

Report on the Committee on Translation Studies 2022-2023
International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA)
submitted May 22, 2023

In our tenth year, the ICLA Research Committee on Translation Studies continued our work to promote the interdisciplinary field of translation studies. Our activities this year were the following:

- organizing a seminar at ACLA 2023
- hosting the annual business meeting online for all membership
- holding elections for a new leadership group for the Committee on Translation Studies
- submitting the manuscript of an edited volume drawn from our research activities for publication with Routledge, forthcoming 2024
- requesting subvention funding of **\$1600** from the EC of the ICLA for this publication

In the 2022-2023 cycle, we organized a seminar at the ACLA 2023 Conference in Chicago, IL titled “Translation Ecologies,” a concept developed during our annual business meeting held on June 16, 2022 (see **Appendix I for seminar description**). This topic emerged after discussion and brainstorming, we received more abstracts than we could include in a single session, and our seminar of thirteen presenters was well received at ACLA 2023 (see **Appendix II for seminar participants**).

As is our practice, the leadership group organized and moderated an annual business meeting open to all membership and interested scholars, invited via email to the email list we maintain of about 200 scholars internationally. To make the meeting more accessible, we hosted it online at a time convenient to many time-zones, and not connected to any conference schedule. Held on May 5, 2023, this meeting had two main goals: to respond to any questions about our leadership roles and upcoming elections, and to brainstorm for a topic for next year’s seminar theme, to be proposed for ACLA 2024. We drafted the title “Translation Justice in the Age of Artificial Intelligence,” and the newly-elected leadership group will move forward with writing a description and planning a seminar on this theme during Fall 2023.

The Committee on Translation Studies has generally held leadership elections every three years; in past, we have had elections by paper ballot at a conference; the last elections were held summer 2020 using an online form. Elections took place this May 2023, and a new leadership group was elected; for full names, affiliations, contact information, and bios, see **Appendix III: Leadership Group 2023-2026**.

Additionally, two members of our leadership group have co-edited and submitted the manuscript for an edited volume of nine chapters building off the research committee’s seminars from 2020-21. Titled *Translating Home in the Global South: Migration, Belonging, and Language Justice*, this edited volume was offered a publication contract with Routledge in September of 2022, and in May 2022 we submitted the final manuscript (see **Appendix IV for book description and TOC**). All nine contributors are members of the ICLA Translation Studies Research Committee, and our book is scheduled for publication in 2024 with the Routledge Advances in Translation and Interpreting Studies series.

We are seeking support from the ICLA Executive Council to support the publication and dissemination of our research by providing a book subvention fund of **\$1600** for this edited volume. This amount would cover the costs of indexing the book (approximately \$510 at the rate of \$6 per every 1000 word) and the costs of releasing the introduction of this edited volume through Routledge’s Open Access platform (approximately \$1090 for one chapter released 12-24 months after print publication through retrospective open access). Since the introduction thoroughly situates and introduces the conceptual and

content findings of the following nine chapters, we view this as the best way to make publicly available the research of as many as possible. See **Appendix V** for full information on funds requested; the ICLA Translation Committee has been entirely self-funded to our knowledge and has not previously sought funding from the ICLA Executive Council for publications.

Our research committee is open and warmly welcomes the participation and input of anyone interested in the field of translation studies. Should you have any questions or wish to join our email list, please contact the newly elected leadership of our committee: President Youngmin Kim (yk4147@gmail.com), Vice-President Marlene Hansen Esplin (mhesplin@byu.edu), and Secretary Golda Van der Meer (goldavandermeer@gmail.com).

