Translation and Comparative Cultural Studies:  
East-West in Dialogue  

A Conference  

Thursday, 8 and Friday, 9 May 2014  

Venue: Institute of Modern Languages Research, University of London  
Room 349, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU  

Responding to the growing need for greater intercultural dialogue between 'Western', Asian and Arabic cultures, the conference will explore areas of overlap and difference in Eastern and Western traditions of translation and comparative studies. By enacting dialogue between the various traditions, rather than presenting them in terms of traditional dichotomies or subsuming them under monolithic concepts of universal values, the event aims to contribute towards a reshaping of our understanding of intercultural encounters and engagement.  

The link between Translation Studies and Comparative Cultural Studies is key and mutually productive: while comparative studies is currently engaging with the notion of the incomparability of cultures, translation studies, while equally engaging with the notion of untranslatability, is based on the necessity to compare in order to find appropriate equivalents. By animating the link between these disciplines, we aim to contribute to the outlining of new horizons for both.  

Keynote speakers: Maria Tymoczko, Mona Baker, Theo D’Haen, Judy Wakabayashi, Kirsten Malmkjær, Defeng Li, Ferial Ghazoul and Farzaneh Farahzad.  

Background image: Construction of the Tower of Babel by Peter Bruegel the Elder, 1563 (image in the public domain)  

This conference is organised by Maike Oergel and Kathryn Batchelor at the Centre for Translation and Comparative Cultural Studies, University of Nottingham, in conjunction with the Institute of Modern Languages Research at the School of Advanced Study, University of London.  

The organisers are grateful to the British Comparative Literature Association for its sponsorship of this event.  

Advance registration required. To attend, please use the form attached to this programme, which can also be downloaded from http://events.sas.ac.uk/imlr/events/view/15631/Translation+and+Comparative+Cultural+Studies  

Suggestions for overnight accommodation in the vicinity of the venue can be found at http://modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/node/39  

Registration fees (including sandwich lunches and teas/coffees on both days):  

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<th>Both Days</th>
<th>One Day only</th>
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<tr>
<td>Standard rate</td>
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<td>Friends of Germanic Studies/Friends of Italian at the IMLR</td>
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<td>Student rate (with proof of student status: photocopy/scan of University ID card)</td>
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Closing date for receipt of registration: Friday, 25 April 2014  

Contact: jane.lewin@sas.ac.uk
Translation and Comparative Cultural Studies: East-West in Dialogue

Programme

Thursday, 8 May 2014

09.00-09.30  Registration and Welcome
09.30-10.30  Keynote Lecture 1

Judy Wakabayashi (Kent State, USA): Comparative Translation Histories (Asian Traditions)

10.30-12.10  Parallel Sessions

Panel 1

Taysir Nashif (Temple University, Philadelphia): Cultural Backgrounds and the Issues of Incompatibility and Untranslatability in Western and Arab Texts
Ahmed Elimam (University of Leicester): Exchange of Cultural Products between East and West: Translating the Qur’an
Shima Jazayeri (Allameh Tabatabai University, Tehran): East and West: Exchange of Genres
Ahmed Al Shilabi (Misurata University, Misrata): The Post-colonial Libyan Novel: Self-Orientalism and Occidentalism

Panel 2

Xiaomei Wu (Beijing University of Technology): The Critical History of Ezra Pound in China
Yang Lui (Nanjing University): Globalization, Cultural Identities and Intellectuals in the 20th-Century English Translation Market
Xiping Shinnie (Chengdu University): Equality and Diversity in a Global and Multicultural Context: the Reception and Recreation of Postcolonial Translation Theory in China and Beyond
Nam Fung Chang (Lingnan University, Hong Kong): Does ‘Translation’ Reflect a Narrower Concept than ‘fanyi’? On the Impact of Western Theories on China

12.10-13.00  Lunch
13.00-14.00  Keynote Lecture 2

Kirsten Malmkjær (University of Leicester): Embracing Creativity in Translation Theory

14.00-15.40  Parallel Sessions

Panel 3

Margaret Litvin (Boston University): ‘Forgive me, Tolstoi!’: Russian Literature and Russian Reality in Arab Writers’ Lives
Anna Ponomareva (University College London/Imperial College London): Translation between Indian Languages and Russian in the USSR
Manoj Kumar (EFL University, Hyderabad): Early Hindustani Oral Folk Poetry and the Configurations of Language Boundaries: a Case Study of the Toto Kahani and the Baital Pachisi
Sebnem Susam-Saraeva (University of Edinburgh): Intimacy between East and West: Travels of rembetico across the Aegean

Panel 4

Liping Bai (Chinese University, Hong Kong): A Study of Wu Mi’s Discourse on Translation
Xu Minhui (Ocean University, Qingdao): Thick Translation and Intercultural Communication
Abolfazi Horri (Allameh Tabatabai University, Tehran): Towards Devising a Model for Narrative Fiction in Persian Translation: Narrative Levels through Halliday’s Metafunctions
Mehrangiz Anvarhaghighi (University College of Nabi Akram, Tabriz): Translators, Educational Background and Mode of Representation

