

Harvard-Yenching Institute Alumni Workshop 2025

# Translations of Sacred and Mystical Texts in Interfaith Dialogues



**Hong Kong**

**June 6 & 7, 2025**



# **Translations of Sacred and Mystical Texts in Interfaith Dialogues**

## **Organisers:**

**Harvard-Yenching Institute**

**Research Centre for Translation,  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong**

## **Co-organiser:**

**Department of Translation  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong**

**Dates: June 6-7, 2025**

## **Venue:**

**The Chinese University of Hong Kong**

# Conference Programme

(Presentation Format: 20-Minute Talk, 5-Minute Discussant Comments, 5-Minute Response)

Day 1: June 6, 2025 (Friday)

9:30–10:00	<b>Welcoming Speeches</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prof. James ROBSON (Director, Harvard-Yenching Institute)</li> <li>Prof. Lawrence Wang-chi WONG (Director, Research Centre for Translation, CUHK)</li> <li>Prof. James ST. ANDRÉ (Chairman, Department of Translation, CUHK)</li> <li>Prof. Sophie Ling-chia WEI (Associate Director, Research Centre for Translation, CUHK)</li> </ul> <b>Group Photo</b>
<b>Panel One (Chair: Prof. Sophie Ling-chia WEI)</b>	
10:00–10:30	<b>Prof. James ROBSON</b> (Harvard University) Title: Translating the <i>Daode jing</i> into a Perennial Classic of Sacred Religious Literature Discussant: Prof. Elena VALUSSI
10:30–11:00	<b>Prof. Elena VALUSSI</b> (Loyola University Chicago) Title: The History of Translations of Inner Alchemy Texts in the West Discussant: Prof. James ROBSON
11:00–11:30	<b>Prof. Thierry MEYNARD</b> (Sun Yat-Sen University) Title: Diverging Translations of the Confucian Classics During the Canton Exile Discussant: Prof. Gang SONG
11:30–12:00	Q&A Session
12:00–14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
14:30–15:30	Rare Books and Manuscripts Tour
15:30–16:00	Tea Break
<b>Panel Two (Chair: Prof. Gang SONG)</b>	
16:00–16:30	<b>Prof. Sophie Ling-chia WEI</b> (The Chinese University of Hong Kong) Title: A Tree with Many Roots: Syncretic Cosmology in Jesuit Figurist Encounters with Kabbalah and the <i>Yijing</i>

	Discussant: Dr. Daniel CANARIS
16:30–17:00	<b>Prof. Misha TADD</b> (Nankai University) Title: Syncretic Cosmology in the Figurist Translation of the <i>Daodejing</i> Discussant: Prof. Sophie Ling-chia WEI
17:00–17:30	<b>Dr. Daniel CANARIS</b> (University of Sydney) Title: Noël’s “Post-Figurist” Reading of the <i>Yijing</i> Discussant: Prof. Misha TADD
17:30–18:00	Q&A Session
18:30–20:00	<b>Dinner</b>

**Day 2: June 7, 2025 (Saturday)**

<b>Panel Three (Chair: Prof. James ROBSON)</b>	
9:00–9:30	<b>Prof. Ji LI</b> (The University of Hong Kong) Title: Miracles, Healings, and the Politics of Holy Water in Chinese Christian Texts Discussant: Prof. Francesco BORGHESI
9:30–10:00	<b>Prof. Gang SONG</b> (The University of Hong Kong) Title: From the Incarnate Lord to the Descending Sovereign: Hong Xiuquan’s Re-translation of the Bible in the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom Discussant: Prof. Ji LI
10:00–10:30	<b>Prof. Francesco BORGHESI</b> (Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia) Title: Translatability Issues in Religious and Poetry Texts by Michele Ruggieri, S.J. (1543–1607) Discussant: Prof. Thierry MEYNARD
10:30–11:00	Q&A Session
11:00–11:30	Roundtable discussion
12:00–14:00	<b>Lunch</b>

## Conference Participants

(in alphabetical order of surnames)

Name	Affiliation
<b>Prof. Francesco BORGHESI</b>	Associate Professor of Italian Literature, Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia
<b>Dr. Daniel CANARIS</b>	Lecturer and DECRA Research Fellow, School of Languages and Cultures, University of Sydney
<b>Prof. Ji LI</b>	Associate Professor of History, HKIHSS and School of Modern Languages and Cultures, The University of Hong Kong
<b>Prof. Thierry MEYNARD</b>	Professor, Department of Philosophy, Sun Yat-Sen University
<b>Prof. James ROBSON</b>	James C. Kralik and Yunli Lou Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University;  Director, Harvard-Yenching Institute
<b>Prof. Gang SONG</b>	Associate Professor of Chinese History, School of Chinese,  The University of Hong Kong
<b>Prof. Misha TADD</b>	Associate Professor, College of Philosophy, Nankai University;  Director, Global Laozegetics Research Center
<b>Prof. Elena VALUSSI</b>	Senior Lecturer in History, Loyola University Chicago
<b>Prof. Sophie Ling-chia WEI</b>	Associate Professor, Department of Translation, The Chinese University of Hong Kong;  Associate Director, Research Centre for Translation, CUHK



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