Faculty of Arts

Lingnan University 嶺南大學 香港 Hong Kong

ARTS FACULTY RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

9 Apr 2025 (Wed)
3:00pm - 4:30pm

Professor HUANG Fanglei Corey
Assistant Professor
Department of English

Between "Self-Expression and Social Conformity": Multimodal Writing in Mental Health Art

This study examines the intersection of multimodal writing, art and mental health discourse. Multimodal writing is a dynamic practice which mobilizes multiple kinds of meaning-making resources such as written text, color, typography and layout. The present study examines a collection of collaboratively produced artworks employing a visually striking style of multimodal writing to intertwine personal storytelling, mental well-being and the society at large. Situated in the context of Hong Kong, the artworks include fragments of young people's personal narratives of mental struggle and resilience and superimpose them with large, spray-painted vernacular, classical or formal expressions. Through a multimodal analysis, I unpack how the artworks bring out—in the artist's words—the tension between the young people's "self-expression and social conformity" when experiencing social and emotional challenges. Specifically, I demonstrate how they strategically manipulate and mesh writing by different authors to materialize interacting personal and social voices in connection with mental states and experiences. The talk concludes by arguing that creative multimodal writing can generate engaging, critical discourse on the significant role of agency-structure dynamics in many local and global mental health issues.

Professor CHEN Xuemei
Assistant Professor
Department of Translation

Collaborative Feminist English Translation of Chinese Anthropomorphic Animal Novels

While children's literature is crucial in gender socialization, the gender-related aspects in the translation of this genre remain understudied. This study examines the intersection of gender representation and translation in children's literature through analyzing the English translation of Chen Jiatong's anthropomorphic adventure White Fox series. A comparative textual analysis shows significant changes in the English version, including the removal of misogynistic language, the change of a scheming fox into a courageous friend, the alteration of anthropomorphic characters' genders, and the recharacterization of a shrewish wife into an independent single mother. Translator interviews reveal that major deletions and rewritings are suggested by the editor and communicated with the literary agent and author with their consent. This article demonstrates how feminist translation practices can become collaborative efforts to address the pronounced gender inequality in anthropomorphic stories. The feminist translation challenges gender stereotypes and contributes to gender education, fostering values of equality and diversity among contemporary young readers.

Moderator
Professor ZHOU Feifei
Associate Professor, Department of English

The seminar will be conducted via Zoom.
No registration is required.
1.5 ILP units (Aesthetic Development)