

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES RESEARCH CELEBRATION

2016
22 JULY



RESEARCH CELEBRATION SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES PROGRAMME

July 22nd 2016, 1pm – 4pm, Leonian Room, St Leo's College.

1. 1pm - Introduction by Director of Research
2. Speakers
3. Afternoon Tea (3.15pm – 4pm)

SPEAKERS

Tomoko Aoyama (Japanese)

Humour and Gender in Modern Japanese Culture

I have been working on the theme of Older Women's Humour in Contemporary Japanese Culture. I will present further updates on this book project, especially about my idea of how to start the Introduction. I will also explain two other smaller projects on food, gender and humour: 1) in the poems of Ishigaki Rin (1920-2004) and 2) in Osaki Midori's modernist literature circa 1930. All these projects deal with women-centred humour which often involves cross-cultural communication and intertextual play.

Helen Creese (Indonesian)

A Literary Mirror: Globalisation in the First Millennium.

Juliana De Nooy (French)

Comme une Française: Maintaining an intercultural threshold space in online video

How being "like a Frenchwoman" is presented as simultaneously accessible but tantalizing just beyond reach in order to sell online language lessons via video

Adriana Diaz (Spanish) (and **Chantal Crozet**, RMIT)

Language teacher-researchers' professional memoirs: subjectivities, politics and ethics

For the last fifteen years, many studies around the globe have focused on Modern Foreign Language Teachers' (MFL) take on the intercultural dimension of language teaching. However, scant attention has been accorded to MFL Teacher-Researchers (MFLTRs) in the higher education sector and their take on teaching both language and culture from an intercultural perspective. This project seeks to address this gap by exploring MFLTRs' professional memoirs, foregrounding participants' subjectivities in relation to the enactment of intercultural language education and the broadening of language teachers' identity/role as that of moral agents.

Greg Dickson (Linguistics)

Dialectal variation in Kriol

Kriol is spoken across an area the size of Spain and barely a century old. It has long been known that different Kriol dialects exist but this variation has never been properly investigated. Starting with a selection of 10 communities east of Katherine, Northern Territory, my research begins to unlock dialectal variation in this new Indigenous language.

Lucy Fraser (Japanese)

Japanese Sleeping Beauties Move House

This paper will be presented at the conference on the topic of "Japan in Australia", celebrating 50 years of Japanese at UQ. I take up Australian works that engage with Japanese Nobel Laureate Kawabata Yasunari's novella *The House of the Sleeping Beauties* (1961): Brisbane author Venero Armanno's novel *Candle Life* (2006), and Sydney-born novelist, film director, and screenwriter Julia Leigh's film *Sleeping Beauty* (2011). In their adoption of Kawabata's Japanese retelling of a European fairy tale, the novel and the film encourage a reassessment of the significance of Japanese creative work in the Australian literary and cultural landscape.

Barbara Hanna (French) and Joe Hardwick (French) (and Peter Crowley)

Lost in Transit? Understanding the Transition to University-level French Studies

Each year, university language programmes are faced with the migrating masses of secondary students leaving the safety and security of the school environment to test their wings for the first time at university. Though they may flock together—nearly all students having achieved the same high scores in their secondary studies—they are anything but birds of a feather. Some will soar, fully grasping the opportunity to become independent language-learners. However, an increasing number seem to cough and splutter, while others fall to earth with a resounding thud. Previous research has underlined the problems associated with such cohorts. Causes of dissatisfaction and attrition among language students are, for example, being placed in the wrong level (Martin & Jansen, 2011), mixed proficiency cohorts in which there are perceptions of advantage/disadvantage (de Krester & Spence-Brown, 2010; Nettelbeck et. al., 2009) and the distance between student and teacher in a university context (Fielding and Stott 2012). So how can post-matriculation level language students be nurtured through the transition to University language studies in ways which engage and educate and are delivered efficiently and sustainably? This paper will investigate this question, building on responses by post-matriculation French students at the University of Queensland to a number of transition-to-university strategies put in place including a purpose-built online platform for post-matriculation students set up with the intention of providing remedial and extension work and inculcating effective language-learning habits to produce autonomous, resilient learners.

Greg Hainge (French)

Philippe Grandrieux: Sonic Cinema.

An overview of a recently completed monograph on French filmmaker Philippe Grandrieux and a brief explanation of the main theoretical claim arising out of the analysis undertaken, with some nods to a broader research agenda.

Kayoko Hashimoto (Japanese)

“Easy Japanese” as a language choice in multilingual websites of local governments

Easy Japanese (Yasashii Nihongo) was initially created in 1995 to facilitate communication with foreigners in times of emergency. It has been promoted since then predominantly by local governments in order to reach out to foreign residents. This project investigates how local government offices have developed Easy Japanese as a separate language of their multilingual websites as part of their service to the local communities and how it relates to Japan’s current language policies.

Michael Haugh

The role of language in social interaction

My research centres on analysing the role of language in social interaction. In this brief presentation I’d like to give an overview of some of the projects I’m currently working on, and what is driving my overall research agenda.

