

Humanities Research Centre

Call for Papers

## Translating Philosophy and Theory – Style, Rhetoric and Concepts

Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019, The University of Warwick

Keynote speakers:

Prof. Andrew Benjamin (Kingston University London, UK & University of Technology Sydney, Australia)

Dr Lisa Foran (Newcastle University, UK)

The purpose of this one-day interdisciplinary conference is to discuss the challenges and problems that arise in the translation both of philosophy and of social, political and critical theory. Contributions will generally focus on three interrelated aspects: style, rhetoric and concepts.

**Style:** Different approaches to the writing of philosophy and theory between schools and languages feature distinctive styles. Foucault once said ‘I am fully aware that I have never written anything other than fictions. For all that, I would not want to say that they were outside the truth.’ In contrast, Wittgenstein wrote his *Tractatus logico-philosophicus* in short and numbered propositions within a tradition of analytical philosophy.

**Rhetoric:** From differences in style it follows that philosophy and theory do not convince by pure logic and reasoning alone, but also act on the readers’ emotions. Hence, the translation of rhetorical figures may result in different reading experiences.

**Concepts:** Beyond aspects of linguistic expression and persuasion, concepts are a core issue. Certain concepts bear resemblance to everyday language, yet can have a complex counterpart in philosophical discourse (e.g. mind, justice, self, power etc.). Although seemingly easy to translate, concepts have histories and are often closely tied to other texts and authors. Furthermore, concepts can be ‘untranslatable’ (Barbara Cassin) insofar as translating them manifests the differences in the historical contexts as well as philosophical and linguistic traditions to which they belong.

Papers are invited which address the following indicative topics (this list is not exhaustive):

- Philosophical, theoretical and methodological approaches to texts
- Limits of interpretation for translators and readers
- Problems of translation such as omissions or misinterpretations
- Comparative analyses of existing translations
- Strategies and rationales for translation
- Conceptual approaches to translation and the philosophy of translation
- Ethical implications for translators and readers
- Reception of philosophical and theoretical texts in translation

The conference is open for contributions from academic researchers in all relevant disciplines.

Abstracts of approx. 300 words for 20 minutes papers, along with a short biography, should be submitted via email to [translating.philosophytheory@gmail.com](mailto:translating.philosophytheory@gmail.com) by 15<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

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<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/hrc/confs/tpt>