**** Report Respectfully Submitted on May 22, 2023 on behalf of the ICLA Translation Committee Leadership Group by the former President (2020-2023):**

Isabel C. Gómez
Associate Professor
Latin American & Iberian Studies
University of Massachusetts Boston

Appendix I: Seminar Description

Translation Ecologies

*a seminar proposal for ACLA 2023 in Chicago, March 16-19, 2023
organized by the ICLA Translation Studies Research Committee*

How do translation practice and multilingual knowledge production inform and shape notions of sustainability, justice, security, and relationality between languages and cultures in the modern and contemporary eras? Translators operate under complex conditions in which overlapping cultural, practical, sociopolitical, environmental, and aesthetic questions inform their tasks; mapping translation praxis provides insight at local and global scales. This seminar, organized by the ICLA Translation Studies Research Committee, invites abstracts interrogating translation ecologies from a variety of methodological perspectives—literary, historical, sociolinguistic, theoretical—and considers themes including but not limited to the following:

- translation topographies, reinventing measurements or other metrics
- indigeneity, sovereignty, and language recovery
- multilingualism, translanguaging, cosmopolitanism, vernaculars
- epistemicide, commodification, and exploitation
- translation beyond human actors
- theorizations of ecotranslation
- intermediality and phenomenology of translation
- translation technologies: digital prostheses, AI, and machine learning
- bodies in translation: performance, labor, intersectionality
- spatiality, distance, territory, scale, and cartography in translation

Appendix II: ACLA 2023 Seminar Participants

Translation Ecologies – Seminar at ACLA 2023 Chicago, March 16-19, 2023

organized by the ICLA Translation Studies Research Committee

Friday, March 17 (4 papers)

The Bible as (Avant-Garde) World Literature: Haroldo de Campos's Biblical Translations
Odile Cisneros, University of Alberta

Plastic Translations in Hélio Oiticica's Secret Poetics
Rebecca Kosick, University of Bristol

The Hour of the Archive: Clarice Lispector's Theater Translations
Delfina Cabrera, Portugiesisch-Brasilianisches Institut of the Universität zu Köln

"Weaving in all the wrong places": Indigenous Language Recovery and Repairing Ecological
Collapse
Isabel C. Gómez, University of Massachusetts Boston

Saturday, March 18 (5 papers)

Guerrilla (Eco)Poetics? Counter/Insurgent Eco-Translation
Daniel Eltringham, University of Sheffield

The Task of the Repairer: Reparative Turns with Walter Benjamin and Ernesto Oroza
Lucy Benjamin, University of Melbourne

Exoticism or Ordinarity: Some Challenges in Choosing Whether or Not to Translate Words
Ramón Stern, Independent Scholar

Translating Animals: The Earth Species Project and the Transmediality of Language
Edith Adams, University of Southern California

Translating Catastrophe
Marlene Hansen Esplin, Brigham Young University

Sunday March 19 (4 papers)

Plying Conglomerate, Catacomb, Midden: A Kinesis of Relational Indices
Patrick Barron, University of Massachusetts Boston

The Cultural Politics of Indirect Translation
Bogdana Pliushch, Harvard University

Urban Representations of Debora Vogel's Yiddish Poetry in Translation as a Form of Activism
Golda van der Meer, Universitat de Barcelona

Fluidity of Translation: Developing an Alternative Biological Model
Rindon Kundu, Sri Sri University, Cuttack, India

Appendix III: Leadership Group 2023-2026

New Leadership Group of the ICLA Research Committee on Translation Studies Elected May 22, 2023:

President

Youngmin Kim (Dongguk University, Korea, yk4147@gmail.com)

Vice-President

Marlene Hansen Esplin (Brigham Young University, mhesplin@byu.edu)

Secretary

Golda Van der Meer (University of Barcelona, goldavandermeer@gmail.com)

Steering Committee Members

Assumpta Camps (University of Barcelona, assumpta100@gmail.com / a.camps@ub.edu)

Hannah Scott Deuchar (Queen Mary University of London, h.scottdeuchar@qmul.ac.uk)

Rindon Kundu (Sri Sri University, India, rindon86@gmail.com / rindon.k@srisriuniversity.edu.in)

Saswati Saha (Sikkim University, India, ssaha@cus.ac.in)

Anandi Rao (SOAS, University of London, ar75@soas.ac.uk)

Akshya Saxena (Vanderbilt University, akshya.saxena@vanderbilt.edu)

