



**Translation and Time:
Exploring the Temporal Dimension of Cross-cultural Transfer**

Presentation Details

Title of Paper: Retranslation as a Socially Engaged Activity: In the case of *Rape of Nanking*

Abstract:

This study addresses the themes of translation and time through the analysis of the narrative of Nanjing massacre that was translated, retranslated, and re-edited in South Korea over the last two decades. A non-fiction book, *The Rape of Nanking* by Iris Chang, a former Chinese-American reporter and journalist, is a seminal work that describes the massacre that took place in Nanking during the second Sino-Japanese war (1937–1945). Originally written in English, this book, which was published in 1997, received wide attention and also caused much controversy not only in the US and Japan, but also in South Korea where two different Korean translations and a re-edition have been published to date. Adopting the model of analysis elaborated by Baker (2006) and drawing on the concept of framing and the work of Genette (1997), this study examines *The Rape of Nanking* with a view to identifying various ways in which narratives encoded in the source text are reframed by the translator and publisher to foreground particular events and to make them more salient in translation while excluding, diluting, and downgrading others, in such a way as to promote and highlight certain narratives in translation. The contextual and textual analyses of the two Korean translations and one re-edition reveal that each translation/re-edition is paratextually framed and temporally positioned, and that they also expand the scope of the original narrative to the South Korean setting by adding related events and issues that were of immediate interest to South Korean readers at the time of its publication, thus investing it with new meaning. This study ultimately argues that translation is a socially and temporally engaged activity and that translators and publishers are social activists.

References

- Baker, Mona. 2006. *Translation and Conflict: A Narrative Account*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Genette, Gerard. 1997. *Paratexts: Threshold of Interpretation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Author's Biography:

Kyung-Hye Kim is a post-doctoral research fellow working at Shanghai Jiao Tong University in China. She holds a PhD in Translation and Intercultural Studies from the University of Manchester, and her academic interests lie in corpus-based translation studies, critical discourse analysis, and application of narrative theory to translation and interpreting.