



Interdisciplinary Symposium on Translation as a Site of Global Engagement

October 11, 2022

9:00 am – 7:30 pm EST – On Zoom

Registration is free but required: <https://bit.ly/3TQvrgy>

Organizers: Dr. David Boyd & Dr. Emek Ergun

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Sponsors

UNC Charlotte Inclusive Excellence Grant

Department of Languages and Culture Studies

Department of Global Studies

Office of Interdisciplinary Studies

Women's and Gender Studies Program

Department of Philosophy

In this interdisciplinary symposium exploring translation as a site of global engagement, translators and scholars from around the world come together to share their thoughts on the translator's role as activist and advocate. The daylong event includes discussions focused on decolonizing translation, cross-border feminist solidarities, queer translation, and translation as a radical democratic practice. The symposium also spotlights the work of two keynote speakers. Dr. Nicole Doerr will discuss the ways in which political translation can address structural inequality. Dr. Daisy Rockwell, translator of Geetanjali Shree's *Tomb of Sand* and winner of this year's International Booker Prize, will share her insights on the art of literary translation. Throughout the symposium, we seek to articulate translation's power to transform our world.

Symposium Program

9:00am-9:30am: Welcome Address by Dr. David Boyd (UNC Charlotte)

9:30am-10:50am – Seminar 1: “Violent Phenomena: Decolonizing Translation”

Speakers: Dr. Kavita Bhanot (University of Leicester) & Jeremy Tiang (Award-Winning Novelist and Translator)

Discussant: Dr. David Boyd (UNC Charlotte)

10:50am-11:00am – Session Break

11:00am-12:30pm – Seminar 2: “Translation as a Practice of Cross-Border Feminist Solidarities”

Speakers: Dr. Olga Castro (University of Warwick) & Dr. Marilyn Booth (University of Oxford)

Discussant: Dr. Emek Ergun (UNC Charlotte)

12:30pm-1:00pm – Lunch Break

1:00pm-2:20pm – Keynote Address 1: “Political Translating Discursive Inequalities? Interpreters’ Critical Third Position in Global Democracy”

Speaker: Dr. Nicole Doerr (University of Copenhagen)

Discussant: Dr. Carolyn Shread (Mount Holyoke College)

2:20pm-2:30pm – Session Break

2:30pm-3:50pm – Seminar 3: “Queer Translation as a Site of Decolonization”

Speakers: Dr. William Spurlin (Brunel University London) & Dr. Rajiv Mohabir (Emerson College)

Discussant: Dr. Chris Mellinger (UNC Charlotte)

3:50pm-4:00pm – Session Break

4:00pm-5:30pm – Seminar 4: “Translation as a Tool of Radical Democracy: Translating Kurdish Women Politicians’ Prison Writing”

Speakers: Janet Biehl (Translator/Editor), Dr. Ruken Isik (Independent Scholar), Mediha Sorma (University of Washington), Dr. Dilek Hüseyinzadegan (Emory University), Hazal Hürman (Princeton University), & Dr. Emek Ergun (UNC Charlotte)

Discussant: Dr. Andrea Pitts (UNC Charlotte)

5:30pm-6:00pm – Session Break

6:00pm-7:30pm – Keynote Address 2: “The Art of Translation in Crossing Borders”

Speaker: Daisy Rockwell (Award-Winning Translator)

Discussant: Dr. Juan Meneses (UNC Charlotte)

SPEAKERS AND DISCUSSANTS

Kavita Bhanot

Kavita Bhanot is ECR Leverhulme Fellow at Leicester University. Her fiction, non-fiction and academic work has been published, performed and broadcast widely, including the landmark essay “Decolonise not Diversify” and her Tedx Talk ‘Reading, Writing and Self-Interrogation’. She initiated and co-organized the Literature Must Fall Festival in Birmingham 2019, founded the Literature Must Fall Collective and is currently working on a monograph developing ideas connected to LMF (Pluto Press). She is editor of three anthologies of fiction, including *Too Asian, Not Asian Enough* (Tindal Street Press) and co-editor of *Violent Phenomena: 21 Essays on Translation* (Tilted Axis). Her translation from Hindi to English of Anjali Kaja’s stories, supported by a 2021 PEN Translates Award, is due to be published by Comma Press (2023) She has been a reader and mentor with The Literary Consultancy for over ten years and is currently running workshops with TLC, for publishers, on ethical editing. She is on the advisory board for Comma Press and Wasafiri. Her first novel won third prize in the 2018 SI Leeds Literary Prize.

