Comparative Literature Committee
http://www.depts.ttu.edu/english/complit

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The Texas Tech Comparative Literature Program Presents . . .

Translation / Transnation
Languages, Geographies, and Genders

“Nothing is translatable.”

“Global Translation is another name for Comparative Literature.”

“Everything is translatable.”

- Emily Apter, from “Twenty Theses on Translation”

English / Philosophy Building
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Texas (USA)
April 22-23, 2016
Central to the Latin word \textit{translatio} is the notion of “carrying across” or crossing boundaries. Translation is fundamental to effective human communication, but translation requires more than just moving between two languages. When we translate, we cross many kinds of boundaries—political, linguistic, geographic, and gendered. Thus, whether literary, linguistic, media-based, or artistic, communicative acts require reliable interpreters in order to “carry across” their intended meanings. Yet, this “carrying across” can result in unintended loss and gain, even with the most skillful of interpreters. When a literary work, a piece of art, an idea, or a system moves across boundaries, what is left behind? What resists translation? What is added? What new associations are activated? And what are the political and cultural consequences of these losses and gains?

Related to these issues of loss and gain are questions of consolidation of hegemonic languages, in particular English, versus the loss of circulation of other European and non-European languages from Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and other parts of the world. The speed of global communication networks has made various forms of instantaneous translation possible. In the domain of languages, literatures, media, and art this has meant that works produced in geographically distant locations and in non-English languages are carried over with relative ease and swiftness to different cultural contexts. The apparent ease of translation glosses over the processes of selection that result in certain works being made available for translation, while other works are left behind.

In the realms of gender and sexuality, we might consider the ways in which identity categories are carried across political, religious, and linguistic boundaries, often with the assumption that no translation is needed or occurs in the process. For example, consider the ways in which the category “woman” has served as a universal determinant of a group bearing the same or similar desires, needs, and beliefs. In the twenty-first century, how do we translate “woman,” “man,” “gay,” “lesbian,” “queer,” “kuchū,” “kothi,” or “bakla”? Much is gained in the translation of gender and sexual identity categories that at once have the possibility to be both liberatory and oppressive.
Sponsor / Supporter Acknowledgements

The conference organizers wish to thank the following sponsors for their generous contributions:

- Dr. David Roach and the TTU Dean’s Office, College of Arts & Sciences
- Dr. Andrew Martin, Dr. Brian Steele, and the TTU College of Visual & Performing Arts
- Dr. Bruce Clarke, Dr. Rich Rice, Andrea Beaudin, Kerry Manzo, and the TTU Department of English and Media Lab
- Dr. Randy McBee, Dr. Yuan Shu, and the TTU Asian Studies Program
- Dr. Erin Collopy, Dr. John Beusterien, and the TTU Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures Department
- The TTU Comparative Literature Committee
- Dr. Dorothy Chansky and the TTU Humanities Center
- TTU Department of English Student Volunteers
- Shannon Samson and the TTU Graduate School

Suggested Restaurants Near Campus

- Café J, 2605 19th Street  Lubbock, TX  79401
  806.743.5400 | http://www.cafejlubbock.com
- McAlister’s, 2415 19th Street  Lubbock, TX  79401
  806.740.0022 | http://www.mcalistersdeli.com
- Chili’s, 607 University Avenue  Lubbock, TX  79401
  806.744.2025 | http://www.chilis.com
- Lubbock’s Breakfast House, 7006 University Avenue  Lubbock, TX  79401
  806.701.5351 | http://lubbockbreakfasthouse.com
Guidelines for Presenters and Moderators

- Meetings are held in the TTU English Department.
- Sessions are 90 minutes in length, including Q/A.
- Individual presentations are 15-20 minutes, with Q/A end of session.
- Moderators should introduce presenters and keep track of time.

Maps, Taxis, and Emergency Numbers

TTU and Lubbock maps are available at the hotels and in the Student Union. English has a blue tower. The Staybridge and Woodrow are located on 19th street across from campus. Taxis to/from hotels/airport are ~$25. City Cab is 806.765.7474 and Yellow Cab is 806.765.7777. Lubbock also offers Uber. Call Kanika Batra at 806.252.0086 for more information; call 911 if you have an emergency.
Program “At-A-Glance”
If arriving early, join us at our department’s student award’s ceremony April 21st at 3:30pm in English 001 in the basement auditorium. Please introduce yourself.

