

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Breaking Down Literary Barriers

Professor Gail Jones from the Writing and Society Research Group in the College of Arts is investigating approaches to developing and implementing literary translation best practice and increasing the number of quality translated works from English to Chinese and Chinese to English. This research is supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.

'China and Australia are developing an increasingly close relationship in publishing, literary translation and writer exchanges', says Professor Jones. 'A publishers' forum at the Beijing Australian Writers Week identified translation as a major "bottleneck" in the Chinese-Australian literary exchange process. This project aims to increase the Chinese readership for Australian writers with new quality translated works and to foster the developing collaborative translation environment in China and Australia, as well as address translation issues for the publishing industries in these countries.'

Using a reciprocal translation arrangement, a Chinese literary translator will work with the researcher on an English-Chinese novel translation in readiness for publication in China and an Australian literary translator will work with a Chinese author on a Chinese-English translated work. Attendance at a Sydney translation workshop and a Shanghai Sino-English Translation Course this year will further the literary translation and publishing exchange.

Chinese-English collaboration has already been successful for UK English writers and the relatively new literary collaboration between Australia and China is leading to more published works for authors in both countries, boosting the Australian publishing market and sales of Australian works in China and increasing the availability of translated works for Australian readers.



Project Title: Australia-China Literary Translation Project

Funding has been set at: \$15,000

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September 2009

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.



Australian Government

