



## A Space for Translation: Thresholds of Interpretation

Presentation Details	
<b>Title of Paper:</b>	Opening the Black Box: Tracing the Actor-network behind “The Magic Peaches”
<b>Speaker:</b>	Gloria LEE, Assistant Professor, Translation Programme, Hong Kong Baptist University
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>Actor-Network Theory (ANT), also dubbed as “a Sociology of Translation” (Callon 1986; Law 1992), examines the complex process of entities being mobilized across time and space. Latour (1986) coins the notion of “immutable mobiles” to explain the effects of science and technology, that is, to say an innovation is powerful, it must be brought from one location to another (a “mobile”) in its original state (“immutable”) as human/nonhuman actors (“allies”) are being mustered and aligned during the process. Here, as it is used by other actor-network theorists, “translation” has been used metaphorically, and become “submerged” as it says “nothing at all about how it is that links are made” (Law 1999, 8). I will argue that the study of the liminal stage of the translating process can shed light on the complexity of mobilization, hence the conceptualization of ANT concepts such as “immutable mobiles” and “black-boxing.” TS scholars can also benefit by reconsidering agency not only as human agents but also in terms of relationality among “actors.”</p> <p>The paper is based on a case study of David Hawkes’s (2002) “The Magic Peaches: A birthday playlet for Professor Liu,” an English translation of a piece <i>zaju</i> by the dramatist Zhu Youdun (CE 1379-1439). In addition to an analysis of the translated text and paratexts (a postscript, synopsis, and end-notes), archival materials including the correspondence with the editors and informants, translation notes, references, and drafts will also be used to trace the actor-network behind the translation and reveal the dynamics of the translation practice.</p>

## References

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## Author's Biography

**Gloria LEE** is Assistant Professor in Translation at Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong. She is editor of *New Voices in Translation Studies* since 2015 and ARTIS associate. Her current research interests include collaborative translation, the sociological approach to translation, the translator's voice and style, and translation theory and history.