



## A Space for Translation: Thresholds of Interpretation

<b>Presentation Details</b>	
<b>Title of Paper:</b>	Narrating Gender, Sexualizing Space: Intercultural Place Making of Cambodia in a thirteenth-century Chinese Travel Writing and Its Modern English Translations
<b>Speaker:</b>	Song HOU, Yunshan Junior Fellow/postdoctoral fellow, Center for Translation Studies, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>This conference paper aims to explicate intercultural place making in travel and translation from a feminist geography perspective. It does so by analyzing a thirteenth-century Chinese traveling writing about Cambodia, namely, <i>Zhenla Fengtu Ji</i> (真臘風土記) authored by Zhou Dagan (1266–1346), and its multiple English translations in modern times, including J. G. d’Arcy Paul’s 1967 rendition, Peter Harris’s 2007 rendition, and Solang Uk and Beiling Uk’s 2010 rendition. I shall first attempt to understand how Zhou’s cultural translation in classical Chinese language makes meaning of Cambodian spaces through gendered narratives under a Chinese man’s “gaze.” Then I move to investigate how such cultural translation and sexualizing of spaces in thirteenth-century Asia are reconstructed or transformed in its different modern translations into the English language. I shall compare different translators’ efforts in handling such complex intercultural place making and explore the cultural politics underlie these processes. I argue that translation, cultural and linguistic, plays an important role in combining cultural and gender gazes into a form of spatial act. Feminist geography and translation studies can mutually benefited from each other by looking at issues of place making from intercultural and gender approaches.</p>

### Author's Biography

**Song HOU** obtained his PhD from Zhejiang University in 2014. He is currently a Yunshan Junior Fellow and postdoctoral fellow at the Centre for Translation Studies, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies. His research interests cut across issues of translation and intercultural writing, heritage and memory, discourse and narrative. His research appears in *Critical Discourse Studies*, *Sungkyun Journal of East Asian Studies*, *Translation Studies*, among other journals. For now, he is revising his doctoral thesis for a book publication contracted with Brill.