Amy Hubbell (French)

When Memory Crosses into History: Benjamin Stora's Writing on Algeria

Almost anyone who has read, studied, or taught the Algerian War for Independence in the last twenty years in French will have come across Benjamin Stora's work. The historian has carefully positioned himself through prolific writing, presentations, media interviews, and documentary participation as the foremost expert on Algeria in France. But since 1998, the author has progressively included autobiographical accounts in his historical work. This project examines what is at stake when personal memory crosses the threshold into collective history.

Min Jung Jee (Korean)

An exploration of foreign language anxiety experienced by KFL learners in Australia

This study explored foreign language anxiety (FLA) experienced by learners of Korean as a foreign language (KFL) in Australia and its relation to their perceived competence (PC) of Korean. 161 students who were enrolled in four Korean classes at a large public university in Australia completed two questionnaires – the Foreign Language Classroom Anxiety Scale (FLCAS) by Horwitz, Horwitz and Cope (1986), and Items for Perceived Linguistic Self-confidence by Pyun, Kim, Cho, and Lee (2014). Individual variables such as gender, country of birth, L1, and class level were considered as influencing factors. The findings showed that KFL students in Australia had a moderate level of anxiety ($M=2.77$), which was lower than KFL students in the US and higher than Korean-American students in the literature. Also, the highest FLA level in the second-year Korean class and the lowest FLA level in the third-year Korean class were observed with significant differences. In addition, a negative correlation was observed between the FLCAS and the PC of Korean. Based on the findings, it was determined that the class level was the influencing factor, regardless of the learning context (i.e., KFL in Australia or KFL in the US). The pedagogical implications of this finding were discussed.

Wendy Jiang (Chinese)

Radical awareness among Chinese-as-a-foreign-language (CFL) learners

Radicals are subcomponents of the Chinese characters. They follow positional constraints and they have meaning-cueing and pronunciation-cueing functions. Radical awareness refers to the knowledge about the positional and functional regularities of radicals that has been found closely related to Chinese word reading and word writing among first language (L1) users' literacy acquisition (Chan & Nunes, 1998; Ho, Ng, & Ng, 2003; Packard et al., 2006). However, relevant research in second language/foreign language (L2) is rare. This project aims to examine radical awareness levels among CFL learners who differ in their Chinese proficiency levels in order to further explore more effective ways to improve radical awareness among L2 learners.

Isaac Lee (Korean)

The construction of Korean culture in the Korean language textbooks

- 1) Analysis of Korean language textbooks in the Enlightenment period
 - a. Korean language textbooks published by Korean government publishers(Hakbu Pyeonchanbu)
 - b. Korean language textbooks published by private publishers
- 2) Analysis of Korean language textbooks in the Japanese colonial era
- 3) Korean language textbooks in South
 - a. Textbooks in American military government
 - b. Textbooks after 48 (Establishment of South Korean government) to 1954
 - c. Textbooks in the first curriculum period (1955-1962)
 - d. Textbooks in 1963-1972
 - e. Textbooks in 1973-1981

Natsuko Akagawa (Japanese)

My recent research reflected in a number of publications including a monograph has centred on the philosophy and practice of heritage conservation in Japan since the Meiji era and how, post-World War Two, this has interacted with the development of international cultural heritage protocols developed through UNESCO. Within this context I have been writing on the concepts of cultural diplomacy and intangible cultural heritage – the subject of entirely new second edition of the book, 'Intangible Heritage'. In the presentation I will give an overview of a number of ongoing research projects which focus on Southeast Asia and heritage in colonial and post-colonial contexts.

Paul Moore (Applied Linguistics)

Sociocognition in language learning.

My current research involves three projects linked by a sociocognitive approach to second language learning.

1. An investigation into how learners' framing of a pair task influences individual task performance.
2. An analysis of cohesion in language test performance (with Noriko Iwashita and Lyn May);
3. Perspectives on language proficiency in higher education (With Michael Harrington).

Ilana Mushin (Linguistics) and Rod Gardner (Applied Linguistics)

Tracking epistemic trajectories in the classroom.

We are investigating how children become classroom learners in their first year of school by comparing what happens in actual prep classes across three different schools: an Aboriginal Community School, an urban multicultural school in a low-SES area and a relatively monocultural urban school in a high-SES area. A part of this work is to track in real time what children are doing during teacher instructions and how their degrees of engagement impact how they are able to demonstrate (non)understanding of both task and curriculum content.

Rob Pensalfini (Linguistics) and **Felicity Meakins** (Linguistics)

Gender-lender: lexical borrowing and grammatical gender

Jingulu and Mudburra are unrelated languages of the Northern Territory that have been in contact for many generations. While the languages have maintained their distinct grammatical structure, massive lexical borrowing has led to a shared vocabulary of about 70%. While Jingulu has four grammatical genders, Mudburra has none. This research explores what happens when nouns from a language with no gender are borrowed into a language with a gender system and vice versa.

