation industry studies with a focus on project management, pricing and microeconomics; and (quasi-)experimental research on translation reception using eye-tracking.

Research on translation services and the translation industry has seldom been in the spotlight in our Translation Seminar Series, yet it is arguably a topic that concerns the real world most. Contrary to common belief, the ways in which translation services are procured or provided are far from straightforward. The factors influencing such decision-making and the ensuing behaviours of different stakeholders are addressed in this talk by Dr. Callum Walker by drawing on concepts of information economics. In particular, he builds on the framework of the principal-agent problem in agency theory and a subsequent development thereof (i.e. the principal-professional problem) to examine how information asymmetry, among others, results in problems such as adverse selection and performance ambiguity in the context of translation service procurement. With a case study, he also discusses issues in relation to platform economy in the translation industry, before closing with an appeal for enhanced industry-academia collaboration.

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

Background readings

- [Chapter 11 of Walker, C. 2022. *Translation Project Management*. Abingdon: Routledge.](#)
- [Abdallah, K. 2010. Translators' Agency in Production Networks. In: Kinnunen, T. and Koskinen, K. eds. *Translators' Agency*. Tampere: Tampere University Press, pp.11-46.](#)
- [Pym, A., Orrego-Carmona, D., and Torres-Simón, E. 2016. Status and Technology in the Professionalisation of Translators. *The Journal of Specialised Translation* 25, pp.33-53.](#)



3

20 Apr 2023

Post-editing Machine Translation Output within a Speech-enabled CAT Tool: Findings from an Eye-tracking Study



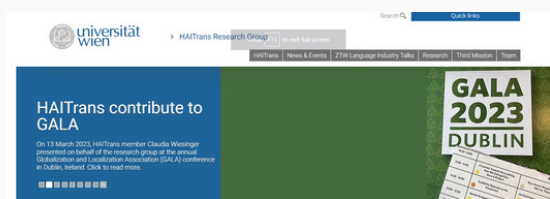
Dr. Dragoș Ciobanu is Professor of Computational Terminology and Machine Translation in the University of Vienna Centre for Translation Studies, and leader of its HAITrans research group (Human and Artificial Intelligence in Translation). He strives to improve localization workflows by integrating translation and speech technologies, and devise methods to optimize collaborative translation and training practices.

Contrary to what is commonly hailed as being accurate and reliable, neural machine translation (MT) output may in fact conceal inaccuracies and inconsistencies. Translators may fall into this “fluency trap” when they post-edit translated texts, equating fluency with accuracy. Dr. Ciobanu and his research team think speech technologies, currently underused by professional translators, could help neutralize this trap. Since 2018, they have been conducting experiments to investigate the impacts of speech technologies. In the latest project, the team was recently granted the use of a computer-assisted translation (CAT) tool enhanced with automatic speech synthesis functionalities, which ‘speaks’ the source and target texts as participants carry out post-editing tasks. Together with an eye-tracker, it enables a comparison with the impacts of post-editing in silence in terms of quality of MT output (error correction rate), translators’ productivity, and cognitive load. Preliminary findings from less than one-third of the analyzed data appear to be inconclusive. Speech-enabled MT post-editing yields generally higher-quality output, but not in all aspects; productivity mostly dropped, despite some participants perceiving the opposite; and cognitive load increased, but was statistically insignificant.

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

Background reading

- HAITrans Research Group website: <https://haitrans.univie.ac.at/>



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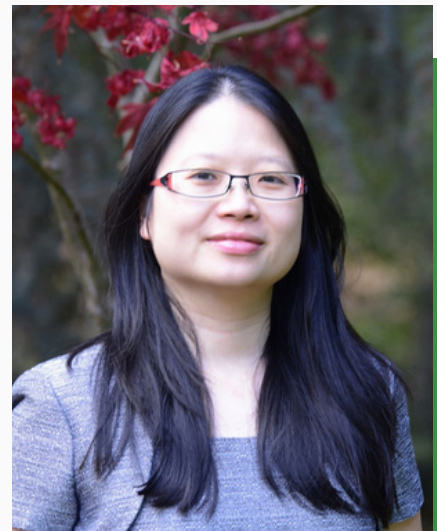
11 May 2023

Conceptualizing Culture, Power, and Ethics in Interpreter-mediated Medical Encounters

In this talk, Prof. Elaine Hsieh presents her bilingual health communication model comprising four individual level constructs, and argues that quality and equality of care should be the “cohesive goal” of all participants. On the basis of this model, she further examines collaborations and ethical boundaries of interpreter-mediated medical encounters. She goes on to explore the implications on the choice of interpreters, contextual factors that shape the interpreters’ role and the resulting interpretation, as well as the interpreters’ communicative skills, with a focus on their emotional labour.

