

2023 Hong Kong Youth Translation Competition

The 48th Hong Kong Youth Translation Competition, co-organised by the Hong Kong Translation Society with the Hong Kong Youth Cultural and Arts Competitions and under the auspices of the Society of Chinese Accountants and Auditors since 2019, was held successfully on 27 May 2023 at Lions College. This highly anticipated Translation Competition serves the purpose of cultivating public interest in the field of translation, deepening their appreciation of its paramount significance, and seeking to enhance the translation skills of the general public and to encourage young aspiring individuals to pursue a rewarding career in this domain.

Comprising three distinct categories, Junior, Senior and Open, the Competition consistently garners participation from hundreds of contestants from local schools, universities and industry participants every year. Contestants are required to translate a given passage from English to Chinese and another from Chinese to English within a strict two-hour timeframe using only print dictionaries. The meticulous evaluation process, expertly conducted by a panel of invited judges, was concluded in July, and the deserving winners across all categories were announced in August.

This year, Executive Committee member Dr Lingjie Ji served as Chief Judge. The Society would like to extend its deepest gratitude to the six judges: Mr. Kenneth Au (City University), Dr Li Wenjing (Polytechnic University), Mr Daniel Chan (Baptist University), Dr Li Li (Chinese University), Dr Jesse Yip (Education University), and Mr Alfred Tsang (University of Science and Technology).



Iraqi Translators Association (ITA) Highlights



On 22 July 2023, ITA organised a big ceremony to honour the top ten graduates of foreign languages and translation departments for the academic year 2022-2023 of Iraqi state and private universities across the country.

Addressing the newly graduated students, whose number exceeded 700, Dr Qassim Al-Asadi said that the path to becoming a professional translator is a long path which needs hard work and a wide acquisition of knowledge, adding that a real professional translator is the one who works to become an encyclopaedic person.



ITA participated in Baghdad International Book Fair, which was held on 18-29 September 2023.



On 14 October 2023, ITA organised an event to honour the winners of the Second Hussein Poems Translation Competition for the year 2023. Members of the association's administrative body and members of the association attended the event.



Signature Seminars by Centre for Translation of Hong Kong Baptist University

The Centre for Translation of Hong Kong Baptist University is thrilled to present our signature Translation Seminar Series that promises to be an enlightening experience for all attendees.

In the first semester of 2023-24, the Centre has curated an exceptional lineup of experts who will share their profound insights and transformative ideas across a wide range of topics. Through the organisation of the Translation Seminar Series, the Centre hopes to foster meaningful connections within a diverse community of researchers, professionals and enthusiasts.

The recordings of most of the seminars held previously by the Centre, including the seminar “Artificial Intelligence and Financial Translation” by Dr Siu Sai Cheong of the Hang Seng University of Hong Kong held on 28 September 2023, are also available for free via its YouTube Channel and on the “Translation Seminar Series” page of the Centre’s website.

Upcoming Event Details:

Title: My Appointment with Onegin: Charles Johnston, Douglas Hofstadter and Stanley Mitchell

Speaker: Dr Anna Ponomareva (UCL/Imperial College London)

Date/Time: 6 Nov 2023 (Mon), 7-9 PM (UTC+8)

Mode: Face-to-face and online via Zoom

Registration Link: <https://hkbu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtCOquqzsqGNXjMLRC3XpMzfBE2isgRmzD>

Title: Artificial Communication: AI and Interpreting

Speaker: Professor Robin Setton (Interpreting Studies Scholar, France)

Date/Time: 7 Dec 2023 (Thur), 7-9 PM (UTC+8)

Mode: Online via Zoom

Registration Link: <https://hkbu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYvd-mgpzlvH9LUh1Pa64w-KnV4cbhhniMN>

Translation Seminar Series

My Appointment with *Onegin*: Charles Johnston, Douglas Hofstadter and Stanley Mitchell

