



# NEWSLETTER

## 1101 FEATURES

### ANNOUNCING TRANSLATION RESEARCH SUMMER SCHOOL 2026 AT HKBU:

Building Capacity for the Next Generation of Translation Scholars

The Centre for Translation at Hong Kong Baptist University is proud to host the Translation Research Summer School (TRSS) on our campus from 6–11 July 2026. This landmark event reflects the Centre's sustained commitment to advancing the discipline and nurturing the next generation of researchers through high-quality, research-led training. Alongside our biennial International Research School for Media Translation and Digital Culture (MTDC), TRSS strengthens our training pipeline for doctoral candidates, early career researchers, and colleagues newly engaging with translation and interpreting studies.

Directed by Professor Mona Baker and Dr. Kyung Hye Kim, TRSS delivers intensive, cutting-edge research training tailored to the evolving needs of the field. The 2026 edition at HKBU features the theme "Translation and Technology: Contemporary and Historical Perspectives", inviting participants to explore the technological turn in translation—from historical trajectories to contemporary developments shaping methods, ethics, and practice. The School is a one-week, face-to-face programme taught in English, offering an immersive environment for feedback-rich learning, methodological grounding and international networking.

TRSS is offered at HKBU every two years, rotating with MTDC. By bringing TRSS to our campus under the leadership of Professor Baker and Dr. Kim, the Centre deepens its role as a regional and international hub for scholarly exchange, equipping emerging researchers with the conceptual tools, methodological rigour and professional networks needed to shape the future of translation and interpreting studies. We invite prospective participants to explore the programme and apply to join an inspiring international cohort in Hong Kong next July.

TRSS 2026 HKBU 6-11 July 2026

## TRSS 2026

Featured Theme: Translation and Technology: Contemporary and Historical Perspectives

Dates: 6–11 July 2026

Venue: Hong Kong Baptist University

Format: Face-to-face

Medium of instruction: English

General information on remit, syllabus, pathways and organization is available on the [TRSS website](https://ctn.hkbu.edu.hk/research-schools/translation-research-summer-school/), with full details of TRSS 2026:



<https://ctn.hkbu.edu.hk/research-schools/translation-research-summer-school/>

### TRSS 2026 teaching staff



Prof. Mona Baker



Dr. Kyung Hye Kim



Prof. Sue-Ann Harding



Dr. Maialen Marin-Lacarta



Prof. Robert Neather

### Key dates

- 22 October 2025: Application period opens
- 10 March 2026: Early registration period opens
- 1 June 2026: Late registration period opens



**CENTRE FOR TRANSLATION**  
HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY  
Research Summer Schools

Apply to join TRSS 2026  
Applications are now open!



As part of the process, all applicants should submit a personal statement at the [online platform](#) and outline their interest in the School's topics. The personal statements will be reviewed by the Academic Directors. Applicants with accepted statements will be eligible to apply.



**Submission of  
personal statement**

Full application details are available via the [TRSS page](#) on the [Centre for Translation website](#).



## Join, Watch and Connect: CTN's Open and Free Resources

At the Centre for Translation (CTN) at Hong Kong Baptist University, we have long believed that research and dialogue in translation should be accessible to everyone. Over the years, CTN has built a range of open resources for students, colleagues, practitioners, and the wider public. This is a quick guide to what you can already access and how to stay connected in the months ahead.

**Join us live at our free online/hybrid events**, including the regular Translation Seminar Series. Held throughout the year, these seminars feature researchers and practitioners from Hong Kong and around the world and are open to all: no prior background required, just a simple registration. Each session includes time for Q&A so that participants can exchange ideas directly with speakers and with one another. If you cannot attend in real time, keep an eye on our recording archive for post-event access.

**Access our library of event recordings.** Whether you are searching for the details of a seminar in our signature Seminar Series, missed a talk, or want to revisit a session, our [YouTube Channel](#) brings together recent events in one convenient hub. Recordings are often accompanied by presentation slides or reading lists on their respective webpages, making it easy to follow up on topics and references. For information and recordings of seminars before 2021, you can explore our [online archive](#).

From translation technologies and literary translation to ethics, multilingual education, and cultural mediation, the archive is a practical starting point for learning, teaching, or professional development, and is designed to support discovery and sharing.



**To make sure you never miss an announcement**, subscribe to our mailing list [here](#).

Subscribers receive advance notice of upcoming events, registration links, our Newsletter and news about new recordings and resources. Signing up takes just a moment!