Stephen Zhongqing Wu (Hainan Vocational University, PRC, wzq89898@163.com)

*** COMPLETE BIOS ***

Youngmin Kim is Professor Emeritus of Dongguk University, Seoul, Korea and current Executive Committee member of the AILC-ICLA; he will serve as the Chair and Coordinator of International Congress Committee for 2025 AILC-ICLA Congress hosted in Seoul. Youngmin Kim is currently serving as the chair of international conference committee of East-West Comparative Literature Association of Korea (KEASTWEST), Founding Director of Trans Media World Literature & Director of Digital Humanities Lab at Dongguk University, and Vice-President of Korea Association of Digital Humanities (KADH). Formerly he was the President of Deans' Association of Private Universities in Korea and President and Editor-in-Chief of English Language and Literature Association of Korea (ELLAK). He has been a member of the Steering Committee of the ICLA Translation Committee since 2013.

Marlene Hansen Esplin is an Associate Professor of Humanities in the Department of Comparative Arts and Letters at Brigham Young University. Her main research interests are translation studies and U.S. and Latin American literatures. Recent projects include a review essay on "The 'Outward Turn' in Translation Studies" and an article examining intersections between translation and ethnography in English translations of Cabeza de Vaca's *Relación*. Together with Isabel C. Gómez of the ICLA translation committee, she is co-editing *Translating Home in the Global South: Migration, Belonging, and Language Justice* (under contract with Routledge). She has been a part of the Leadership of the ICLA Translation Committee since 2013 and is currently serving as Secretary.

Golda van der Meer holds a Ph.D. in linguistic, literary, and cultural studies from the University of Barcelona. Her main research interest focuses on the development of Yiddish modernist poetry during the interwar period, primarily on women poets and their relation to translation and self-translation.

She currently works teaching Yiddish literature at the Gaudir UB in the University of Barcelona and as a translator of Yiddish poetry into Catalan. In addition, she collaborates annually with the Barcelona Jewish Film Festival. Her Catalan translation of a poetry Anthology by the Yiddish poet Debora Vogel will be forthcoming in January 2024. Recent publications can be found in the *AALITRA Review*, *Counterpoint*, *Bloomsbury Publishing House*, and *Comparative Literature Studies* quarterly publication from Penn State University Press. Current research interests include modernist poetry, translation studies, self-translation, minority languages, and women's studies.

Assumpta Camps is a Professor of Italian Literature and Literary Translation at the University of Barcelona. She holds the Chair of Italian Philology in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at this university. Her main research areas are Translation Studies, Translation Theory, Comparative Literature, Reception of Italian Literature in the Hispanic world, and Contemporary Italian Literature. She is the Main Researcher of "CRET - Consolidate Research Group on Translation Studies and Multiculturalism" at the University of Barcelona (since 1999) and editor-in-chief of the bilingual journal (Spanish/English) "TRANSFER, e-journal on Translation and Intercultural Studies" (published uninterruptedly since 2006), and serves on several editorial boards. Between 2004 and 2010 she was a member of the Executive Committee of the International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA), and since 2013 she is Vice President of the Translation Committee of the ICLA.

Hannah Scott Deuchar is a Lecturer (U.S. Assistant Professor) in Arabic and Comparative Literature at Queen Mary University of London, where she convenes the MA program in Translation and Adaptation Studies. Her work on modern Middle Eastern translation, literature, and cultural history has appeared or is forthcoming in *Comparative Literature*, *Comparative Literature Studies*, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *Alif Journal of Comparative Poetics*, and various edited volumes. Her first book project explores the mutually constitutive relationship between translation theory, British colonial law, and the Arabic literary archive; she is also a literary translator and worked for several years as a translator for the Palestinian Museum.

