Following the economic growth and geopolitical rise of China in the past decades we observe ambitions of the Chinese party-state to influence norms and world views across the globe. In recent years, the humanities have become an important playing field where increasing translations of Chinese authors, spanning from historians to philosophers and political scientists intend to shape the discourse outside of China. However, the opaque nature of translations activities—partly financed by the party-state and published by renowned publishers (Brill, Palgrave Macmillian, Routledge, Springer et al.)—makes it difficult to discern the boundary between propaganda and genuine contribution to academic discourse. This talk discusses what role translations play in questioning Eurocentrism in Western academia and what is necessary to properly understand Chinese contributions to global humanities.

Translation and the Right to Speak
The Global Turn in Contemporary Chinese Humanities

20 May 2024 (MON)
13:00-15:00 (JST)
@ Main Conference Room
Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, UTokyo

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