Day 1: Friday (April 22, 2016)
8:30-8:45  Pick-up from Staybridge and Woodrow
9:00-9:30  Coffee / Tea (209)
9:30-10:40  Registration and Welcome (201)
10:15-11:30  **Keynote 1: Christopher Merrill (201)**
11:30-12:30  Lunch (209)
12:30-2:00  Session 1A: Decolonizing Translation (201)
12:30-2:00  Session 1B: (En)Gendering Translation (303)
12:30-2:00  Session 1C: Planetarity, Environmentalism, and Loss (301)
2:00-2:15  Coffee / Tea (209)
2:15-3:30  **Keynote 2: William Spurlin (352)**
3:30-5:00  Session 2A: The Black Atlantic and Re-memory (152)
3:30-5:00  Session 2B: Border Crossings across Languages and Disciplines I (352)
3:30-5:00  Session 2C: Cultural Translation and Mistranslation: Colonial and Yoruba Interactions in *Death and the King’s Horseman* (301)
3:30-5:00  Session 2D: Canonization, Readership, and Transnationalism (303)
5:00-5:30  (Optional) Walk around campus (meet first in 201)
6:00-7:00  (Optional) Sigma Tau Delta Annual Banquet (Atrium, $10 per person)
6:00-9:00  Dinner on your own

Day 2: Saturday (April 23, 2016)
8:30-8:45  Pick-up from Staybridge and Woodrow
9:30-10:00  Coffee / Tea (209)
10:15-11:30  **Keynote 3: Steven Yao (201)**
11:30-12:30  Lunch (209)
12:30-2:00  Session 3A: Authority, Identity, and Enchantment: The Politics of Translation in *Death and the King’s Horseman* (201)
12:30-2:00  Session 3B: Trans-cending Genres: History, Fiction, Fantasy (106)
12:30-2:00  Session 3C: The Revelatory, the Miraculous, and the Fantastic (303)
2:00-2:30  Coffee / Tea (209)
2:30-4:00  Session 4A: Bridging the “Gap” in Prose Translations (303)
2:30-4:00  Session 4B: Border Crossings across Languages and Disciplines II (106)
4:00-4:15  Symposium Wrap-Up (201)
6:30-9:00  Dinner at Triple J Chophouse
1807 Buddy Holly Avenue Lubbock, TX 79401
(complimentary for keynote speakers, faculty, conference volunteers)
Chayanika Saxena
“When Cross Performances are not Emancipating”
Day 1: Friday
April 22, 2016
9:00–9:30: Registration and Coffee / Tea (209)
Please register upon arrival. See http://www.depts.ttu.edu/english/complit for more information. If you have time, consider checking out TTU’s Graduate School.
See http://www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool for more information.

9:30–10:00: Opening Remarks (201)
Please join us to meet new colleagues and friends. Bruce Clarke, Chair of English, and Kanika Batra, Comparative Literature Symposium Director, will open the conference.

THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES at Texas Tech offers a wide variety of courses and programs in the arts, humanities, mathematics, social and behavioral sciences, natural sciences, and communications. The largest of the Colleges at Texas Tech, it offers 120 degree programs in 15 departments.

MAJORS RANGE FROM Anthropology to Zoology. With 8,333 undergraduate and 1,285 graduate students enrolled in the College, classes may range in size from large lower division lecture courses to more intimate upper division courses and graduate seminars. Whether the course enrollment is large or small, faculty are interested in their students as individuals and make an effort to be accessible for individual conferences or help-sessions outside of class.