Annie Pohlman (Indonesian)

How does torture become normal?

My current research program seeks to find out how torture became normal practice within Indonesia's security apparatus. Drawing on thousands of survivor and witness accounts, I examine the contexts, forms and settings for this violence across the Indonesian archipelago during the thirty-three years of the New Order military regime (1965-98). This diachronic approach may reveal how, when and in what contexts torture developed over time to become normal.

Guy Ramsay (Chinese)

Reporting Mental Illness: A Discourse Analysis of Chinese-Language Print Media Texts

This book project examines how contemporary Chinese-language print media texts discursively construct mental illness. My research to date has documented contemporary Chinese public health, personal ('life'), and filmic representations of mental illness and related disorders. Research conducted by other scholars has documented Chinese literary representations of mental illness. My current project, therefore, will examine representations of mental illness in an extremely influential form of text, which has received little research attention to date, namely, Chinese-language print media text. The project will employ a well-tested newstext discourse analytic framework based on Van Dijk (1988) and Fairclough (2003) to examine how contemporary Chinese-language newspaper reports discursively construct mental illness across 4 geographical sites, namely, mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Australia. Each site has culturally Chinese communities with distinct social and political histories. My research to date (Ramsay 2008, 2013, 2016) has shown that this can impact on the local representations of mental illness and related disorders. In this way, my proposed research project will provide a rigorous and comprehensive understanding of how Chinese-language newspapers discursively construct mental illness across the global Chinese diaspora.

Marisa Cordella (Spanish) and **Sol Rojas-Lizana** (Spanish)

Ageing in a foreign land: Coping strategies in the discourse of older adults CALD Spanish-speakers in Australia

This article explores the connection between ageing and coping in the discourse of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) senior Spanish-speakers in Australia in relation to the stressor: 'future care'. Using semi-structured interviews, we analysed a sample of 19 interviews of CALD seniors living in Brisbane. Our aims are, i) to identify the range of coping strategies used by CALD elders when they talk about the future and current care giving, and ii) to analyse in detail the discursive features of those strategies.

Kari Sullivan (Linguistics)

Grammar and gun control: the being-construction in the U.S. Second Amendment

'Originalist' approaches to the U.S. constitution hold that the document's meaning was fixed at the time of its writing. Originalists, including the recently deceased Justice Antonin Scalia, have therefore conducted historical linguistic studies of the English spoken by the constitution's authors. These studies, Scalia argued in a 2008 landmark ruling, showed that the U.S. second Amendment protected Americans' right to own guns for self-defence. However, the originalist studies considered only words, not grammar. This led to the neglect of a grammatical construction, the initial subordinate clause introduced by being, that has undergone changes since the writing of the constitution. The consideration of these changes, I argue, challenges Scalia's reading of the Amendment.

Akiko Uchiyama (Japanese)

Translating 'America': Murakami Haruki and the 1970s.

Murakami Haruki (1949-) is an internationally recognised writer whose work has been published in around 40 countries. The topic of my presentation is 'Murakami and translation' to discuss how they are profoundly connected. He is also a prolific translator who has translated works of American writers including F. Scott Fitzgerald and Raymond Carver. His long established author-translator status appears to be only matched by the Meiji author Mori Ōgai (1862-1922). Murakami as a translator and his view of translation are examined to discuss the importance of translation for him. This discussion involves the influence of American novels on his work. Murakami as an author is also discussed from the perspective of 'translation'. His writing is often described as 'translationese', and it is known that he tried writing a few pages in English and 'translated' them into Japanese when he devised his writing style in his debut novel *Kaze no uta o kike* (1979; *Hear the Wind Sing*). I will investigate how his writing and his practice of translation are intricately connected. The investigation focuses on his first three novels (the trilogy of the Rat), *Kaze no uta o kike*, 1973-nen no pinbōru (1980; *Pinball, 1973*) and *Hitsuji o meguru bōken* (1982; *A Wild Sheep Chase*) which are set in the 1970s. I will argue that the trilogy of the Rat is a 'translation' of 'America' as it is constructed by Murakami.

Lily Wang (Chinese – MACTI)

“Sorry. Could you please repeat?” A comparative study of telephone and on-site interpreting: Accuracy and coordination

This study compares telephone interpreting with on-site interpreting in terms of accuracy and coordination. A professional Mandarin/English interpreter provided dialogue interpretation for three simulated interactions in public service settings: one face-to-face and two over the phone. Results show that the interpreter’s interpreting performance on the phone is as highly accurate as that on site, though there are more obstacles to accuracy in telephone interpreting than in on-site interpreting. Overall, communication in telephone interpreting is not as smooth or efficient as that in on-site interpreting.

Geoff Wilkes (German)

Translating Ilse Aichinger’s Die größere Hoffnung into English

My translation of The Greater Hope was published by Königshausen & Neumann in May this year. I’ll talk briefly about the novel’s status in post-war Austrian literature, the slightly unusual circumstances which led to me translating it, and some of the difficulties which I encountered.