Panel 5

Zhen Liu (University of Macau): From Text to Object: Introducing Chinese Porcelain to Britain by Sir Percival David’s Translation
Bo Li (Chinese University, Hong Kong): Early 20th-Century Literary Translations in Chinese Newspapers in Hong Kong
Tzu-yi Elaine Lee (Chung Yuan Christian University): Reconstructing Cultures from the Outside: the Chinese Translation of A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers
Aleksandra Vranes & Ljiljana Markovic (Belgrade University): The Contribution of Belgrade University to the Development of Comparative Cultural Studies in Serbia

15.40-16.10  Tea
16.10-17.00  Parallel Sessions

Panel 6

Leon Burnett (University of Essex): Translation Reflex: the Example of Wang Jiaxin
Sayyed Behlahani (Islamic Azad University, Karaj): The Exchange of Cultural Products between East and West: the Contribution of Western Literature to Shaping the Centre of the Persian Literary Polysystem and Vice Versa

Panel 7

Yingyi Zhuang (City University, Hong Kong): The Discursive Construction and Reconstruction of Us and Them: a Corpus-Based Study of News Translation between East and West
Aziza Afkir (University Mohammed V Agdal-Rabat): Diplomatic Translation: Cultural and Political Hurdles

Panel 8

Matthew Chozik (Temple University, Japan Campus): Unmasking Hybridity and Foreign Influence on the Japanese Reception of the Tale of Genji
Hunam Yun (Hongik University): The Ambilaterality of Fluency in Translating Literature in Peripheral Contexts

17.00-19.00  Break
19.00-21.00  Keynote Lectures 3 and 4

Maria Tymoczko (University of Massachusetts): Towards an Approach to Translation Theory that Facilitates East-West Dialogue
Theo D’Haen (Catholic University, Leuven): Anthologizing World Literature in Translation
Friday, 9 May 2014

09.00-11.00  **Keynote Lectures 5 and 6**
- **Ferial Ghazoul** (American University, Cairo): Cultural Factors in Medieval and Modern Translations from and into Arabic
- **Farzaneh Farahzad** (Allameh Tabatabai University, Tehran): Translation Theories across Geographies

11.00-11.20  Coffee

11.20-13.10  **Parallel Sessions**

**Panel 9**
- **Mansoureh Modarres** (University of Alberta): Identities in Transition in Persian Modernist Literature: a Study of Simin Danesghar’s Fiction
- **Sevinc Türkkan** (State University of New York): Teaching Translation and World Literature: 1001 Nights
- **Ayari Cozzo** (University of Essex): Did Paul Bowles Translate Maghrebi Stories?
- **Catarina Calafat & Amina Douidi** (University of the Balearic Islands): Cultural Loss in the Voyage of Ahlam Mosteghanemi’s Dakirat al-jasad from the Algerian Arabic to the European French and English

**Panel 10**
- **James Weaver** (University of Zurich): Searching for Heretics in Islamic Studies: Conceptual Incongruence and Translation in the Writing of Islamic History
- **Taoufiq Sakkhane** (Fes-Sais, Morocco): Harold Bloom and Abu Hayyan al-Tawhidi: the ‘Saints of Reception’ and the Towers of Babel
- **Neda Kashani** (University of Macerata): The Ghazal’s Ambiguity and Adrienne Rich’s Feminist Language: the Influence of Translating Ghalib’s Ghazals into English
- **Lu Shisheng** (Nankai University): A Comparison of the Two Pairs of Doubles in Hsueh-chin Tsao’s A Dream of the Red Mansion and Edgar Allan Poe’s *William Wilson*

13.10-14.00  Lunch, with a multi-media artwork by **Heather Connelly** (Loughborough University)

14.00-15.00  **Parallel Sessions**

**Panel 12**
- **Xiuhua Ni** (Guangzhou University): Translating the Socialist Nation: Outward Translation of Chinese Literature in the Chinese People’s Republic 1949-1966
- **Lily Yu** (University of Nottingham, Ningbo Campus): Intercultural Transfer and Cultural Opposition in The North China Lover

**Panel 13**
- **Hassan Arefi** (Mofid University, Qom): Joke Translation across English and Iranian Cultures
- **Mina Ahmadi** (Payame Noor University, Tehran): Why Not Fitzgerald’s *Salaman and Absal*?

15.00-16.00  **Keynote Lecture 7**
- **Mona Baker** (University of Manchester): Translation in Protest Movements

16.00-16.30  Tea

16.30-17.50  **Parallel Sessions**

**Panel 14**
- **Klaus Mundt** (University of Nottingham): Bridging Etic Knowing and Emic Understanding of Cultural Concepts
- **Wan Hu** (University of Nottingham): Dissertation Writing on Chinese MTI Programmes: Cross-Cultural Improvements
- **Haslina Haroon** (Sains University, Malaysia): Translator Training and Education in Malaysia

**Panel 15**
- **Behrooz Mahmoodi-Bakhtiari** (University of Tehran): Persian Euphemism in Translation
- **Abdollah Karimzadeh** (University of Tubingen): Iran into the Kafkaesque
- **Pilar López** (Jaume I University, Castellón de la Plana): Writing Translation History in the Iberian Domain
- **Sarah Eardley-Weaver** (Queen’s University, Belfast): Debating the Universality of the Audience-Driven Approach to Translation Theory

17.50  **Keynote Lecture 8**
- **Defing Li** (School of Oriental and African Studies, London): Translation Curriculum Development

followed by Round-Table Discussion

19.00  Conference Ends