



## A Space for Translation: Thresholds of Interpretation

Presentation Details	
<b>Title of Paper:</b>	Chinese Poetry and the Borderlands of English Translation Anthologies, 1890s-1940s
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<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>This paper focuses on English-language translation anthologies of Chinese poetry and considers how Chinese poetry inhabits the textual and cultural spaces of the translation anthology via processes of collecting, selecting, and presentation. The architecture of the anthology form introduces the reader into different spaces of knowledge; differing from translations of individual works, the translation anthology delimits a more generic contour of the anthological object, instead of being an instantiation of it. The boundaries of the anthological space thus carry epistemological implications, and analogous to paratextual liminality, these boundaries mark the ambiguous threshold of the anthology's enclosed inside (governed by some notion of representativeness and internal logic), and its excluded outside.</p> <p>This dialectic between representativeness and partiality is thus crucial in analysing the various modes of anthologizing, which can also be approached by examining how anthologists recontextualize Chinese poetry, mobilizing different streams of discourse to the anthological space. Through the hybrid microcosm of the translation anthology this paper explores the liminal features of translation and its transformative potentialities for unsettling the boundaries of the literary field and fostering new communities and cultural change – the anthologist-translators here considered perform acts of border-crossing like poetic experiment, self-othering, positioning counter-discourses, and testing the limits of (self-)knowledge via encounters with alterity.</p>

### Author's Biography

**Lynn Qingyang LIN** is a PhD student in The Department of Translation, Lingnan University. Her thesis, entitled “‘New Poetry’ and Old Cathay: Translational Sinography in the Works of Arthur Waley and his Contemporaries, 1890s-1920s,” explores the mediating and constructive roles of translation in the formation of knowledge about Chinese literature.