### CTN's New Website: Better Navigation, Better Access

As we enter our 31<sup>st</sup> year, we are delighted to announce that the CTN's revamped website will go live soon! With a visually driven, graphics-rich design, the new site will make navigation clearer and puts recordings within quicker reach. We look forward to welcoming you to the new site and invite your feedback as we continue to improve.

Visit <https://ctn.hkbu.edu.hk> to explore more and [subscribe to our mailing list](#). Please help us spread the word by sharing these resources with your colleagues, students, and communities beyond academia. Our commitment remains simple: we will keep making knowledge open, practical, and available to all.

## 1

25 Sept 2025

## Creating New Languages of Resistance: Translation, Public Philosophy and Border Violence

In “Creating New Languages of Resistance: Translation, Public Philosophy and Border Violence,” Dr. Omid Tofighian presented translation as collaborative public philosophy and a means of resisting border violence across Australia’s carceral border archipelago (Manus, Nauru, Christmas Island, Port Moresby, mainland). He built on projects such as *No Friend but the Mountains*, *Freedom Only Freedom* and the film *Chauka, Please Tell Us the Time* and advanced a “shared philosophical activity” where philosophers co-create knowledge with incarcerated people, translators, artists, and activists. He introduced “new languages of resistance” that challenged official narratives and the refugee industry, translated the Persian “ruling system” as “kyriarchy,” and proposed “horrific surrealism”—combining horror realism with anti-colonial surrealism—



to interpret lived experience and creative production. He detailed experimental practices: intersemiotic collaboration with an architect-artist’s Nauru archive and renders; transforming Persian prose into English verse; and employing strategic repetition and tense shifts to trace the journey from raw messages to literature. He offered a “two islands” thought experiment that flipped assumptions, recasting the settler-colonial nation as an epistemic prison while detention islands became sites of insight, which underscored the border–nation interdependence across policy, aesthetics, and social imaginaries. To exemplify the stakes of this work, Dr. Tofighian provided case studies such as Mira (pseudonym), Mohammad Adam, and Benham Satah’s ICC submission, showing how translation, collaboration, and activist networks sustained collective resistance and carried ethical and political consequences.

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

Omid Tofighian is an award-winning lecturer, researcher, translator and community advocate, combining philosophy with interests in citizen media, popular culture, displacement, and discrimination. His publications include *Myth and Philosophy in Platonic Dialogues* (2016); translation of Behrouz Boochani’s *No Friend but the Mountains: Writing from Manus Prison* (2018); and *Creating New Languages of Resistance: Translation, Public Philosophy and Border Violence* (2025).

### Background readings

Tofighian, O. (2023). Translation in digital times: Omid Tofighian on translating the Manus Prison Narratives. *Humanities*, 12(1), 8.

Tofighian, O. (2022). On representing extreme experiences in writing and translation: Omid Tofighian on translating the Manus Prison Narratives. *Humanities*, 11(6), 141.

Tofighian, O. 2018. Translator’s tale: A window to the mountains. *Sydney Review of Books*. <https://sydneyreviewofbooks.com/essays/translators-tale-a-window-to-the-mountains> posted 5th November 2018. (Reprinted from *No Friend but the Mountains: Writing from Manus Prison*, by Behrouz Boochani, trans. Omid Tofighian, 2018, pp. xii-xxxiv).





# 2

23 Oct 2025

## Beyond Translation: Using Subtitled Videos to Understand Multimodal Language Processing



Sixin Liao is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies at Hong Kong Baptist University. Her primary research employs eye tracking to investigate how viewers process language in multimodal contexts, such as reading subtitles while watching videos. A second strand of her research explores how subtitles can support the development of reading skills in slow readers and second language users. She is the recipient of the 2025 ESIST Prize for the Most Outstanding PhD Thesis and the First Laureate of the 2022 CIUTI PhD Award.

In the seminar “Beyond Translation: Using Subtitled Videos to Understand Multimodal Language Processing”, subtitles were used as a lens to understand how people process language in multimodal contexts. Professor Sixin Liao examined the cognitive demands of reading text while watching moving images and listening to speech, emphasizing how image, audio, and written language compete for limited attention and memory resources. Data from eye-tracking experiments were presented: fixation durations on subtitle regions versus the picture, saccade patterns during line changes, and regressions when comprehension faltered. Findings showed that viewers coordinated eye-movement control with auditory timing, shifting gaze to the text at speech onsets and returning to the image when meaning was secured. As task demands rose—faster display rates, denser visuals, unfamiliar vocabulary—reading strategies adapted: chunking by line breaks, skimming high-frequency words, and anchoring on keywords while relying on audio for redundancy.

