



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTE FOR CHINESE STUDIES

ICS presents the "Re-Imagining China's Past and Present" Lecture Series

Chinese Perspectives on Synaesthesia: From Sense to Sense, from Cognition to Culture, from Embodiment to Universality



Saturday, March 10, 2018

1:30 - 2:30 pm

Ballroom BC, The Blackwell Inn

2110 Tuttle Park Place

Chu-Ren Huang

Professor

Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Abstract: Synaesthesia (通感 / 联觉), with its Greek etymology, is a linguistic device that offers a unique window into our neuro-cognitive mechanisms as well as culturally grounded conceptualization. Linguistic synaesthesia in Chinese offers interesting facts that were not accounted for previously. 闻 'to smell', with its auditory etymology for instance, is an instance of sub-lexical synaesthesia marked by orthography with auditory-to-olfactory direction, which contradicts the embodiment based prediction. More recently, synaesthesia has been a showcase phenomenon for neuro-cognitive studies (e.g. Cytowic's (2003) *The Man Who Tasted Shapes*), yet linguistic synaesthesia hasn't received the attention it deserves until a few recent papers (Srik Lievers and Winter 2018, Zhao, Huang and Long 2018). In this talk, I will introduce a series of recent studies by our group focusing on new perspectives on synaesthesia driven by Chinese data. Topics addressed include the relation between synaesthesia and metaphor, the universality of mapping direction, the embodiment theory and/or neuro-cognitive basis of linguistic synaesthesia, and possible cultural influence

Bio: **Chu-Ren Huang** (PhD, Cornell 1987; DHC, Aix-Marseille 2013) is a chair professor at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He is a Fellow as well as past president of the Hong Kong Academy of the Humanities; and a permanent member of the International Committee on Computational Linguistics. He has published 25 books or edited volumes, more than 25 online or licensable language resources, over 190 journal articles or book chapters, and over 450 refereed conference papers. His recent and upcoming books include *A Reference Grammar of Chinese*, *Computational Processing of the Chinese Language*, and *Cambridge Handbook of Chinese Linguistics* (Cambridge); *Mandarin Chinese Words and Parts of Speech: A corpus-based study*, and *Routledge Handbook in Chinese Applied Linguistics* (Routledge); *Digital Humanities: Bridging the Divide* (Springer), and *Generative Lexicon Studies in Chinese* (Commercial Press). He is Editor in Chief of the journal *Lingua Sinica* and the book series *SNLP* (Cambridge), *SEAL*, *THIA* (Springer) and *FiCL* (PKU Press/Springer).

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Contact: Nathan Lancaster | East Asian Studies Center | lancaster.102@osu.edu | <http://easc.osu.edu>