

Report from the ICLA Translation Studies Committee
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Since my committee is still being formed, I do not yet have that much to report. As I described in our meeting at the University of Chicago, I am seeking a wide-ranging and linguistically diverse committee and expect to meet with some potential members at the Paris conference. I have meanwhile received several excellent suggestions—Luo Xuanmin and Xie Tianzhen (China), Assumpta Camps (Spain), Sergio Adamo (Italy), as well as Elif Batuman (Turkey). Martha Cheung (Hong Kong) has already agreed to join.

By the end of the summer, I expect to have the committee itself in place and to begin organizing a joint research project. If possible, I hope to hold an initial committee meeting at Princeton in spring or fall 2014. One research topic that seems to me promising for a geo-linguistically diverse group is “translation and migration.” Bringing together concrete and often dramatic linguistic, political, geographical, historical and social issues as well as a vast range of theoretical questions (such as identity, gender, multilingualism, self-translation), such a topic could provide the basis for many sorts of comparison. Indeed, the way we organize such a project would say much about our sense of translation studies and of comparative literature; the interconnections would need to be articulated. There may be other topics that the committee would prefer and I would of course be open to other ideas as well. In any case, I have discussed publication of such a joint project with one journal editor already, though it might make sense to consider creating a book instead.

For now, this is all I have to report, though by the end of the Paris conference, I should have much more concrete information to relay.

Thank you for your patience as I get this committee and a first research project underway.