PhD Researcher Profile

Yoshiko Miko Shimizu

Yoshiko Shimizu (Miko) is a PhD candidate in the Department of Translation, Interpreting, and Intercultural Studies at Hong Kong Baptist University, commencing her research in 2024. Her research focuses on *Crisis Translation*, with particular attention to how interpreters can contribute to the mental well-being of marginalised individuals before, during and after crises.

Her doctoral project develops a trauma-informed interpreter training framework, integrating insights from *Disaster Psychology, Translation Studies*, and *Trauma Studies*. It addresses current gaps in interpreter preparedness for multilingual emergency response across all phases of crisis management. Key elements of her research include:

- Integrating disaster mental health support strategies into the interpreter training framework
- Applying trauma-informed approaches into interpreter training methodologies
- Exploring how interpreters' behaviour contributes to the mental well-being of linguistic minorities across the crisis cycle

In addition to her doctoral work, Miko has published a critical book review in *New Voices in Translation Studies* on *Language as a Social Determinant of Health: Translating and Interpreting the COVID-19 Pandemic*, which explores challenges in pandemic communication. Her ongoing research aims to expand into empirical studies and training frameworks for interpreters working in crisis settings.

With professional experience in interpreting, Miko brings practical insights to her academic work. Prior to her PhD, she taught courses in Crisis Translation and Interpreting at University College London, the University of Bath and Hong Kong Baptist University, bridging theory and practice.

Miko's work reconsiders the interpreter's role in crises by highlighting the importance of both accurate language support and sensitivity to mental well-being. Her interdisciplinary approach contributes to ongoing efforts to integrate mental health awareness into crisis communication and interpreter training practices.