Janet Biehl

Janet Biehl has translated several works on Kurdish subjects from German into English: *Democratic Autonomy in North Kurdistan* by TATORT Kurdistan (New Compass Press, 2013); *Revolution in Rojava: Democratic Autonomy and Women’s Liberation in Syrian Kurdistan* by Michel Knapp, Anja Flach, and Ercan Ayboga (Pluto Press, 2016); and *SARA* by Sakine Cansız (2 vols., Pluto Press, 2018, 2019). She recently collaborated on the forthcoming English translation of *The Purple Color of Kurdish Politics* by Gültan Kışanak (Pluto Press, 2022). Apart from translating, she is the author of *Ecology or Catastrophe: The Life of Murray Bookchin* (Oxford, 2016), and author and illustrator of *Their Blood Got Mixed: Revolutionary Rojava and the War on ISIS* (PM Press, 2022).

Marilyn Booth

Marilyn Booth is Khalid bin Abdallah Al Saud Professor for the Study of the Contemporary Arab World, Faculty of Oriental Studies and Magdalen College, University of Oxford. She was a research fellow at l’Institut d’Etudes Avancées, Paris, February-April 2022, working on historical translation between Arabic and French. Her most recent monograph, *The Career and Communities of Zaynab Fawwaz: Feminist Thinking in Fin-de-siècle Egypt* (2021), is amongst numerous publications on early feminism and Arabophone women’s writing in Egypt and Ottoman Syria. It is her fourth research monograph, preceded by a book history of Fawwaz’s biographical dictionary of women (*Classes of Ladies of Cloistered Spaces: Writing Feminist History through Biography in Fin-de-siècle Egypt*, 2015). Initiator of the Ottoman Translation Studies Group, she edited *Migrating Texts: Circulating Translations around the Ottoman Mediterranean* (2019) and is co-editing a second volume (2022) of the group’s work. She has translated nineteen published works of fiction and memoir from Arabic, including recently Hoda Barakat’s *Voices of the Lost* and Hassan Daoud’s *No Road to Paradise*. She was co-winner of the 2019 Man Booker International Prize for her translation of Jokha Alharthi’s *Celestial Bodies*. Her translation of Alharthi’s novel *Bitter Orange Tree* appeared in May 2022, and she is working on a third novel by the same author.

David Boyd

David Boyd is Assistant Professor of Japanese at UNC Charlotte. He has translated fiction by Tatsuhiko Shibusawa, Izumi Suzuki, and Toh EnJoe, among others. His most recent translation, *Weasels in the Attic* by Hiroko Oyamada (New Directions), was just published in October 2022. In 2018, Boyd’s translation of Hideo Furukawa’s *Slow Boat* (Pushkin Press, 2017) won the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission Prize for the Translation of Japanese Literature. Boyd won the same

prize in 2022 for his translation of *The Hole* by Hiroko Oyamada (New Directions, 2020). With Sam Bett, Boyd has co-translated three novels by Mieko Kawakami, all published by Europa Editions: *Breasts and Eggs* (2020), *Heaven* (2021), and *All the Lovers in the Night* (2022). In 2022, *Heaven* was shortlisted for the International Booker Prize. With Asa Yoneda, Boyd is currently co-editing a series of chapbooks translated from Japanese for Strangers Press.