Rindon Kundu is working as the Assistant Professor and Founder Director of Sri Sri Centre for Translation and Interpreting Studies, Sri Sri University, India which is the first centre of interpreting studies in India. He has also been elected as the Treasurer of the Comparative Literature Association of India (CLAI). He has been nominated as the South Asian Regional Director of International Association Eco-Translation Research (IAETR). He has completed his PhD in 2023 from the Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University and the title of the thesis is "Can the Subaltern Theorise? Developing an Ecotranslatological Model from the Global South". He is a member of the European Society for Translation Studies (EST) as well as of the International Association of Translation and Intercultural Studies (IATIS) and American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA). He has been awarded several international grants like the International Association of Translation and Intercultural Studies 2018 Hong Kong Bursary, British Academy Full Grant 2019 and European Society for Translation Studies Young Researcher Travel Grant 2019.

Anandi Rao is a Lecturer (U.S. Assistant Professor) in South Asian studies at SOAS, University of London. She has an MA in Literary Translation from the University of East Anglia, UK, and a PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of California, Irvine. Her current work lies at the intersection of translation studies, Shakespeare studies and gender and sexuality studies and has been published in journals like *South Asian Review*, *Shakespeare Bulletin* and *Studies in South Asian Film and Media*.

Saswati Saha has her PhD from Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta on *English Literary Travelogues in Bengali: A Study of Social Reformation, Translation and Assimilation*. Her M. Phil research was on *Translating Primers: The Politics of Knowledge-Making in Nineteenth-Century Bengal (1840-1880)*. She was awarded a scholarship by Institute of Collaborative Research in Humanities, Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland to attend the Institute of Irish Studies International Summer School in 2014. She received the Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) Travel Grant to attend the ACLA Annual Meeting 2018 in Los Angeles, USA. In 2019, she was awarded Charles Wallace India Trust Research Grant for short term research at the British Library in the UK. She was awarded IATIS Solidarity & Scientific Excellence Bursary by the International Association for Translation and Intercultural Studies Organizing Committee to attend the 7th International IATIS Conference 2021 in Barcelona, Spain. She has recently convened a panel with Rindon Kundu titled, "The Geo turn in Translation Studies" at the American Comparative Literature Association Annual Congress 2022. Her area of specialization includes Translation Studies: theory and practice, Postcolonial Literature Readership culture and reception theory, Book History. She has widely published in these areas in journals of national and international repute.

Akshya Saxena is an Assistant Professor of English and an affiliate faculty member of Asian Studies and Cinema and Media Arts at Vanderbilt University. She is a scholar of 20th- and 21st-century literature and media, focusing on South Asia. Her areas of specialization are postcolonial studies, global comparatism, media studies, and philosophies of language and translation. She is the author of *Vernacular English: Reading the Anglophone in Postcolonial India* (Princeton UP, Translation/Transnation, 2022), and the co-editor of *Thinking With An Accent: Toward a New Object, Method, and Practice* (U of California P 2023). Her scholarship has appeared or is forthcoming in *Cultural Critique*, *Comparative Literature*, *ariel*, *Interventions*, *Wasafiri*, *South Asian Review*, and *The Los Angeles Review of Books*.

Stephen Zhongqing Wu is a CATTI-certified, published, and professional translator, researcher, and writer based in Hainan, PRC. He is currently teaching English as a lecturer at Hainan Vocational University of Science and Technology in Haikou, PRC while serving as a member of the Translation Committee at the International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA), an expert member of the Translators Association of China (TAC) and a member of the Writers Association of Hainan Province in PRC. He has published over forty Chinese and English papers, translated articles, and essays in PRC and the US, along with the publication of two translated Chinese books in PRC in 2012 and 2013, namely *Eating Women Telling Tales*, a collection of Indian English Short Stories by Bulbul Sharma, and *the Lion Companion to Church Architecture* by David Stancliffe (Co-translated, second translator).

Appendix IV: Book Description and Table of Contents

Translating Home in the Global South: Migration, Belonging, and Language Justice

edited by: Isabel C. Gómez and Marlene Hansen Esplin

Manuscript Under Contract and Submitted to Routledge on May 17, 2023 to Acquisitions Editor Elysse Preposi and Editorial Assistant Jasmine Erice-Harling

Book Description

This collection explores the relationships between acts of translation and the movement of peoples across linguistic, cultural, and physical borders, centering the voices of migrant writers and translators in literatures and language cultures of the Global South.