OFFERING A BROAD RANGE OF INSTRUCTION, Arts & Sciences faculty have a common purpose: to impart the knowledge and skills, the values and attitudes that constitute a liberal education. To help students solve problems, think, and communicate are the primary and essential aims of the College.
10:15-11:30: Keynote 1 (201)
Christopher Merrill, Director of the International Writing Program (University of Iowa), “Zones of Intersection: Some Notes on Translation.”
Introduction: Curtis Bauer

11:30-12:30: Lunch (209)

12:30-2:00: Session I

Session I A: Decolonizing Translation (201)
Moderator: Kanika Batra

Joya Mannan (TTU), “Macmillan’s English Classics and British Imperialism”
Fayong Zhang (Nanjing Forestry University), “Translation of Cultural Images Between English and Chinese”
Dina Hassan (TTU), “Translational Literature and ‘Retranslation’ in the Anglo Arab Encounter in Fiction”

Session I B: (En)Gendering Translation (303)
Moderator: Elizabeth Robison

Elizabeth Robison (Weber State University), “Rebel, Rule-Breaker, Ruse: Marguerite Duras’s Feminized Masculinity in Life, Literature, and Legend”
Irina Mozuliova (TTU), “A Translation of a Byronic Hero into a Female Lyrical Voice: Gómez de Avellaneda’s ‘Conserva tu risa’ (‘Keep Your Smile’)”
Trevor Pace (TTU), “The Corporeal Touch: Reading Physical Abuse in Nalo Hopkinson’s Midnight Robber!”

Session I C: Planetarity, Environmentalism, and Loss (301)
Moderator: Yuan Shu

Chen Chen (TTU), “Planetary Time, Skeletal Time: Rereading the Epigraph”
Mark L. Keats (TTU), “Cormac McCarthy’s The Road as Speaking after the Environment”

2:00-2:15: Coffee / Tea (209)

2:15-3:30: Keynote 2 (352)
William Spurlin, Professor of English (Brunel University London), “Queering Translation Studies: Translation as a Site of Textual, Sexual, and Cultural Dissidence”
Introduction: Kanika Batra
3:30-5:00: Session II

Session 2A: The Black Atlantic and Re-memory (152)
Moderator: Roger McNamara
Bernadette Russo (TTU), “Phantom Pains: Translating Diaspora in Edwidge Danticat’s ‘Caroline’s Wedding’”
Kerry Manzo (TTU), “American Bildung, Slave Narratives, and the Incomplete Project of Incorporation”
Apryl Lewis (Texas A&M University–Commerce), “An Antidote to Trauma: The Slave Narratives of Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs”

Session 2B: Border Crossings across Languages and Disciplines I (352)
Moderator: Kanika Batra
Kanika Batra (TTU), “Human Rights (P)ink: Translating Gender in the Neoliberal Public Sphere”

Session 2C: Cultural Translation and Mistranslation: Colonial and Yoruba Interactions in Wole Soyinka’s Death and the King’s Horseman (301)
Moderator: William Spurlin
Chrysta Wilson (TTU), “Intentional Mistranslation in Death and the King’s Horseman”
Mary White (TTU), “‘Holy Water Nonsense’: Genuine and False Belief in Death and the King’s Horseman”
MaryAnn Widerburg (TTU), “The Power of Ignorance: Failures in Culture Translation in Death and the King’s Horseman”

Session 2D: Canonization, Readership, and Transnationalism (303)
Moderator: Curtis Bauer
Jill M. Elberson (TTU), “Expanding the American Canon: A Plea from a Product of Society”
Sarah Banschbach (TTU), “‘Before I understood this place’: Place in Henry Vaughan’s Silex Scintillans”

5:00-5:30: (Optional) Walk around campus
Meet in 201 if you’d like to join us for a walk.

6:00-7:00: (Optional) Sigma Tau Delta Annual Banquet (Atrium, $10)

6:00-9:00: Dinner on your own
9:30-10:00: Registration and Coffee / Tea (209)
Have you had a chance yet to walk around campus? Mornings are cool. You might, for instance, take a stroll to the TTU Library and check out Groupworks stations, or view the 1688 Coronelli Globe in the Southwest Collections Library.