Olga Castro

Olga Castro is Associate Professor in Translation Studies at the University of Warwick, where she convenes the MA Translation and Cultures and is Deputy Director of Graduate Studies in the School of Modern Languages and Cultures. Her main research interests include feminist translation studies from a transnational and intersectional perspective, self-translation in multilingual contexts, and the politics of translation in non-hegemonic cultures and in the Anglo-American publishing market. She is Principal Investigator in the research project “Changing the translation landscape from multilingual Spain: cultural diplomacy and the UK publishing industry” funded by the Arts and Humanities Impact Fund (2022-23), a sequel of her previous project on “Stateless Cultures in Translation” funded by the British Academy (2018-2021). Among other works, she has co-edited the books *Translating Women in the Anglosphere: Activism in Action* (Institute of Translation and Interpreting in the UK, 2020); *Feminist Translation Studies: Local and Transnational Perspectives* (Routledge, 2017) and a special issue on “Transnational Feminist Translation” for *Mutatis Mutandis. Journal of Latin American Translation Studies* (2020). She is corresponding member of the Royal Galician Academy, and has recently been Vice-President of the Association of Programmes in Translation and Interpreting in the UK and Ireland.

Nicole Doerr

Nicole Doerr is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Copenhagen, where she directs the Copenhagen Centre for Political Mobilisation and Social Movement Studies. Her book, *Political Translation: How Social Movement Democracies Survive* was published by Cambridge University Press in 2018. Dr. Doerr’s work has been awarded the EU Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship, the EU IPODI Fellowship, as well as the Harvard Ash Center Democracy Fellowship. Her work on activists as intersectional political translators in refugee solidarity movements and multilingual LGBTQ coalitions have inspired researchers in sociology, media studies, political sciences and anthropology. In her teaching Doerr combines multimodal methods to help students consider working with translational theories of democracy, of studying gender and intersectionality, as well as visual approaches through a translation perspective. Doerr is the co-editor of the special issue “Activists’ Agency—Translating Gendered Concepts and Belongings,” forthcoming in *European Journal of Politics and Gender*, and the co-editor of “The Visual Re-enactment of Democracy” forthcoming in *Visual Studies*. Doerr’s newest research connects scholars in the Humanities and Social Sciences to study the translation of emotions and affect through visual social media and memes to communicate concerns about climate justice in multilingual, transnational publics.

Emek Ergun

Emek Ergun is Associate Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies and Global Studies at UNC Charlotte. Her interdisciplinary research focuses on the political role of translation in connecting feminist activists, discourses, and movements across borders, particularly between the US and Turkey. Ergun is the co-editor of *Feminist Translation Studies: Local and Transnational Perspectives* (Routledge, 2017) and the 5th edition of *Feminist Theory Reader* (Routledge, 2020). She is also a feminist translator and her most recent translations include the Turkish translation of Octavia Butler’s speculative novel, *Kindred* (Ithaki Press, 2019) and the English co-translation titled *The Purple Color of Kurdish Politics* (Pluto Press,

forthcoming 2022). Ergun's first single-authored book, *Virgin Crossing Borders: Feminist Resistance and Solidarity in Translation* will be published by the University of Illinois Press in 2023.

Hazal Hürman

Hazal Hürman is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Anthropology and the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in the Humanities at Princeton University. Hazal's anthropological research foregrounds children's experiences and self-representations as a route to understand (de)colonial subjectivities, ethno-racial affective sensibilities, and political anxieties as they are reconfigured in contemporary Turkey. Hazal received her BA in Political Science and International Relations from Marmara University, Istanbul. Prior to Princeton, she completed two Master's programs in Sociology at Texas A&M University, and Political Science at Central European University, Budapest. Currently, she is conducting dissertation field research in Gaziantep, Turkey.

Dilek Hüseyinzadegan

Dilek Hüseyinzadegan (she/they) is a feminist political philosopher at the Department of Philosophy, and affiliated with Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies as well as Global Postcolonial Studies at Emory. Their research and teaching broadly focus on modern and contemporary political theory with an emphasis on queer feminist/anti-racist/decolonial thought. They translated numerous intellectual biographies and feminist works of nonfiction into and from their native Turkish. They are currently working on a series of essays, tentatively entitled, *Reframing Freedom*, which interrogates the liberal notion of freedom, building on Black political traditions and queer feminisms of color.