Adults typically allocated attention more efficiently and sustained comprehension under speed pressure, whereas children exhibited greater variability, longer dwell times on text, and sharper drops in comprehension with complex scenes. The seminar closed with practical implications for subtitle design (rate, segmentation, contrast, placement) and for education, where controlled subtitle use can scaffold literacy while avoiding cognitive overload. Clips, trials, and comprehension tasks grounded these points across diverse ages and languages.

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

### Background readings

Liao, S., Yu, L., Kruger, J.-L., & Reichle, E. D. (2024). Dynamic reading in a digital age: New insights on cognition. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 28(1), 43–55.

Liao, S., & Kruger, J.-L. (2023). Cognitive processing of subtitles: Charting the future by mapping the past. In A. Ferreira & J. W. Schwieter (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Translation, Interpreting, and Bilingualism* (pp. 161–176). Routledge.

Liao, S., Yu, L., Reichle, E. D., & Kruger, J.-L. (2021). Using eye movements to study the reading of subtitles in video. *Scientific Studies of Reading*, 25(5), 417–435.

Lopukhina, A., van Heuven, W. J. B., Crowley, R., & Rastle, K. (2025). Where do children look when watching videos with same-language subtitles? *Psychological Science*, 36(4), 223–236.



# 3

27 Nov 2025

## Skills for AI Translation: Student Expectations, Professional Realities, and Public Perceptions



Professor Stephen Doherty is Professor of Linguistics, Interpreting and Translation in the Faculty of Arts, Design & Architecture at the University of New South Wales, where he is also Deputy Dean (Education) and leads the Language Processing Research Lab. With a focus on the psychology of language and technology, his research investigates human language processing and usage in diverse contexts.

Professor Stephen Doherty and Dr. Jia Zhang examined how AI translation reshapes training and work in the seminar “Skills for AI Translation: Student Expectations, Professional Realities, and Public Perceptions”. Professor Doherty positioned large language models on a continuum from rule-based and statistical MT through neural MT, stressing that today’s “AI translation” repackages earlier methods and data behind more user-friendly interfaces. He underscored persistent issues—black-box opacity, biased training corpora, data-privacy risks, and unclear liability. He contrasted public expectations (universal translator myth, low-risk use) with professional realities of quality, risk and disclosure, and showed industry growth alongside shifts toward augmentation and project management. He argued curricula should center enduring human skills—analytical and critical thinking, creativity, communication, ethics, technology literacy—and transparent use of AI.

Dr. Zhang reported two case studies. With 51 novice undergraduate students, they knew AI buzzwords but lacked technical understanding, used tools for reference and idioms, perceived tasks as easier, and overestimated their post-editing. Expert and automatic evaluations showed AI-assisted outputs matched raw AI; students corrected only about half of necessary errors and introduced new ones, underscoring the need for guided AI literacy rather than bans. In a study of postgraduate students’ prompting with GenAI tools, most prompts were single-turn, minimally contextualized requests—suggesting random, largely uncritical use. Dr. Zhang cautioned that access to paid models and uneven AI literacy are widening a digital divide, with consequences for fairness in assessment, transparency and disclosure, and broader ethical practice.

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

Dr Jia Zhang is a Senior Research Officer in the Faculty of Arts, Design & Architecture at the University of New South Wales. Jia’s research interests include translation technology, translator training, and audiovisual translation, with his current research centred on integrating machine translation into translator training.



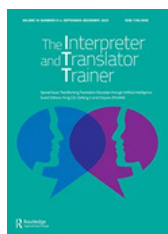
### Background readings

Doherty, S. (2016). The impact of translation technologies on the process and product of translation. *International Journal of Communication*, 10, 947–969.

Zhang, J., & Doherty, S. (2025). Investigating novice translation students’ AI literacy in translation education. *The Interpreter and Translator Trainer*, 19(3-4), 1–20.

Zhang, J., Zhao, X., & Doherty, S. (2025). Prompt engineering in translation: How do student translators leverage GenAI tools for translation tasks. In *Proceedings of Machine Translation Summit XX: Volume 1*, (pp. 420–431). European Association for Machine Translation.

Gaspari, F., Almaghout, H., & Doherty, S. (2015). A survey of machine translation competences: Insights for translation technology educators and practitioners. *Perspectives*, 23(3), 333–358.

