



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

Presentation Details
<p>Title of Paper:</p> <p>Time and Otherness: Paratexts of Modern and Contemporary Chinese Literature Translated in Spanish</p>
<p>Abstract:</p> <p>The uses of time to describe the Other have been widely studied in anthropology. Fabian’s (1983) <i>Time and the Other</i> is a classic in this regard. Fabian criticises the fact that anthropological discourse places those who are studied in the past, whereas the anthropologist is in the present. He calls the effect of such strategies a “denial of coevalness” and regards the resulting discourse as “allochronic”. This temporal distancing is, according to Fabian, a political act – not merely a discursive act – that has characterised anthropological knowledge production. This paper will show that Fabian’s reflections can inspire the analysis of other types of texts about the Other, more specifically, paratexts of literary translations. Paratexts create a concrete meaning, enhancing a possible interpretation of the text, which is why they are valuable sites to study the image of a foreign literature. Examples of paratexts of modern and contemporary Chinese literature translated in Spanish will illustrate the arbitrary use of temporality. Prefaces and back covers often refer to the prestige of classical Chinese literature, therefore using an allochronic discourse to promote modern and contemporary Chinese literature. In contrast, some paratexts emphasize the coevalness of the literary work, stating that the reading of a particular novel or anthology will help readers understand Chinese contemporary society. In this case, paratexts often insist on the documentary value of literary works, disregarding their literariness. This paper argues that these discursive practices relegate modern and contemporary Chinese literature to a marginal position, influencing its reception and criticism.</p>

Author's Biography:

Maialen Marin-Lacarta is a translator and Research Assistant Professor in the Translation Programme at Hong Kong Baptist University. She holds a PhD in Chinese Studies and in Translation and Intercultural Studies from the National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilisations (INALCO) in Paris and the Autonomous University of Barcelona. Prior to joining HKBU, she taught at INALCO and the Open University of Catalonia. Among other authors, she has translated Shen Congwen in Spanish and Mo Yan in Basque. Her research areas include literary translation, modern and contemporary Chinese literature, literary reception, translation history, indirect translation and digital publishing.