Ruken Isik

Ruken Isik holds a Ph.D. in the field of Gender and Women's Studies from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Her research focuses on Kurdish women's activism against patriarchy and state violence in Turkey, as well as transnational feminism and feminist oral history. She is currently an Adjunct Professor at American University in Washington, DC. She is also one of the coordinators and translators of the forthcoming English book, *The Purple Color of Kurdish Politics* edited by Gültan Kışanak (Pluto Press, 2022).

Christopher D. Mellinger

Christopher D. Mellinger is Associate Professor in the Department of Languages and Culture Studies at UNC Charlotte. He is the co-editor of the journal *Translation and Interpreting Studies*, co-author of *Quantitative Research Methods in Translation and Interpreting Studies* (Routledge), co-editor of *Translating Texts: An Introductory Coursebook on Translation and Text Formation*, and editor of the *Routledge Handbook of Interpreting and Cognition*. He has co-edited special issues on language access, translation and training (*Just. Journal of Language Rights & Minorities*, 2022), community interpreting and technology (*Translation and Interpreting Studies*, 2018), and translation process research (*Translation & Interpreting*, 2015).

Juan Meneses

Juan Meneses is Associate Professor of English at UNC Charlotte, where he teaches Anglophone and global literatures, theory, and visual studies. His first book, *Resisting Dialogue: Modern Fiction and the Future of Dissent*, appeared in 2019 with the University of Minnesota Press. He has co-translated work by Spanish fiction writer Jesús Fernández Santos (in *Tweed's Magazine*), and poet Concha García (in *West Branch* and *The Massachusetts Review*). Recent articles include "Like in the Gringo Movies?: Translatorese and the Global in Roberto Bolaño's *2666*" (in *The Paradox of Authenticity in a Globalized World*), "Toward an Environmental Theory of Afropolitan Literature" (in *Afropolitan Literature as World Literature*), "Historical Restoration, Narrative Agency, and Silence in Graham Swift's *Waterland*"

(in *Journal of Modern Literature*), “The COVID-19 Pandemic and the National Borders of the Imagination” (*Edge Effects*), and “From the South Out: Neoliberalism, Horizontality, and the Post-Global Subject in Mohsin Hamid’s *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia*” (forthcoming in *The Routledge Companion to Global South Literatures*). He is currently working on a monograph, for now titled “Peripheries of the Impolitical,” which explores aporias, contradictions, and paradoxes that emerge at the limits of the political in the planetary peripheries.

Rajiv Mohabir

Rajiv Mohabir is an Indo-Caribbean American author of three acclaimed poetry collections, *The Taxidermist’s Cut*, *Comberd’s Son*, and *Cutlish* (2021). He is also the author of the hybrid memoir *Antiman* (2021), which was a finalist for the 2022 PEN Open Book Award and a 2022 Lambda Literary Awards Finalist in Gay Memoir/Biography. Capable in Hindi, Bhojpuri, and a dying language known as “Guyanese Hindi,” Rajiv was awarded a 2015 PEN/Heim Translation Fund Grant for his translation of Lalbihari Sharma’s *Holi Songs of Demerara*, published originally in 1916. Mohabir’s translation is titled *I Even Regret Night* (2019) and in 2020 it received the Harold Morton Landon Award from the Academy of American Poets. Mohabir was winner of the 2015 Kundiman Prize, a 2015 PEN/Heim Translation Fund Grant, finalists for the 2017 and 2022 Lambda Literary Awards, finalist for the 2022 PEN Open Book Award, the 2021 National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry, and longlisted for the PEN/Voelcker Award in Poetry. He received his MFA in Poetry and Translation from Queens College, CUNY and his PhD in English from the University of Hawai‘i. He is currently a professor at Emerson College.

