

**TRANSLATING TERROR: GLOBALISATION AND THE NEW
PLANETARY WARS**

University of Warwick, UK

11th November 2005

CALL FOR PAPERS

A one day international conference organised by the Centre for Translation and Contemporary Cultural Studies and the Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation, University of Warwick, UK.

Uncertainty, insecurity and conflict are constitutive features of globalisation. 9/11 has been viewed as the symbolic unleashing of a new Age of Terror, in which traditional conceptions of national security are shattered and a new kind of global vulnerability emerges. This interdisciplinary conference aims to explore the relationship between globalisation and political violence, to analyse the way that terror has been represented through the global media and to highlight the importance of translation in shaping current discourses on terror.

Panels are organised around two main topics: globalisation and political violence, and language and translation in media discourses on terror, for which papers are invited.

Globalisation and political violence

The events of September 11 revealed that the conditions enabling global communication, instantaneous real-time news coverage and global financial markets are the same that make it possible for people to inflict novel and highly destructive forms of violence. They also demonstrated that as a set of discourses, practices and technologies, globalisation can as readily produce violence as peace and order.

The precise nature of the relationship between globalisation and violence, however, remains largely unstudied. While a great deal of attention has focused on the interface of states and markets, rather little has focused on the changing character and intensity of violence under conditions of globalisation. Hence, the necessity for projects which

focus on the issue of political violence in relation to globalisation, and the need to study these issue in relation to multidisciplinary fields of politics, international relations, international political economy, economics, criminology, media studies, and social anthropology.

This panel seeks to explore political violence in relation to the present phase of globalisation, especially focusing on themes such as theorising the interrelationship between globalisation and violence; the changing nature of terrorism and globalisation; the global economy and conflict; globalisation, state failure and intervention; globalisation and legal responses to WMD proliferation; and globalisation and military force.

Language and translation in media discourses on terror

Global battles are fought with images and words as well as with weapons, and the media have acquired an important role in providing narratives to audiences that can no longer be separated along traditional spatial lines. The global reach of media organisations such as CNN, BBC World and al-Jazeera has increased the visibility of translation, which is pivotal in the global circulation of messages and the construction of facts.

This panel focuses on the role of language and translation in the production of media discourses on terror, including the portrayal of global acts of terror, the representation of the US ‘war on terrorism’ and the worldwide diffusion and translation of the words and messages of figures like Osama Bin Laden and Saddam Hussein. It also seeks to address questions related to the role of translation in the constitution of a global public sphere and as a necessary means for cross-cultural dialogue in ‘thinking past terror’ (Buck-Morss).

Critical contributions to any of these or other related issues from a wide range of disciplinary perspectives are welcomed.

Deadline for submitting abstracts: 31 May 2005

Notification of acceptance: 30 June 2005

Please note the following guidelines in submitting proposals for papers:

- Abstracts should be around 300 words.
- Abstracts should include author's name, affiliation and full contact details (email, telephone, fax, and postal address).
- Abstracts should be submitted electronically (in a Word format) to:

e.bielsa@warwick.ac.uk

Length of papers: 20 minutes. Papers will be considered for online publication in the Working Papers Series of the CSGR.

This event is organised as part of an ongoing research project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Board of the United Kingdom on Translation in Global News.

For further information on the project please visit:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/ctccs/research/tgn>

For further information on the organising institutions:

CTCCS: www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/ctccs

CSGR: www.csgr.org

Organising Committee:

CTCCS: Dr. Esperança Bielsa

CSGR: Dr. Chris Hughes