6 NOV 2023 (Mon) | 19:00 - 21:00 (HKT) UTC +8

Abstract

The issue of translation methods has been discussed in one way or another since the birth of translation itself. However, shortly before the turn of the 21st century it was promoted as the focus of contemporary translation studies by Lawrence Venuti, with the publication of his book *The Translator's Invisibility: A History of Translation* in 1995. In this book Venuti gives names to two translation methods, domesticating and foreignizing, and advocates visibility, or self-positioning, for the translator in his or her work. Venuti's ideas have triggered various polemical reactions in translation studies, the reverberations from which are still heard today. This lecture focuses on evaluating the presence of the translator in his or her work by looking at various book covers and the paratext of three translations of Pushkin's *Eugene Onegin* (1830s) into English. They are by Charles Johnston (1977), Douglas Hofstadter (1999) and Stanley Mitchell (2008). It will be shown that these translators had appointed themselves to offer their *Onegin*(s) to English-speaking audiences as, with various degrees of self-confidence, they were sure that they were famous enough to advertise their translations and to attract their prospective readers, sometimes even more than Pushkin himself.

Onsite at OEM 1018,
Hong Kong Baptist
University

Online
via Zoom



Dr. Anna Ponomareva
UCL / Imperial College London

About the speaker

Dr. Anna Ponomareva (PhD in Translation Studies, UCL; MPhil in Russian Studies, University of Manchester; MA/BA in Philosophy, Moscow State University) teaches Russian, Practical Translation from English into Russian (Medical and Scientific), Translation in History and Comparative Literature at various schools at UCL. She is also an Acting Co-ordinator for Russian at Imperial College London where Russian is taught at the Centre for Languages, Culture and Communication. Anna's areas of research are Translation Studies, Russian Language, Pedagogy, Russian Symbolism, Comparative Literature and History of Ideas. She is the author of several publications in Russian and English.



EVENT
DETAILS

<https://ctn.hkbu.edu.hk/>

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Singapore Translation Symposium 2023: *Translation is Creative*

The Singapore Translation Symposium, organised by the Singapore Book Council, took place across two days from 30 September to 1 October this year, examining the theme “Translation is Creative” to emphasise the often overlooked or erased creativity and imagination inherent in the act of literary translation.

Comprising eight sessions in the form of talks, panel discussions, and one workshop, the Symposium discussed various topics, such as the challenges faced by literary translators during their translation process, particularly when working with texts from marginalised communities, and insights into embarking on a career as a literary translator.

Thomas Hitoshi Pruiksma, the Singapore Book Council’s translator-in-residence opened the Symposium on 30 September with his keynote lecture, *Conversations Across Worlds: Translation and the Lyric Imagination*, sharing more about his relationship with and approaches to literary translation. Subsequent sessions discussed the place of literary translation in literary journals and magazines, with editors of various literary journals dissecting their curation process of translation pieces to be published; as well as a discussion by Gopika Jadeja, who translates from the marginalised communities in western India, on the sensitivities that arise when translating works from marginalised communities and how we should approach such translations, particularly when the translator is from the majority community. The final session of day one by Dr Susan Xu Yun from the Singapore University of Social Sciences examined the potential and complexities introduced by Artificial intelligence into the field of literary translation.

The second day commenced with a discussion between established literary translator, Jeremy Tiang (streaming remotely), and Dr Chan Cheow Thia from the National University of Singapore, on ensuring the visibility of literary translators and how one can start thinking about a career in the field. Following that was a discussion on the translation of Singaporean literature written in English into Chinese, where translators shared the challenges that they faced in the process, and also the realities of having a co-translator on the same project. The Symposium was concluded with a talk by up-and-coming translator, Shanna Tan, who translates from Korean, Chinese and Japanese. She shared with the audience her journey to getting her first translation published, and also gave her insight on starting out as a literary translator. The Symposium also offered an online poetry workshop with UK poet, Shash Trevett on 7 October, where participants were able to bring a translation that they were working on to be workshopped during the session.

