

【臺大中文系學術專題演講】

講題：翻譯的多重宇宙：外國學者談從方言、文言、白話、文言英譯到英翻漢語的學思歷程

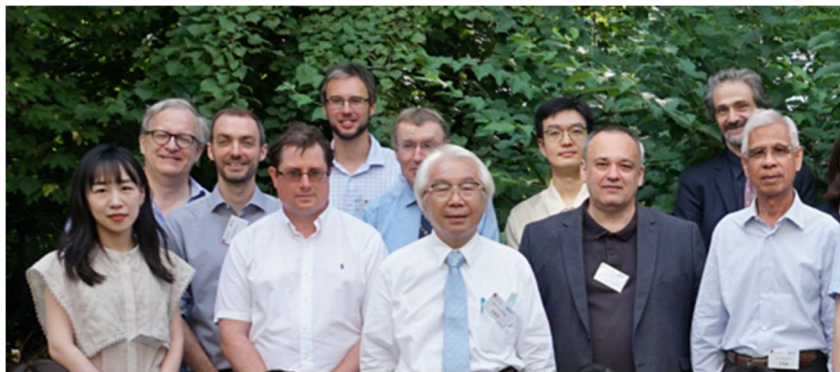
Translating issues: translating local languages into Classical Chinese, classical Chinese (not) into modern Chinese, classical Chinese into English, and English into Chinese

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主持人：徐富昌先生

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📖 演講內容：

Chinese colleagues have the seeming advantage of quoting classical Chinese sources in the original language. Or do they? As a foreigner I am certainly not the first one to observe that being forced to understand very explicitly every bit of the passage that we quote in order to be able to translate it does help us attain a rather detailed understanding of a text. In this presentation I want to look at the many levels of translation that are involved when studying Chinese social and cultural history. After all, translation already began when the original author of our source wrote down his (or more rarely her) account of a past event, belief, practice or story. We can safely assume that all of these originally took place in a spoken and very local language variant (方言，鄉音), and that all remaining sources therefore represent translation. , since literary Chinese or 文言文 is not even remotely a spoken language. In this talk I wish to raise numerous issues around the many levels of translation and with that interpretation that were involved when moving from the very local level to academic communication. I will use the difficult term wu 巫 as my primary example. I shall conclude with a reflexion on the difficulties of translating some Western vocabulary, especially the terms witch and its European equivalents (such as Hexe in German or sorciere in French) back into Chinese as wunü 巫女).

📖 演講內容：

中國學者（同行）在引用中國古典資料的原文方面，似乎擁有優勢。又或者，他們有嗎？身為外國人，我顯然不是第一個察覺到：被迫極精確地理解引用材料的每一個字以便能夠翻譯，這確實有助於我們對文本達到相當詳盡的理解。

在這場演講中，我想觀察在研究中國社會和文化歷史時所涉及的多層次翻譯現象。畢竟，當我們的資料源頭作者寫下他（或更罕見的「她」）對過去事件、信仰、實踐或故事的紀錄時，翻譯就已然開始。我們能有把握地假設，所有紀錄最初都產生於口語以及飽含在地因素的方言鄉音之中，亦即這代表了所有留存下來的資料都是翻譯，因為中文書面語或文言文根本遠非口語。

在這次演講中，我希望提出許多議題，涉及由在地的田野調查到學術交流時，我們所面臨的多層次翻譯及其詮釋問題。我將以中文的「巫」這個困難術語作為主要例證。最後，我也將省思某些西方詞彙的翻譯難題，特別是「witch」一詞及其歐洲語系對應詞（如德語的 Hexe 或法語的 sorciere）回譯成中文「巫女」。