

## Report on the Committee on Translation Studies 2021-2022 International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA)

submitted June 22, 2022

In our eighth year, the ICLA Research Committee on Translation Studies continued our work to promote the interdisciplinary field of translation studies through organizing publications and facilitating the participation of an international network of scholars in conference seminars. In the 2021-2022 cycle, members of our leadership group have organized an edited volume of ten selected chapters building off the group's 2021 seminars. Titled *Translating Home: Migration, Refuge, Belonging in World Literatures*, this edited volume is currently under review with Routledge (see **Appendix I**). Additionally, we have organized two seminars on the theme of "Translation and Reparation," a concept we discussed and developed at our annual business meeting held on April 10, 2021 (see **Appendix II**). This seminar will take place first at the ACLA Conference (June 2022) with sixteen presenters (see **Appendix III**) and then with a broader cohort of twenty scholars (see **Appendix IV**) at the ICLA Congress (July 2022). Our research committee comprises a small leadership group of six (see **Appendix V**) and a larger email list of participants and affiliated researchers of nearly 200 scholars internationally.

Our research committee is open and warmly welcomes the participation and input of anyone interested in the field of translation studies. Should you have any questions or wish to join our email list, please contact the committee president Isabel C. Gómez ([Isabel.Gomez@umb.edu](mailto:Isabel.Gomez@umb.edu)) and our committee secretary Marlene Hansen Esplin ([mhesplin@byu.edu](mailto:mhesplin@byu.edu)).

**\*\*Appendix I: Book Abstract for *Translating Home: Migration, Refuge, Belonging in World Literatures* (an edited volume under review with Routledge as of May 2022; organized by co-editors Isabel C. Gómez and Marlene Hansen Esplin)**

*Translating Home: Migration, Refuge, and Belonging in World Literatures* examines the manifold connections between acts of translation and the movement of peoples across linguistic, cultural, and physical borders. The essays in this collection highlight how translation participates in both home-building and the un-homing of communities in the wake of widespread migration and displacement. Drawing from contemporary literary and cultural texts situated in border spaces around the world, each chapter raises questions of responsibility, planetary citizenship, and community solidarity to conceptualize translation's role in building an inclusive, multilingual public sphere. Scholarship interrogating the interrelationship between translation and migration often focuses on receiving nations and their necessity to make room for migrants in hegemonic language cultures.

The ten essays in *Translating Home* center migrants as writers and translators. Emphasizing twenty-first century literary production based in language cultures from the Global South, contributors investigate the way migrant translators challenge paradigms of national literatures to expose conditions of statelessness, to highlight the creative fertility of migrant writing, and to challenge norms of translation and publication that may reproduce national border policing on the level of the symbolic. Addressing a diverse range of literary genres—including poetry, novel, memoir, creative non-fiction, and social media writing—*Translating Home* positions the unique translation practices of migration and refuge in relation to increasingly relevant theoretical approaches, including eco-criticism, decolonial thought, and intersectional feminism.

## **\*\*Appendix II: Seminar Description “Translation and Reparation” – ACLA and ICLA 2022**

The ICLA Translation Committee invites papers exploring the relationship between translation and reparation in the context of multiple, overlapping global crises. Given that translation often serves structures of power and harm, including colonization and cultural erasure, how might translation also participate in forms of repair? In *Black and Blur*, critic and poet Fred Moten asks: “What if we could detach repair not only from restoration but also from the very idea of the original — not so that repair comes first but that it comes before. Then making and repair are inseparable, devoted to one another, suspended between and beside themselves.” Following Emily Apter’s question “what is a just translation?” we ask: what role could translation, conceived broadly, play in repairing racial injustice, social inequality, climate change, illness, and other challenges to our planet? Papers might draw from literary, theoretical, or interdisciplinary approaches to address themes including: race, identity, and belonging in translation; reparations in majoritarian and minoritarian languages; monolects and dialects; ecocriticism and ecological repair; translation and the law; decriminalization, linguistic human rights, and translational justice; feminist, queer/cuir, intersectional translation praxis; translational medicine and mental health in the interpretation field; translation in the anthropocene; interspecies, machine, AI translation; communities and solidarity in multilingual spaces; memorialization, public memory, truth and reconciliation as translation projects; precarity, austerity, and divestment from neoliberalism in translation; translation as self-fashioning or healing

## **\*\*Appendix III: Participants in ACLA 2022 Seminar “Translating Home” (16 total)**

The Postcolonial Chick Lit Industry: Translation and Identity Reparation

Presenter: Angela Kölling, Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz (University of Mainz)

Translation, Activism and Dissent in Contemporary Protest Movements in India

Presenter: Wafa Hamid, Lady Shri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi

Translating across Borders and Rereading Migration Law

Presenter: Dharshani Lakmali Jayasinghe, Stanford University

New Entangled Territories: Global Responsibilities and Ecocritical Perspectives in Translation