Through the various sessions, the Singapore Translation Symposium celebrated literary translation as an imaginative and creative artform. The sessions collectively challenged preconceived notions of literary translation as a technical process of rendering words from one language to another, emphasising the literary translator’s innovation and imagination in rendering a text across languages, cultures and emotions.



Study Trip to Supreme Court for Students of SUSS Translation and Interpretation Programmes



On 20 September 2023, my classmates and I joined a study trip to the Supreme Court Singapore. The visit was organised by our Head of Programme, Associate Professor Susan Xu for students of the BA Translation and Interpretation Programme (BATI) and Graduate Diploma in Translation and Technology (BATT), Singapore University of Social Sciences. I am currently a 3rd Year student in the BATI program.

We went through a security screening before being allowed into the building. We were allowed to bring our bags and mobile phones with us but photography and videography inside the Supreme Court was prohibited.

After a short briefing, we proceeded to a Criminal Court to observe an open trial. The accused only spoke Malay and hence a Malay-English Interpreter was present for simultaneous interpretation. Unfortunately, during the time of our observation, the accused was not cross-examined, and hence we did not get the chance to witness real-life court interpretation. We later observed a trial in a Civil Court. It was certainly an eye-opener for us to witness both criminal and civil court proceedings.

The highlight of the visit was interaction between us and court interpreters. The sharing by court interpreters about their day-to-day tasks and challenges at work gave us greater insights into court interpreters' role in the administration of justice.

The next segment of our visit was a mock court session. I was selected to play the role of interpreter while my classmates acted as a prosecutor and a defendant. My task was to interpret the prosecutor's English speech into Chinese for the defendant and vice versa. This was an opportunity to put my note-taking skills that I had learnt in class to the test. In consecutive interpreting classes, we usually interpret a maximum of four sentences per segment, however, in the mock court, the "defendant" did not stop at the end of four sentences for me to interpret—what an interesting encounter for me!

At the end of the mock court session, the team of court interpreters gave us some feedback, which allowed us to have a clearer understanding of the demands of judiciary interpreting. And what came as a pleasant surprise at the end of our visit was the news that one of my classmates will join Supreme Court as a court interpreter in November upon graduation!

This field trip is certainly a valuable and unique learning opportunity for all of us and we look forward to our next study trip to the Parliament of Singapore!

By Cassia Leong

(Year 3 Student, BA Translation and Interpretation,
Singapore University of Social Sciences)

ITD in Posters

On the occasion of the International Translation Day (ITD) which falls on 30 September each year, the Translators Association of China (TAC) proudly presented a video to celebrate this big day with translators and interpreters around the world.

With the title of *ITD Poster Exhibition*, the video provided a flashback of all winning theme posters of previous years, aiming to honour and raise the public awareness of the great contribution of the profession to mutual understanding and communication among all civilizations. Please follow this link to watch the video: https://x.com/tac_china/status/1707939727901630715?s=46



Connecting Literature and Translation

Jointly presented by the Translators Association of China and People's Literary Publishing House, a livestreaming series was recently launched under the theme of *Translating China, Embracing the World*, bringing together writers, translators and those involved to talk about how literature and translation interact with and empower each other.

Following the first episode of the much-anticipated programme aired on 26 September, the second one went live on 12 October, featuring an in-depth dialogue between Ms. Chen Luyu, one of China's most well-known TV hosts and Mr. Marc Levy, a French author, many of whose works have been translated into Chinese language and were well received by Chinese readers.



Dialogue between Ms. Chen Luyu and Mr. Marc Levy

Attracting more than 150,000 viewers both at home and abroad, the 2-hour programme focused on some of the best-selling works of the author and their translated texts. Both believed that, through translation, good stories could transcend time and space, and ring a bell with people of different languages, cultural backgrounds or civilizations.

The third episode of the series is scheduled in the mid-November, unveiling the appeal of Chinese poetry.

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