John Minford is Professor at the School of Culture, History & Language, ANU. He has translated a large number of Chinese literary works, both pre-modern and modern.

Reflections on translating the I Ching

The I Ching was one of the very first of the Chinese classics to be put into a European language. An extraordinary group of French Jesuits at the court of the Kangxi Emperor produced a complete and fluent Latin version in the early 18th century, which however remained in manuscript until it was printed in Germany a hundred years later. John Minford’s new translation of the I Ching will be published in October of this year. In this seminar, he will first look back at the story of the Jesuit and other early translations, and will then reflect on some of the challenges faced by the modern translator of this enigmatic and ultimately mysterious text.
5 June 2014, 4:00pm - 5:30pm (Thursday)
Seminar Room A, CIW Building
Australian Centre on China in the World, Building 188, Fellows Lane, ANU

John Minford

Reflections on translating the I Ching

The ANU China Seminar Series is a fortnightly seminar at which invited guests present their latest research on China and the Sinophone world. It aims at a broad audience. Speakers come from across the full range of disciplines and include senior scholars from within and outside ANU, younger academics, post-doctoral research fellows, and advanced graduate students. The seminar series provides an arena in which to discuss China in its widest sense, to acquaint people with a range of China-related research that might otherwise lie outside their scope of contact, and to offer a social setting for discussion of matters of mutual interest. Graduate and Honours students are encouraged to attend in order to familiarise themselves with advanced academic debate and to meet ANU’s academic community. Seminars are generally held on alternate Thursdays during the semester, from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

AFTER THE SEMINAR
To allow for informal discussion, the seminar will be followed by a dinner with the guest speaker at 6.15 pm. All are welcome, though those who attend will need to pay for their own food and drinks. As reservations must be made, please RSVP by noon of the day before the seminar to jasmine.lin@anu.edu.au.

The China Seminar Series is sponsored by the China Institute, with the Australian Centre on China in the World and the College of Asia & the Pacific.

Convenors: Mark Strange (mark.strange@anu.edu.au), Elisa Nesossi (elisa.nesossi@anu.edu.au), and Ying Qian (ying.qian@anu.edu.au).

For further details of the series: http://chinainstitute.anu.edu.au

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JOHN MINFORD was educated at Winchester College and Balliol College, Oxford, where he graduated in 1968 with a degree in Chinese Studies. Over the subsequent 15 years he worked closely with David Hawkes on the Penguin Classics version of the 18th-century novel The Story of the Stone 红楼梦. He came to Canberra in 1977 and studied for his PhD under the late Liu Ts’un-yan 柳存仁. He went on to translate for Penguin a selection from Pu Songling’s Strange Tales 聊齋志異 and Sunzi’s The Art of War 孫子兵法. Since 2006, he has been Professor of Chinese at the ANU.