Andrea Pitts

Andrea Pitts is Associate Professor of Philosophy at UNC Charlotte and their research interests include Latin American and U.S. Latinx philosophy, critical philosophy of race, feminist philosophy, disability studies, and critical prison studies. They are the author of *Nos/Otras: Gloria E. Anzaldúa, Multiplicitous Agency, and Resistance* (2021), and co-editor with Mark Westmoreland of *Beyond Bergson: Examining Race and Colonialism through the Writings of Henri Bergson* (2019) and *Theories of the Flesh: Latinx and Latin American Feminisms, Transformation, and Resistance* with Mariana Ortega and José M. Medina (2020). Andrea also co-organizes, along with Perry Zurn, the Trans Philosophy Project, a professional and research initiative dedicated to supporting trans, nonbinary, and gender variant philosophers.

Daisy Rockwell

Daisy Rockwell is an American artist, translator and writer. She translates from Hindi and Urdu into English. Her translations include novels by Geetanjali Shree, Krishna Sobti, Upendranath Ashk, Khadija Mastur and Bisham Sahni, as well as poetry by Azra Abbas, Mangalesh Dabral, Shubham Shree and Parveen Shakur. She is the winner, with author Geetanjali Shree, of the 2022 International Booker Prize for her translation of the Hindi novel *Tomb of Sand*. She was also awarded the 2020 Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Literary Work for her translation of Krishna Sobti’s Hindi novel *A Gujarat Here, a Gujarat There*. She has also been awarded grants by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for her work translating Hindi author Upendranath Ashk. She holds a PhD in South Asian Languages and Civilizations from the University of Chicago.

Carolyn Shread

Carolyn Shread is Senior Lecturer in French at Mount Holyoke College and teaches translation at Smith College, two undergraduate liberal arts colleges in Massachusetts, USA. She has translated ten books into English, including six by French philosopher Catherine Malabou. She is currently working on a seventh, tentatively entitled *Stop Thief! Anarchism in Philosophy*. Her published articles address two principal areas of research: the implications of Malabou's concept of plasticity for translation studies and the process of translating Haitian author Marie Vieux-Chauvet's *Les Rapaces* from French into English. She has a longstanding interest in feminist and decolonial translation.

Mediha Sorma

Mediha Sorma is a PhD Candidate studying in the Department of Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies at University of Washington. She holds a BA degree in Translation and Interpreting Studies and an MA degree in Critical and Cultural Studies from Boğaziçi University, Turkey. Her primary fields of interest are feminist theory, critical race theory, Turkish studies, reproduction and motherhood, queer theory, and transgender studies. Her dissertation examines the ways in which Kurdish women create insurgency through radical/militant practices of mothering that defy the boundaries of Global North feminist scholarship on reproduction and motherhood.

William Spurlin

William J Spurlin is Honorary Professor of English & Comparative Literature and Professor Emeritus at Brunel University London. Trained as a comparatist, he has written extensively on the politics of gender and sexual dissidence across francophone, Germanic, and African contexts; he is widely known for his work in postcolonial queer studies and for examining sexuality as a significant vector of social organisation and cultural arrangement in colonial and postcolonial Africa. Professor Spurlin's most recent book *Contested Borders: Queer Politics and Cultural Translation in Contemporary Francophone Writing from the Maghreb* was published by Rowman & Littlefield in 2022; his other books include *Lost Intimacies: Rethinking Homosexuality under National Socialism* (2009); *Imperialism within the Margins: Queer Representation and the Politics of Culture in Southern Africa* (2006); and the co-edited collections *Comparatively Queer: Interrogating Identities across Time and Cultures* (with Jarrod Hayes and Margaret Higonnet 2009); and *Écritures du Corps: Nouvelles Perspectives* (with Pierre Zoberman and Anne Tomiche 2013). He is a Fellow of the British Academy of Social Sciences in recognition of the contribution of his research in comparative queer studies to social sciences.

Jeremy Tiang

Jeremy Tiang is a novelist, playwright and literary translator from Singapore. They have translated over twenty books from across the Sinophone world, and last year their translation of Yan Ge's *Strange Beasts of China* was the runner-up for the 2021 Warwick Prize for Women in Translation. They also won the Singapore Literature Prize in 2018 for their own novel *State of Emergency*. Earlier this year they were the Princeton University Translator-in-Residence and also served on the jury of the International Booker Prize. They are currently a Teaching Fellow at Wesleyan University and an Associate Professor at Columbia University.