

2019-2020 Report on the Committee on Translation Studies International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA) November 30, 2020

In our seventh year, the ICLA Research Committee on Translation Studies held a successful election for new leadership, organized a research seminar titled “Translating Home,” and moved forward our research agenda despite the challenges of the global pandemic. Our research committee comprises a small leadership group of six and a larger email list of participants of over 150 scholars internationally.

Our double seminar “Translating Home” included twenty-four participants and was accepted for the annual ACLA conference in Chicago (see schedule below). Due to COVID-19, that conference unfortunately was cancelled. We have proposed this seminar theme again for ACLA 2021, and we await the news from the conference committee whether our seminar was accepted.

The election of new officers would have taken place during our annual business meeting at ACLA; instead, we conducted an online election through a Google Form emailed to all committee participants. Our leadership group (see names and bios below) was elected for the current term running until Summer 2022 when we anticipate holding elections at the next ICLA Congress.

In order to maintain momentum for our “Translating Home” seminar, Isabel Gómez and Marlene Esplin convened a virtual workshop this summer, where interested participants could share papers in progress and receive feedback. This virtual workshop took place on Zoom on June 19-20, 2020 and included fourteen participants organized into three panels (see schedule below).

Our committee’s topic “Translating Home: Migration, Refuge, and Human Rights” was initially discussed at ACLA 2019, initiated in the ICLA Congress in Macau in 2019, and brought to fruition at our virtual seminar during 2020. In this seminar, we consider how translation participates in both home-building and the “un-homing” of communities. Participants explore translation as a crucial means of homebuilding, assuaging the loss of language or homeland; or, conversely, translation as complicit in “un-homing,” exposing the tenuousness of linguistic nationalisms, or re-inscribing already established linguistic and cultural borders. We plan to revisit this theme for ACLA 2021, and discussions are in progress for collecting an edited volume on this theme drawing from ICLA Translation Committee participants.

Leadership Group Elected June 2020 (Bios below):

President

Isabel Gómez, University of Massachusetts Boston, isabel.gomez@umb.edu

Vice-President

Assumpta Camps, University of Barcelona, a.camps@ub.edu

Secretary

Marlene Hansen Esplin, Brigham Young University, mhesplin@byu.edu

Steering Committee Members

Spencer Hawkins, University of Mainz, shawkins@uni-mainz.de

Youngmin Kim, Dongguk University, yk4147@gmail.com

Stephen Zhongqing Wu, Hainan College of Economics and Business

Bios of our newly elected leadership group:

Isabel Gómez is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Latin American & Iberian Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Recent publications can be found in the *Journal of World Literature*, *Hispanic Review*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Mutatis mutandis*, and *Translation Review*. Her book in progress titled *Cannibal Translation: Literary Reciprocity in Contemporary Latin America* illuminates the translation practices of twentieth-century Latin American authors as forms of creative destruction and generous homage; she received a 2019 ACLS Fellowship for this project.

Assumpta Camps is Chair of Italian Philology, and Full Professor of Literary Translation and Italian Literature at the University of Barcelona (Spain). She has published several books: *Recepción de Gabriele D'Annunzio en Cataluña*, 2 vols. (1996-1999); *Estudios literarios I: La traducción* (1998); *Historia de la Literatura Italiana Contemporánea*, 2 vols. (2000-2001); *Estudios literarios II. La recepción literaria* (2002); *Studi critici di letteratura italiana contemporanea* (2003), *Italia-España en la época contemporánea. Estudios críticos sobre la traducción y recepción literarias* (2009), *El Decadentismo italiano en la literatura catalana* (2010), *Italia en la prensa periódica durante el franquismo* (2014), *Traducción y recepción de la literatura italiana* (2014) and *La traducción en la creación del canon poético. Recepción de la poesía italiana en el ámbito hispánico en la primera mitad del siglo XX* (2015). Among the several books she has edited, we'll mention *Literary Translation in the Contemporary Age* (2008), *Translation and Multiculturalism* (2008), and *La traducción en las relaciones italo-españolas: lengua, literatura y cultura* (2012). She is the author of more than one hundred papers in international conferences and specialized journals on her research fields. She is the chief editor of "TRANSFER, e-journal on Translation and Intercultural Studies" (edited in Barcelona since 2006), and the main researcher of several national and international research projects.