Presenter: Assumpta Camps, University of Barcelona

Translating for a wrong done. Theorising Translation as Epistemic Reparation

Presenter: Angelo Vannini, Université Paris 8 - Vincennes-Saint-Denis

Fantasies of Womanhood, Soft Power, and Translated Chinese SF

Presenter: Angie Chau, University of Victoria

Changing the Climate: Gender Inclusive Language and Cuir Decolonial Poetics

Presenter: Isabel Gómez, University of Massachusetts Boston

Oh Mercy, Mercy: Translational Justice and the Dinshaway Affair

Presenter: Hannah Scott Deuchar, Queen Mary University of London

Reparation in Juxtaposition: Toru Dutt's Transcreation

Presenter: Rimpa Roy, Subhas Chandra Bose Centenary College

In Troubled, Repair: Langston Hughes and the translation of Spanish-language fiction  
Presenter: Ricardo Wilson, Williams College

If Babel Had a Form: To Mend Equivalence, To Surrender Meaning  
Presenter: Tze-Yin Teo, University of Oregon

Translation as Healing: A Comparative Approach to Repair and Mental Health  
Presenter: Stephen Zhongqing Wu, Hainan College of Economics and Business, PRC

Translating the Medical: Healing through Rumena Bužarovska's Fiction  
Presenter: Višnja Krstić, Institute for Literature and Art, Belgrade

Translation and Contagion  
Presenter: Marlene Hansen Esplin, Brigham Young University

AI Translation and Eco-technological Repair  
Presenter: Youngmin Kim, Dogguk University

“Overcome by a Feeling of Place”: Classification and Translation in Death Comes for the Archbishop (1927)  
Presenter: Daniella Cádiz Bedini, Columbia University

**\*\*Appendix IV: Participants in ICLA 2022 Seminar “Translating Home” (20 total)**

Scattered Speculations on Translation and/as Repair  
Avishek Ganguly, Associate Professor, Rhode Island School of Design

Don Mee Choi's Radical Historiographies  
Clare Gullander-Drolet, Postdoctoral Fellow, Hong Kong University

Translation, Activism and Dissent in Contemporary Protest Movements in India  
Wafa Hamid, Assistant Professor,

How Oakura Kakuzo was read in Vietnam: Translation beyond the original  
Junko NIMURS, Associate Professor, Shirayuri University

Migration and/as Translation: Negotiations of New Forms of Sexual Subjectivity and Reparations of Colonial Legacies in Nina Bouraoui's Autofictional Writing  
William J. Spurlin, Professor, Brunel University London

Poetry between Resistance and Repair: Translational Solidarity with Central America  
Daniel Eltringham, Postdoc, University of Sheffield

Cuir/Queer Translation and Planetary Repair  
Isabel Gómez, Assistant Professor, University of Massachusetts Boston

Teaching the Translation of Crisis: Climatic and Pandemic  
Spencer Hawkins, Research Fellow, University of Mainz

Translating the Medical: Healing through Rumena Bužarovska's Fiction  
Visnja Krstic, Research Fellow, Independent Researcher

Translation as Fission: repairing towards eco-holism  
RINDON KUNDU, Assistant Professor, Sri Sri University

The Liberating Confines of Translation for Representatives of Minoritarian Languages  
Julie Allen, Professor, Brigham Young University

Self-Concealment and Imposture: Beyond the Double Invisibility of the Female Translator  
Assumpta Camps, Professor, University of Barcelona

The Postcolonial Chick Lit Industry: Translation and Identity Reparation  
Angela Kölling, Professor, Johannes Gutenberg-University

Translation and Transmission of John Keats in China (1949—1979)  
Haiying Liu, Associate Professor, China Agricultural University

Trans-Cultural Fan Fiction as Translation, and the Reparation of Being a Chinese  
Ye Jiang, Graduate Student, Leiden University

Uneasy Alliances: Visvasahitya, Comparative Literature and National Literature in India  
Sayantan Dasgupta, Associate Professor, Jadavpur University

Translating Sita: Mapping Mithila in World Literature  
Sachida Nand Jha, Professor, Raidhani College, Delhi University

The Retranslation of Walden and its Canonization in China  
Mingjuan ZHANG, associate Professor, Yantai University

Translation and Identity Formation in Transcultural Communicating Practice—Analysis of  
Representation of China in the First Half of Twentieth-Century  
Xinyi Zhao, Graduate Student, University College London

Translation and Bibliotherapy as Healing: A Comparative Approach to Reparation  
Stephen Zhongqing WU, Independent Researcher

**\*\* Appendix V: Current Leadership Group (Bios below):**

**President**

Isabel C. Gómez, University of Massachusetts Boston, [isabel.gomez@umb.edu](mailto:isabel.gomez@umb.edu)

**Vice-President**

Assumpta Camps, University of Barcelona, [a.camps@ub.edu](mailto:a.camps@ub.edu)

**Secretary**

Marlene Hansen Esplin, Brigham Young University, [mhesplin@byu.edu](mailto: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, wzq89898@163.com

## Bios of our leadership group:

**Isabel C. Gómez** is Associate Professor in the Department of Latin American & Iberian Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Her book *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. Forthcoming in Spring 2023 with the Northwestern University Press FlashPoints Series, Dr. Gómez received a 2019 ACLS Fellowship to complete research for this project, and the manuscript has been awarded the Helen Tartar First Book Subvention Prize from the ACLA. Recent publications can be found in the *Journal of World Literature*, *Hispanic Review*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Mutatis mutandis*, and *Translation Review*.

**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 Associate 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.

**\*\* Report Respectfully Submitted on June 22, 2022, on behalf of the ICLA Translation Committee Leadership Group, by:**

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Latin American & Iberian Studies  
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