

COMMITTEE ON TRANSLATION REPORT (2016)

The ICLA Committee on Translation has had another successful year. It generated new members, new ideas, and two excellent conference panels—one for the ACLA and another for the ICLA, both on the topic of “Engaging Publics in and through Translation.”

The seminar for the March, 2016 ACLA at Harvard offered a stimulating set of papers exploring issues of the translator’s relationship to audiences he or she seeks to engage or that he or she in some way reaches (at times unintentionally). Such spheres of reception might be defined by citizenship, language fluencies, and geographic region, but also by access to different media, or by various cultural, ethnic, and institutional affiliations. Throughout the two day discussion, scholars reflected, in a variety of ways, on translation’s changing place in the global public sphere.

During our annual Committee meeting, also held at Harvard, old and new members discussed our seminar theme for ACLA 2017 (our sessions will likely focus on the topic of “Translation Networks”). We also considered some new directions for our committee to take in the years ahead. We are eager to engage more people in thinking about current translation issues and have discussed various sorts of “Translation Get-togethers” that we might propose during conferences in addition to our regular seminars and annual Committee business meeting. These might, for instance, include a reading/discussion by a well-known local translator; or a gathering where each committee member reads a favorite (short) translation to the group. We might also consider volunteering our services as translators in some way for the public good. In any case, we will consider various ideas for an additional annual gathering during our business meeting in Vienna.

When we get together at the ICLA, we will also discuss plans for publishing a number of the papers given at the two recent conferences as a special journal issue.

I list below the fine set of papers presented at ACLA 2016, followed by those scheduled for the July ICLA conference in Vienna.

Papers given at ACLA 2016:

Stream C: March 18, 2016

Chen Wang, UMinnesota, “Translingual Practices of the Translingual Practice”

Isabel Gómez, UCalifornia, Los Angeles, “Bringing Classics to Reluctant 21st Century Publics: Monolingual, Anti-Intellectual, and Performative Readings of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz”

Adriana Jacobs, OxfordU, “The Status of Translation”

Stream C: March 19, 2016

Marlene Esplin, Brigham YoungU, “Approaching Translation Activism”

Yumiao Bao, EdinburghU, “Power in/through Translation in the May Fourth Discursive Arenas”

Jordan Smith, Josai InternationalU, “Fiat Lux, Fiat Translatio: An Ethics for Engineering in Translationscapes”

Inci Sariz-Bilge, UMassachusetts, Amherst, “Transgression of the Sayable: Narrative Communities of Translation during the Gezi Resistance”

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The Committee's program for the Vienna conference is as follows:

ICLA Panel 17336 "Engaging Publics in and Through Translation"

Slot #1: Translation's Global Publics

Assumpta Camps, UBarcelona, "The Challenges of Legal Translation in Multicultural Societies,"

Marlene Esplin, Brigham YoungU, "Climate Activism and Translation"

Angela Kölling, UGothenburg, "The Visible Translator—Engaging the Public at International Book Fairs"

Chip Rossetti, Library of Arabic Literature, "Classical Arabic Literature for a 21st-Century English Readership: The Experience of the Library of Arabic Literature"

Slot #2: Translation and the Creation of Reading Publics

Alexandra Lopes, UCatólica Portuguesa, "Growing Up Cosmopolitan: Imagining the World through Translation in Childhood"

Spencer Scoville, Brigham YoungU, "Creating New Reading Publics through Translation"

Isabel Gómez, UCalifornia, Los Angeles, "Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and her Reluctant 21st Century Publics: Monolingual, Anti-Intellectual, and Performative Readings"

Spencer Hawkins, BilkentU, "How to Reach the Public: Editorial Visions for Retranslation Projects"

Slot #3: Transforming Texts and Contexts

Emron Esplin, Brigham Young U, "Martí Evermore: José Martí as Reader and Translator of Edgar Allan Poe"

Nirmala Menon, Indian Institute of Technology, "Translating Silence(s) in Mahashweta Devi's Imaginary Maps translated by Gayatri Spivak"

Katharine Streip, ConcordiaU, "Roberto Bolaño and the Precarious Space of Literature"

Jayshree Singh, Bhupal Nobles' Post-Graduate College, "Translation: A Social Fact and Practice,"

Thanks to all for your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Bermann, Princeton U. (Chair)