



Presentation Details
Title: From a Bird's Eye View: Word-clouds as Tools for Researching Translations
Speaker: Dr. Lorenzo ANDOLFATTO (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)
<p>Abstract:</p> <p>A word-cloud (or weighted list) is a visual representation of text data in which the importance of each word is shown with different font size or color. Word-cloud generators rearrange the content of a given text in free form, emphasizing the text's most recurrent lexical elements, and promoting an immediate understanding of the text's main focal points. This instrument proves particularly useful when applied to the study and criticism of translation: when dealing with a large number of relatively short texts (such as the different renditions of a famous piece of poetry), word-clouds can highlights affinities and divergences between the translated texts, thus revealing translation idiosyncrasies, and problematic knots in the source texts. Overall, word-clouds provide solid platforms for the reverse-engineering of a source text's problematics from the raw material of the translated text. This presentation will offer an account of the use of word-clouds in the teaching of translation criticism, and will explore the further use of this tool for the close and distant reading of translation.</p>
<p>Biography</p> <p>Lorenzo Andolfatto received his PhD from a joint-degree program between the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and the Jean Moulin Lyon-3 University of Lyon, and he is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Translation of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. His research interests develop between comparative literature and the translation studies, focusing on the study of early-modern Chinese literature, late Qing fiction, utopian writing and science fiction. At the moment he is working on the book <i>Paper Worlds: Chinese Utopian Writing at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century</i>, scheduled for publication by Brill in early 2018.</p>