Marlene Hansen Esplin is Assistant Professor of Humanities in the Department of Comparative Arts and Letters at Brigham Young University. Her main research interests are self-translation and problems of translation or rewriting between U.S. and Latin American literatures. Recent projects include an article that examines intersections between translation and ethnography in English translations of Cabeza de Vaca's *Relación* and an article that analyzes the exuberant word-play in works by multi-media artist Celia Álvarez Muñoz. She is currently the Secretary of the ICLA Committee on Translation Studies.

Spencer Hawkins is a research fellow in the Department of Translation, Linguistics, and Cultural Studies at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz and holds a PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of Michigan. He has been Secretary of the ICLA Committee on Translation Studies for five years and remains a member of the Steering Committee. His research has primarily focused on the range of strategies employed in the translation of German philosophy into English, and he is the translator of Hans Blumenberg's *The Laughter of the Thracian Woman* (Bloomsbury, 2015). His newest work deals with the (self)translation of scholars living in anglophone countries while exiled from Nazi-occupied Europe.

Youngmin Kim got his Ph. D. at the University of Missouri-Columbia, and is currently Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus at Dongguk University, Seoul, Korea and Jack Ma Chair Professor at Hangzhou Normal University, China. He is currently Editor-in-Chief of *Journal of English Language and Literature of Korea*, Vice-President of IAELC (International Association of Ethical Literary Criticism), and Executive Council Member of ICLA (International Comparative Literature Association), a member of Steering Committee Member of the ICLA Committee on Translation Studies, a member of Editorial Board of *CLCWeb*, *Foreign Literature Studies*, *International Yeats Journal*. He was Visiting Professor at Cornell University and Sapporo Gakuin University in Japan, and the Faculty Affiliate of the East Asia Center and Visiting Scholar at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville. He has received major research grants as the PI from the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) for the “Trans Media, Digital Humanities, and World Literature” project (2017-2020) and “Transnationalism and Cultural Translation” (2008-2011), and many others. His current interest includes world poetics, critical theory, and posthumanism, and digital humanities. His recent work focuses on comparative world literature, posthumanism and digital humanities, and cultural translation.

Stephen Zhongqing Wu is an English lecturer at Hainan College of Economics and Business, the P. R. China. He holds an MA in Applied Linguistics and is a member of the ICLA Translation Committee and the Translators Association of China. He has had extensive working experience in the corporate, financial and language service providing sectors in China before engaging in academics. His publication in Chinese and English includes papers, articles of translation and essays published in China and the US, Chinese translations of *Eating Women Telling Tales* by Bulbul Sharma (a collection of Indian English short stories, Haikou: Nanhai Publishing Co., Ltd., P.R. China), and *The Lion Companion to Church Architecture* by David Stancliffe (co-translated, the second translator, Zhengzhou: Daxiang Publishing House, P.R. China). His Chinese translation of *Religio Medici and Other Writings* by Sir Thomas Browne and Dr Samuel Johnson will be forthcoming in Taiwan. His areas of research interest include intercultural studies, translation studies, and comparative literature researched from the multilingual and interdisciplinary perspectives.

Virtual Workshop Schedule

Friday June 19 and Saturday June 20, 2020

“Translating Home: Migration, Refuge, and Human Rights”

Organizers: Isabel Gómez (UMass Boston)
Marlene Hansen Esplin (Brigham Young University)

Friday June 19th

10am - 12:00pm (EST) – Group A – Respondent: Isabel Gómez

Spectropoetics of “home”: Translation, language, violence
Wafa Hamid, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Border Talk: Translation and Planetaryity in Spivak
Avishbek Ganguly, Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)

Revisiting Shakuntalam’s translations, exploring indigeneity, rethinking cultural translation and postcolonial
Sachida Nand Jha, University of Delhi

Translation and Human Rights: My Case of the Non-publication of Religio Medici and Other Writings by Sir Thomas Browne and Dr Samuel Johnson in the P. R. China
Stephen Zhongqing Wu, Hainan College of Economics and Business

12:30 pm - 2:15pm (EST) – Group B – Respondent: Marlene Hansen Esplin

Susan Sontag, Vilem Flusser, & the Photograph in Clarice Lispector’s “The Smallest Woman in the World”
Magdalena Edwards, University of California Los Angeles

An Almost Invisible Scene: Collaboration and Co-Creation in the Task of Translating Ricardo Piglia
Sergio Waisman, George Washington University

The Poetic Interpreter Figure in the Immigrant Detention Center
Alexandra Lossada, Johns Hopkins University

Translating Home In and Between Valeria Luiselli’s English and Spanish Versions of Her Work
Marlene Hansen Esplin, Brigham Young University

