



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

Please send the completed form to translation-and-time@cuhk.edu.hk on or before 31 March 2016.

Presentation Details
<p>Title of Paper: Telling Chinese History—Time and Chronicles in the Jesuits’ Translations</p>
<p>Abstract:</p> <p>In the Early Qing Dynasty, the new generation of Jesuits, the Jesuit Figurists, pivoted on the esoteric Chinese classic, <i>the Book of Changes</i>, for proselytization. While the Western scholarship might coin their re-interpretation of <i>the Book of Changes</i> as a wild association with Christianity, few centered on the similarity and the connection between their theory and Martino Martini’s 衛匡國 <i>Sinicae Historiae Decas Prima</i> (Chinese Ancient History). Not only did Martini introduce the method of Chinese Era (the combination of Heavenly Stems and Earthly Branches) in one of his works, <i>Novus Atlas Sinensis</i>, to Europe, Martini also revered the status of Fuxi 伏羲 and the images of hexagrams to parallel with the chronicles in the West. Via the examination about Martini’s use of transcriptions from Chinese to Latin, the hexagrams, as well as the symbols, this paper aims to explore the linkage between Martini’s efforts on Chinese ancient history and the Jesuit Figurists’ reinterpretation of the mysterious elements in <i>the Book of Changes</i>, and how the flow of the esoteric interpretation passed from Martini to this group of Figurists. The analysis of Martini’s timeline in his re-translation of Chinese history will not only reveal his impact upon the interpretation of Western history listed in the Bible, but also demonstrate that, the Jesuit Figurists’ seemingly wild theory did not come out of the blue. Martini’s Chinese ancient history might be a precursor and it might open a new dimension to explain the development of the proto-Figurism and the following timeline.</p>

Author's Biography:

Sophie Ling-chia WEI received her PhD from Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Pennsylvania, in May, 2015. Her dissertation topic is “Trans-textual Dialogue in the Jesuit Missionary Intra-lingual Translation of the *Yijing*.” Presently she is an Assistant Professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, starting from August, 2016. Her research interests include Jesuits’ translation of Chinese classics, Jesuits’ classical and vernacular use of Chinese languages, as well as Protestant missionaries’ translation of Chinese classics.