



Warwick School of Feminist Translation: Interdisciplinary Perspectives 11-12 May 2023

School of Modern Languages and Cultures
University of Warwick

Organisers: Dr Olga Castro & Dr Emek Ergun

Contact Info: Olga.Castro@warwick.ac.uk & eergun@uncc.edu

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Speakers and Seminars

Maud Anne Bracke is Professor in Modern European History at the University of Glasgow and co-Director of the Centre for Gender History. She holds a PhD from the European University Institute in Florence and has held visiting positions at Sciences Po Paris, Ghent University and Federico II, Naples. She is currently PI on an AHRC Leadership Fellowship entitled “Inventing Reproductive Rights: Sex, Bodies and Population, 1945-1995,” and between 2016-18 led the Leverhulme-funded International Network “Translating Feminism: Transfer, Transgression, Transformation.” She is a former editor of *Gender & History* and has published three books and numerous articles in the areas of transnational feminisms, “1968” in Europe, and women and work. Her most recent English book is *Women and the Reinvention of the Political: Feminism in Italy (1968-1983)* (Routledge, 2014), published in Italian translation in 2019. More info [here](#).

In her talk, Dr Bracke will historically trace global transfers and local recontextualisations in 20th Century feminism. First, she will argue for richly contextualised historical case studies to shed light on the practices, actors and sites of feminist translation, defined here as a politically motivated transfer of meaning from one idiom and socio-cultural context to another. This will then be illustrated by focusing on a specific case study - the emergence of a global women's health movement (Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights, WGNRR) in the 1970s-80s. Drawing on unpublished archives, campaigning material and personal testimonies, the WGNRR emerges as a unique case of global feminist translation and circulation between Mexico City, Mumbai, London, Amsterdam and Johannesburg, and tells a story of connection as well as conflict.

Olga Castro is Associate Professor in Translation Studies at the University of Warwick, where she is programme director of the MA Translation and Cultures. Her main research interests include feminist translation studies, the politics of translation in minorised and non-hegemonic cultures, and self-translation in multilingual contexts. She has co-edited the books *Translating Women in the Anglosphere: Activism in Action (Institute of Translation and Interpreting UK, 2020)*, *Feminist Translation Studies* (Routledge, 2017), *Self-translation and Power* (Palgrave, 2017) and several special issues of journals such as *Mutatis Mutandis: Latin American Translation Journal* (2020), *Journal of Contemporary Galician Studies* (2019) and *Gender and Language* (2013). She was Vice-President of the Association of Programmes in Translation and Interpreting in the UK and Ireland and is corresponding member of the Royal Galician Academy. More info [here](#).

In her talk, Dr Castro will explore the challenges and opportunities of conceptualising translation studies from a transnational feminist perspective. If “translating in the era of feminism” (Flotow 1997) often meant fighting against gender discrimination with strategies aimed at making women visible in translation, this lecture will address the ethical dimension of feminist translation strategies “in the era of transnational

feminism" (Castro, Ergun, Flotow and Spoturno 2020), defined by an intersectional understanding of women's identities. Castro will critically analyse to what extent the most influential (western) feminist approaches to translation studies may be succeeding (or not) at incorporating current debates in transnational, intersectional and decolonial feminisms. Finally, attention will be paid to non-prescriptive and context-dependent strategies for feminist translation aimed at challenging interlocking systems of oppression.

Emek Ergun is Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and Global Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She is the co-editor of *Feminist Translation Studies* (Routledge, 2017) and *Feminist Theory Reader* (Routledge, 2020). Ergun is also a feminist translator and her most recent translations include the Turkish translation of Octavia Butler's classic novel, *Kindred* (Ithaki Press, 2019) and the English co-translation of *The Purple Color of Kurdish Politics: Kurdish Women Politicians Write from Prison* (Pluto Press, 2022). Ergun's first single-authored book, *Virgin Crossing Borders: Feminist Resistance and Solidarity in Translation* is coming out of the University of Illinois Press in January 2023. More info [here](#).

In her talk, Dr Ergun will discuss the role of translation in facilitating transnational feminist solidarities by drawing on her reception studies that explore the transatlantic journey of Hanne Blank's *Virgin: The Untouched History* – a popular feminist book that demystifies the man-made histories of virginity in the context of western geographies – via her feminist translation. Ergun's talk will first reveal how a western feminist book has been strategically mobilized to unsettle Turkey's virginity codes and what kinds of transgressive effects it has generated among its local feminist readers. Then, it will provide cautionary tales on existing cross-border feminist connections and some crucial political lessons on how to build transnational feminist solidarities in a world of profoundly hierarchical relations.

William J Spurlin is Professor of English and Vice-Dean in the College of Business, Arts & Social Sciences at Brunel University London. His 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* (2010); and *Écritures du Corps: Nouvelles Perspectives* (2013). He has also written on queer translation studies in such collections as the Wiley-Blackwell *Companion to Translation Studies* (2014) and *Queer in Translation* (Routledge 2017) and guest-edited a special issue of the journal *Comparative Literature Studies* (2014) on the gender and queer politics of translation. More info [here](#).

In his lecture, Prof Spurlin will explore the queer potential of migration and/as translation where binary systems of interpretation, representation and belonging are displaced through new and unforeseen modes of identification and understanding. Migration and/as translation, as forms of translocation and transcultural (re)negotiation, will be examined specifically in recent queer autofictional francophone writing from the Maghreb, where long-established traditions pertaining to gender and sexuality are brought into contact with new forms of gender and sexual dissidence, resulting from the inflection of globally-circulating discourses and embodiments of queerness in North Africa and from the experiences of emigration and settlement by writers such as Rachid O. and Abdellah Taïa (Morocco), Eyet-Chékib Djaziri (Tunisia) and Nina Bouraoui (Algeria) in Europe. The lecture will argue that migration and translation operate as mediating between hegemonically defined spaces, identities and linguistic/cultural practices where alternative modes of seeing the self in/and the world are named and reconfigured.