10:15-11:30: Keynote 3 (201)
Steven Yao, Edmund A. LeFevre Professor of English (Hamilton College), “The Work of Translation in the Age of Digital Computability; or, How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love Google Translate”
Introduction: Yuan Shu

11:30-12:30: Lunch (209)

12:30-2:00: Session III

Session 3A: Authority, Identity, and Enchantment: The Politics of Translation in Death and the King’s Horseman (201)
Moderator: Kerry Manzo
Emma Sutton (TTU), “Christian Conversion in Nigeria: An Examination of Achebe’s Things Fall Apart and Soyinka’s Death and the King’s Horseman”
Jared Strange (TTU), “Yoruba Ritual and Performance as Enchanted Resistance in Soyinka’s Death and the King’s Horseman”

Session 3B: Trans-cending Genres: History, Fiction, Fantasy (Room 106)
Moderator: Daniel Hutchins
Nancy Dinan (TTU), “Based on a True Story: Translating the Historical Character into Fiction in Ondaatje’s The English Patient”
Josh Osbourn (TTU), “The Role of Myth in Historical Memory: Guillermo Del Toro’s Pan’s Labyrinth”

Session 3C: The Revelatory, the Miraculous, and the Fantastic (303)
Moderator: John Beusterien
Brianne Dayley (TTU), “Ophelia the Translator: The Relationship between the Real and the Fantastisc in Pan’s Labyrinth”
Melissa Miller (TTU), “The Revelations of Retelling: Significant Thematic Similarities in Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead and J.B.”
2:00-2:30: Coffee / Tea (209)

2:30-4:00: Session IV

Session 4A: Bridging the “Gap” in Prose Translation: How to Fail Better (303)
Moderator: Mark L. Keats

Allison Spikes, German Speaking Background (TTU)
Amber Tayama, French Speaking Background (TTU)
Essence London, French Speaking Background (TTU)
Esul Park, Korean Speaking Background (TTU)
Meg Brandl, Latin Background (TTU)

“Translation is the art of failure.” This quote by Umberto Eco suggests the
tireless effort translators make in producing a translated work. But the
quote also suggests that translation is never complete; that it is an ongoing
process with each translation perhaps marking a moment in time. That is,
translators will continue to translate works, oftentimes the same works in an
attempt to get it “right.” This panel is particularly of interest for new translators.
Through individual and collective treatment of the topic of translation, we
challenge the idea that only bilingual speakers can translate effectively.

Session 4C: Border Crossings across Languages and Disciplines II (106)
Moderator: Sara Spurgeon

Dora G. Aranda (TTU), “Chican@ Language in Borderlands / La Frontera: The New
Mestiza”

Sophia Martinez (Texas A&M University), “The Flawed Ethnography of Mary
Kingsley”

Kazutaka Sugiyama (TTU), “Dislocated Communication and its Ethical
Implication in Kazuo Ishiguro’s Never Let Me Go”

4:15-4:30: Symposium Wrap-Up (201)
Join us for a quick wrap-up of this year’s symposium, as well as a special
invitation to next year’s theme! Rides to/from TTU/hotel/dinner provided.

6:30-8:30: Dinner at Triple J Chophouse
1807 Buddy Holly Avenue Lubbock, Texas 79401
(complimentary for keynote speakers, faculty, conference volunteers)
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Notes:
Thanks for attending! Join us next year!
See http://www.depts.ttu.edu/english/complit for next year’s symposium!
Contact kanika.bitra@ttu.edu for more information. Special thanks to:

- TTU Graduate School: http://www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool
- TTU College of Visual & Performing Arts: http://www.depts.ttu.edu/cvpa
- TTU Department of English: http://www.english.ttu.edu
- TTU Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures: http://www.depts.ttu.edu/classic_modern
- TTU Humanities Center: http://humanitiescenter.ttu.edu

**TTU’s New Quality Enhancement Plan**

*Bear Our Banners Far and Wide: Communicating in a Global Society* is a five-year Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) designed to improve the communication skills and global awareness of Texas Tech University undergraduate students. See http://www.depts.ttu.edu/provost/qep.

**TTU Undergraduate Minor in Comparative Literature**

Comparative literature is designed for students who are interested in critical studies of literatures and cultures across national boundaries. The program provides a minor for the Bachelor of Arts degree. The minor consists of 18 hours of courses, 3 hours of which must be at the 4000 level. Students may apply 6 hours of sophomore-level course work from either the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures or the Department of English if such course work is not in the student’s major field. Students not majoring in a foreign language must complete at least 3 hours at the junior or senior level in a foreign language. See http://www.depts.ttu.edu/english/complit/undergradminor.php.