

**BAAHE Conference (2 December 2022) – Keynote Lecture Douglas ROBINSON
(introduction)**

For this second keynote address, we are very happy and honoured to welcome Douglas ROBINSON, who is currently Professor of Translating and Interpreting at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Emeritus Professor of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies at Hong Kong Baptist University.

He has published widely in a variety of fields pertaining to human communication [in general]: these include literary, language, translation and postcolonial studies, namely the main areas covered by Lilith, CIRTI and CEREP, the local research centres under the auspices of which today's conference is organised.

Professor Robinson's output, both as a scholar and a practitioner of translation (not to mention his achievement[s] as a creative writer), is extremely impressive: next to a range of translations from Finnish to English, he has published no less than 24 scholarly monographs, an anthology, an essay collection, 6 textbooks (e.g. *Becoming a Translator: An Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Translation*) and even a novel in Finnish translation.

In particular, he is one of the contemporary leading experts in the field of translation studies, where his numerous book-length publications, such as *The Translator's Turn* (1991), *Translation and Empire: Postcolonial Approaches Explained* (1997), *Performative Linguistics: Speaking and Translating as Doing Things With Words* (2003), *Translation and the Problem of Sway* (2011), *Critical Translation Studies* (2017) or *Priming Translation: Cognitive, Affective, and Social Factors* (2021), have been highly influential. The concepts of somaticity and performativity take pride of place in his work, where he attempts, for instance, to move beyond Western binaries by investigating feeling as thinking. On this account,

his writings have been especially well received in China, where he now lives and works.

With *The Translator's Turn* (1991), his first book on translation, Professor Robinson pioneered a “physicalist approach” (xiii) he named the somatics of translation: this ‘somatic turn’ focuses on [quote from abstract] “the ways in which the translator’s preconscious affect conditions and guides cognitive decision-making.” In recent years, this early reflection has been caught up in the humanities’ so-called Cognitive Turn – the phrase refers to “the assimilation into translation studies of [4EA] cognitive science [– studying, among others, embodiment, and affect].” Today’s keynote lecture, entitled “Diving into the River: The Somatic Undercurrents of Deverbalization,” stems from that [same] new turn and will offer a somatic exploration of this central – yet somewhat unfathomable – concept, which was originally proposed by Danica Seleskovitch in her well-known 1968 Interpretive Theory (*théorie du sens*).

Thank you very much again, Professor Robinson – we are grateful that you accepted our invitation. We will take questions from the audience after your talk but the floor is now yours.