To offer a counterpoint to existing scholarship, this book examines translation practices as forms of both home-building and un-homing for communities in migration. Drawing on scholarship from translation studies as well as eco-criticism, decolonial thought, and queer theory, the book's three sections critically reflect on different dimensions of the intersection of translation and migration in a diverse range of literary genres and media. The first part looks at self-translation, collaboration, and co-creation as modes of expression born out of displacement and exile. The second section considers radical strategies of literary translation and the threats and opportunities they bring in situations of detention and border policing. The final part looks ahead to the ways in which translation can act as a powerful means of fostering responsibility, solidarity, and community in building an inclusive, multilingual public sphere even in the face of climate crisis.

This dynamic volume will be of particular interest to students and scholars in translation studies, migration and mobility studies, postcolonial studies, and comparative literature.

Table of Contents

Introduction. Home as a Translingual Practice

Isabel C. Gómez and Marlene Hansen Esplin, editors

Part I. Self-Translation, Collaboration, and Co-Creation in Migrant Writing

Chapter 1. A Pandemic View of Translation: Novels of Catastrophe and Our Hemispheric Home

Marlene Hansen Esplin

Chapter 2. Post-National Refugee Writing on Social Media: Translation as a Strategy of Survival

Tatjana Soldat-Jaffe

Chapter 3. An Almost Invisible Scene: Collaboration and Co-Creation in the Task of Translating Ricardo Piglia

Sergio Waisman

Part II: Detention, Denial of Home, and Border Policing

Chapter 4. Dwelling in Indeterminacy: Interpreting the Migrant Poet in Detention

Alexandra Maria Lossada

Chapter 5. Interpreting for Asylum-Seekers by a Former Refugee: Professionalism and Mental Health in Bekim Sejranović's Transfiction

Višnja Krstić Jovanović and Filip Jovanović

Chapter 6. “A Big, Beautiful Wall”: Experimental Translation and Decolonial Practice in Mónica de la Torre’s *Repetition Nineteen*

Janet Hendrickson

Part III: Stateless Translation and Planetary Ecologies

Chapter 7. Fluid Voices: Translating Language and Place in Novels of Migration

Yan Wu

Chapter 8. Specters of Home in Agha Shahid Ali’s Translations of Faiz Ahmed Faiz and Mahmoud Darwish

Wafa Hamid

Chapter 9. A Puerto Rican Poetics of Disaster Relief and Cuir Eco-Translation

Isabel C. Gómez

Appendix V: Funds Requested

We are seeking a total of **\$1600** in support from the ICLA Executive Council to support the publication and dissemination of research by members of the ICLA Translation Studies Research Committee. The edited volume *Translating Home in the Global South: Migration, Belonging, and Language Justice* is forthcoming with the Routledge Advances in Translation and Interpreting Studies in 2024, and will include an introduction and nine chapters contributed by members of our standing research committee.

The total amount would be spent as following:

\$510 indexing costs at a rate of \$6 per 1000 word; the MS is approx. 85,000 words

\$1090 fee to publish the intro through [Routledge Open Access](#); 30% [discount](#) for 12-24 month delay

\$1600 **total funding request**

Since the Introduction thoroughly situates and introduces the conceptual and content findings of the following nine chapters, we view publishing the introduction through Open Access as the best way to make publicly available the research of as many contributors as possible. We understand the ICLA Executive Council and the Research Development Committee wish to support the dissemination of research produced by the ICLA Research Committees and generally favor open access publications where possible. We further understand that the ICLA Executive Council generally approves requests of \$1000 for every three years from the committees; we request a larger subvention of \$1600 could be approved because the ICLA Translation Committee has been entirely self-funded to our knowledge and has not previously sought funding from the ICLA Executive Council for publications.