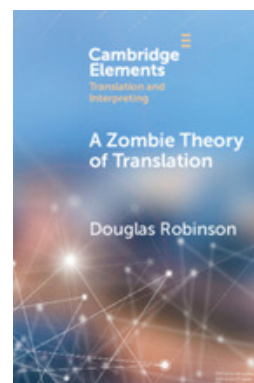


Robert Neather

- Neather, R.J. 2025. "Other Cultural Practices: Museums, Tourism, Religion, and Philosophy as Sites of Translation." In *A Cultural History of Translation in the Modern and Contemporary World*, vol 6, edited by Y. Gambier and J. Wakabayashi, 125-144. London: Bloomsbury Publishing.

Douglas Robinson

- Robinson, Douglas. 2025. *A Zombie Theory of Translation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (DOI: [10.1017/9781009678223](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009678223))



Zaixi Tan

- Tan, Zaixi. 2025. "Censorship and Translation in China." In *Routledge Handbook of Translation and Censorship*, edited by Denise Merkle and Brian Baer, 179-191. London: Routledge. (DOI: [10.4324/9781003149453](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003149453))

Chuan Yu

- Yu, Chuan and T. Bartindale. 2025. "Intercultural Communication in Collaborative Translation: Language, Identity, and Social Inclusion in Hong Kong." *Language and Intercultural Communication* 25 (3): 396-411. (DOI: [10.1080/14708477.2025.2524693](https://doi.org/10.1080/14708477.2025.2524693)) (full text)

- Yu, Chuan. 2025. "Online Collaborative Translation in the Platform Society." In The Routledge Handbook of Translation Technology and Society, edited by Stefan Baumgarten and Michael Tieber, 142-152. London: Routledge. (DOI: [10.4324/9781003271314](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003271314))
- Yu, Chuan. 2024. "Review of Translaboration in Analogue and Digital Practice," edited by C. Zwischenberger and A. Alfer." In *TTR: Traduction, terminologie, rédaction* 37(1): 286-291. (DOI: [10.7202/1114781ar](https://doi.org/10.7202/1114781ar))

## Xu Zhang

- 張旭、張鼎程，2025，《余光中先生年譜》，北京：九州出版社。
- 張旭、孫豔，2025，<中國文化外譯溯跡瞻途：譯介圖景、傳播機制與域外接受>，《外語教學與研究》，57(5)。 (DOI: [10.19923/j.cnki.fltr.2025.05.008](https://doi.org/10.19923/j.cnki.fltr.2025.05.008))
- 張旭、張鼎程，2025，<翻譯詩學視閥下辜鴻銘英譯<紅樓夢>片段賞析>，《外語電化教學》，2025(3)。
- 張旭、張鼎程，2025，<六經注我與反向格義：細讀辜鴻銘英譯《大學》>，《上海翻譯》，183(4)： 14-20。(Full text)
- 張旭、張鼎程，2025，<“文化進口”與“文化出口”：辜鴻銘的知識生產傳播活動考察>，《廣東外語外貿大學學報》，36(3)： 55-66。



## Chunshen Zhu

- Zhu, Chunshen. 2025. "Postverbal Modification, Information Focalization, and Meaning Creation: With a Specific Case Study of Chinese 在 Zài-Phrases in Translation." In The Creation of Meaning: A Festschrift in Honour of Randy J. LaPolla, edited by Chenglong Huang and Xu Yang, 65-90. Tokyo: Geolinguistic Society of Japan. (DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.17274638](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17274638))



# 1105 UPCOMING EVENTS

## Translation Seminars

Prof. Reine Meylaerts (KU Leuven), Prof. Hanna Risku (University of Vienna) and Prof. Ye Jia (The Chinese University of Hong Kong) will present seminars between February and April 2026.



Visit our website for details on the latest Translation Seminars!

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

## Symposium

**Title:** “Theorising Hong Kong, Theorising the Anthropocene”: An International Symposium

**Dates:** 26-28 March 2026

**Venue:** Hong Kong Baptist University

**Mode:** In person (with some online sessions)

**Core Organisers:** Anthropocene Studies FNRA subgroup (HKBU), Centre for Translation (HKBU), and Department of Humanities and Creative Writing (HKBU)

More information will be announced soon.

## Open for Application: Translation Research Summer School 2026

**Featured Theme:** Translation and Technology: Contemporary and Historical Perspectives

**Dates:** 6-11 July 2026

**Venue:** Hong Kong Baptist University

**Format:** Face-to-face

**Teaching Staff:** Mona Baker, Kyung Hye Kim, Sue-Ann Harding, Maialen Marin-Lacarta, Robert Neather

Submission of personal statements (part of the application process prior to registration) for the School is now open on this [online platform](#).



For more details, please visit our website:

<https://ctn.hkbu.edu.hk/research-schools/translation-research-summer-school/>

### 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

**Executive Officer** Esther KWOK

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