

SEMINAR

of **LANGUAGE CENTRE,**

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY and

**HONG KONG AND MACAU ASSOCIATION FOR
EUROPEAN STUDIES**

**The Anglo-French North Pole: Editing and Translating
*Verne's Adventures of Captain Hatteras***

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Abstract

Before proceeding to the formal presentation of Jules Verne's novel, I will speak generally about my edition of *The Adventures of Captain Hatteras* (OUP, 2005): why Verne still has a reputation problem, the previous works in the series, the research on the editions/manuscripts and for the 400 footnotes, and how the translation was carried out.

Le Capitaine Hatteras (1864-5) is a gripping adventure story about a quest for the North Pole, a miraculous spot for a writer obsessed with reaching the ends of the world. The 140,000-word double-decker was the second novel Verne published and is, with *Twenty Thousand Leagues*, the work he put the most of himself into and the most historical and geographic documentation. The original ending, where Hatteras perishes in a live volcano at the North Pole, is preferable in many ways — even if the suicide was censored by the publisher.

Bio-data

Dr. William Butcher teaches in the GIS at Baptist University. He was Founding Director of the Language Centres at the HKIVE, and has worked at the ENA and the University of Oxford. He has published more than a hundred articles, translations and books, including the bestselling *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* (Folio Society, 2001).

**4.30-6.00 pm, Monday, 3 May, M906, OEN Hall, Ho Sin Hang
Campus, HKBU**

All are welcome