

Sinology and the Translation of the Chinese Classics: Challenges Old and New

8 September 2022, Thursday | 6pm - 9:30pm | SHHK Auditorium

Following the translations of the Chinese Classics into Latin by Jesuit missionaries since the early 17th century, our modern translations by professional Sinologists--including missionary-scholars like James Legge--date from the late 19th and early to mid-20th centuries. Today, we live in a new golden age of translations of classical Chinese texts, with at least four new dedicated publication series at prestigious American and European presses. In addition, multiple individual translation projects are underway. This lecture examines the current trends in the translation of classical Chinese literary, philosophical, and historical texts and raises new and fundamental questions about them. If the wealth of recently discovered manuscripts from ancient China ask us to re-examine early Chinese intellectual and literary history by providing us with new texts as well as rather different versions of the texts we know from the tradition, how can this not affect our efforts at translation?



Prof Martin Kern is Chair Professor in Asian Studies at Princeton University. Specializing in the study of Chinese antiquity, especially poetry, he combines close textual analysis with comparative perspectives and critical theory. He is particularly interested in the practices of textual composition, transmission, and hermeneutics in the first millennium BCE. In addition, he has an abiding interest in translation studies as one of the subjects he teaches regularly at Princeton. At Renmin University of China (Beijing), he directs the "International Center for the Study of Ancient Text Cultures." Kern also serves as co-editor of *T'oung Pao*.

Chairperson: Prof Kwan Sze Pui Uganda

Director, the Master of Arts in Translation and Interpretation Programme
School of Humanities, Nanyang Technological University

Register here:
<http://soh.school/mti-kern>



Contact:
mti@ntu.edu.sg