Saturday June 20th

10am - 12:00pm (EST) – Group C – Respondent: Paulo Horta

Translation as Allyship and the Literature of Migration
Corine Tachtiris, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Linguistic Resistance: The Contradictions of Translating Modern Yiddish Poetry
Golda van der Meer, University of Barcelona

Translating Haitian-Dominican Community after the Earthquake
Shawn González, Princeton University

“A Big, Beautiful Wall”: Experimental Translation as Decolonial Practice in Mónica de la Torre’s Repetition Nineteen
Janet Hendrickson, University of Dallas

Transborder Artists, Unhomely Texts: Translation, Divestment, and the Politics of Form
Isabel Gomez, University of Massachusetts Boston

**ACLA 2020 – Double Seminar Organized by the ICLA Translation Committee –
unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19 global pandemic**

Translating Home I: Migration, Refuge, and Human Rights

Organizers: Isabel Gómez, UMass Boston

Sandra Bermann, Princeton University

Friday, March 20, 2020

Paulo Horta (New York University)
The “Unpublishable”: Foreign Writing of Migration

Urszula Rutkowska (Brown University)
Laughter Through the Dark: On Sam Selvon's Re-Write of The Lonely Londoners

Shawn González (Princeton University)
Translating Haitian-Dominican Community after the Earthquake

Corine Tachtiris (University of Massachusetts Amherst)
Translation as Allyship and the Literature of Migration

Saturday, March 21, 2020

Rachael Gilmour (Queen Mary University of London)
‘The language is the border’: translation, dangerous multilingualism, and the Refugee Tales project

Yael Flusser (University of Chicago)
Sharing Responsibility: Language Justice without Translation

Alexandra Lossada (Johns Hopkins University)
The Poetic Translator in the Immigrant Detention Center

Isabel Gómez (University of Massachusetts Boston)
Transborder Artists and Unhomely Texts: Translation and the Politics of Form

Sunday, March 22, 2020

Tatjana Soldat-Jaffe (Florida State University)
Translation as Experience

Golda van der Meer (University of Barcelona)
From a utopian Yiddishland to a desired Alexandria: the contradictions of translating modern Yiddish poetry

Olivia Buck (Appalachian State University)
This Language That is Not Mine Has Made it Impossible for Me to Speak: Statelessness and Citizenship as Translation in Khaled Khalifa's Death is Hard Work

Robin Ellis (College of William and Mary)
Extending Readership, Extending Home: The Weiter Schreiben Project and the Translation of Refugee Writers for a German Reading Public

Translating Home II: Indigeneity, Nation, and Translator Solidarity

**Organizers: Marlene Hansen Esplin, Brigham Young University
Assumpta Camps, University of Barcelona**

Friday, March 20, 2020

Janet Hendrickson (University of Dallas)
"An act of love . . . foreign to itself": Borders, Bodies, and the Translational Poetics of Daniel Borzutzky

Sergio Waisman (George Washington University)
An Almost Invisible Scene: Collaboration and Co-Creation in the Task of Translating Ricardo Piglia

Magdalena Edwards (UCLA Visiting Scholar, Latin America Institute)
On Vilem Flusser's Gesture of Photographing, the Dynamic of Freedom, Translation, and Clarice Lispector's "The Smallest Woman in the World"

Assumpta Camps (University of Barcelona)
Un-Homely Translation, Transcreation, and Other Productive Betrayals

Saturday, March 21, 2020

Marlena Cravens (University of Texas at Austin)

A "Brief Relation" in New World Violence: Translation Strategies in The Spanish Colonie (1583) from Its French and Spanish Antecedents

Reza Taher-Kermani (Nazarbayev University)
The Persian Presence in Victorian Poetry

Marlene Esplin (Brigham Young University)
Translating Indigeneity: Early English Translations of Cabeza de Vaca's Relación

Youngmin Kim (Dongguk University)
Translation as the Experiment Representing the Loss and Fragmentation of Nation: Double Consciousness in Diasporic Ethnic Literature

Sunday, March 22, 2020

Wafa Hamid (Jawaharlal Nehru University)
Lost in translation: Borders, Language and the Nation

Sevinc Turkkan (University of Rochester)
Translating the Stone Building: Solidarity and Confinement

Avishek Ganguly (Rhode Island School of Design)
Border Talk: Translation and Planetarity in Spivak

Sachida Nand Jha (University of Delhi)
Revisiting Shakuntalam's translations, exploring indigeneity, rethinking cultural translation and postcolonial

Report Respectfully Submitted on November 30, 2020 by,

Isabel Gómez
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Latin American & Iberian Studies
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