

## **Panel 19**

### **Illustrations, Text, and Cultural Engagement**

#### **The Reception and Application of Illustrations in Modern Translated Novels: Taking the Translation of Science Fiction in China and Japan as the Centre**

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In the process of translating novels, the inclusion of illustrations is not only a reflection of how translators engage with the original work, but it also heavily depends on the capabilities of the local printing industry when it comes to replicating images, as well as supporting infrastructure like the publishing system. For instance, in Japanese translations of Jules Verne's novels, most books retained the original illustrations. This is due to the fact that translators such as Inoue Tsutomu (井上勤) strive for 'faithfulness' (chuuujitsu, 忠実) in their translations, hoping that the illustrations will help readers better understand these novels. Additionally, it was facilitated by Japan's commercial publishing system and the presence of artists proficient in Western-style realistic drawing, such as Mori Kinseki (森琴石).

In contrast, late Qing Dynasty Chinese translations, such as *A Trip to the Moon* translated by Lu Xun, did not preserve these illustrations. The absence of illustrations in translated novels was primarily because illustrators at that time often used a blend of Eastern and Western art styles and were lacking in terms of painting realistic images. This meant they were less likely to directly replicate Western-style illustrations. Additionally, translators during this period had limited access to publishing resources, and their translations often went through multiple intermediaries. As a result, they focused more on the textual content and its social function, paying less attention to original illustrations. Furthermore, the illustration industry in late Qing Dynasty mainly catered to popular illustrated magazines and traditional novels.

#### **Biography**

Lin Peiyuan (林培源) is currently pursuing an MA degree in Modern and Contemporary Chinese Literature at the Department of Chinese Language and Literature (Zhuhai) of Sun Yat-sen University, under the supervision of Professor Zhu Chongke (朱崇科). His research interests span modern Chinese intellectual history, visual culture studies, and Sinophone Literature. Contact him at [linpy25@mail2.sysu.edu.cn](mailto:linpy25@mail2.sysu.edu.cn)