Healthcare interpreting is among the most common types of community interpreting. Such encounters typically involve a medical provider, a patient and an interpreter. Given the unique features of a bilingual medical setting, where therapeutic objectives collide with cultural differences, emotions overflow and ethical dilemmas arise, it is crucial for interpreting to be appropriate, ethical, and effective. Against this backdrop, interpreters are no longer instruments but active agents, as they must constantly make choices to accomplish communication goals. It is therefore possible for interpreters to control the content of information exchanged, thereby exerting influence on the process and outcome of healthcare.

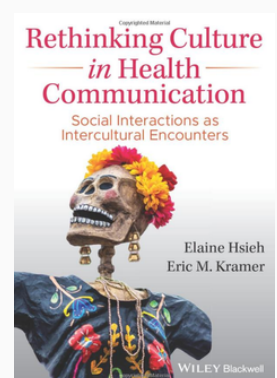
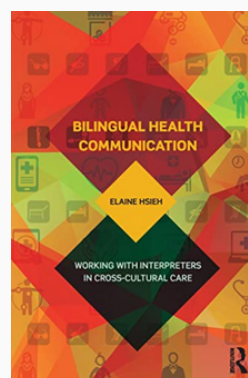
To watch this seminar, please visit [here](#).



Elaine Hsieh is Professor and Chair in the Department of Communication, University of Minnesota and a Visiting Professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Trained initially as a conference interpreter, Prof. Hsieh discovered the inadequacies in the training for healthcare interpreters from her personal experience, which prompted her to shift her research focus to healthcare interpreting studies, and later, the intersections of culture, language, health, and medicine in interpersonal and cross-cultural contexts in a broader sense.

Background readings

- [Hsieh, E. 2016. *Bilingual Health Communication: Working with Interpreters in Cross-Cultural Care*. Abingdon: Routledge.](#)
- [Hsieh, E., Kramer, E. M. 2021. *Rethinking Culture in Health Communication: Social Interactions as Intercultural Encounters*. Hoboken: Wiley.](#)



605 RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY FELLOWS

Min-hua Liu

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Jun Pan

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Mark Shuttleworth

- Chan, Venus and Mark Shuttleworth. 2023. "Teaching Translation Technology." In *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Technology*, 2nd edition, edited by Chan Sin-wai, 259-79. Abingdon and New York: Routledge.
- Mark Shuttleworth. 2023. "Translation Management Systems." In *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Technology*, 2nd edition, edited by Chan Sin-wai, 782-96. Abingdon and New York: Routledge.

Zaixi Tan

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Xu Zhang

- 胡衛偉、張旭, 2023, <Science 概念漢譯和接受史考辨>, 《自然辯證法研究》39 (2): 110-116。

Symposium

International Symposium on Using Technology in Interpreting and Language Education

Co-organizers: Centre for Translation, Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies, and Language Centre of Hong Kong Baptist University

Supporting organizer: Centre for Holistic Teaching and Learning, Hong Kong Baptist University

Date: 28-29 November 2023 (Tue and Wed)

Venue: Hong Kong Baptist University

Format: public lectures, roundtable and workshops

Translation Seminars

1. Artificial Intelligence and Financial Translation

Sai Cheong Siu (The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong)

28 September 2023

2. Annotations Still Matter: The National Bible Society of Scotland's Annotated Proverbs in the Mandarin Union Version (1933)

George K. W. Mak (Hong Kong Baptist University)

26 October 2023

3. Artificial Communication: AI and Interpreting

Robin Setton (Interpreting Studies Scholar, France)

7 December 2023



Visit our website for details on the latest Translation Seminars!

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



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