



## A Space for Translation: Thresholds of Interpretation

Presentation Details	
<b>Title of Paper:</b>	A Space of Their Voice: Apologies for Translation in <i>New Tide</i> (1919-1922)
<b>Speaker:</b>	YE Jia, Assistant Professor, Department of Translation, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>Could a translator understand the limitation of translation so well as to exploit it? Could translation be commonly allowed to be incomplete, tentative or even inaccurate, and consequently perform certain function? With these questions, the paper explores the apologetic and self-exculpatory paratexts surrounding translations in <i>New Tide</i> (新潮 1919-1922). The student academic journal based in Peking University was founded with the purpose of examining Chinese scholarship against the intellectual trends in the opening of the twentieth century. Translations were thus constitutive of the journal's critique of its own legacies and its self-imposed mission to be a portal to new knowledge of the era. Having articulated that, translators on the exclusive editorial panel often wrote in the prelude and epilogue about the imperfections of their translations, and attributed the imperfections to their ignorance, the limit of textual space in the journal, and the pressing schedule to maintain a periodic publication. Such reiterated emphasis on inadequacies normalized the presence of translation in the journal as an unfinished and provisional text type. Partial translations then prevailed and were strategically woven into the journal's political narrative. Moreover, the column allotment allowed authors to publish under different – even pseudo – names. Shifting between authorships, the translator-editors wrote in support of the views expressed through (mis) translations. Proceeding from these observations, the paper considers the mutual reinforcement between the constructed assumption of translation and the unfolding, self-fulfilling critical narrative in <i>New Tide</i> amid the intensifying competition for authoritativeness among intellectual groups following May Fourth, 1919.</p>

### Author's Biography

**Michelle Jia YE** received her PhD at the Department of Translation of The Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2012 and became a research member of the Department in 2016. She writes on translations in early modern periodical press in China. Her on-going projects center around the rediscovery of popular literary societies in early Republican China and the reassessment of the May Fourth discourse with a focus on translation. Her recent research engages data visualization and network analysis.