

2023-2024 Report on the ICLA Research Committee on Translation Studies
International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA)

Submitted July 15, 2024

In our tenth year, the ICLA Research Committee on Translation Studies continued our work to promote the interdisciplinary field of translation studies through facilitating the participation of an international network of scholars in conference seminars. On June 13th, the new leadership cohort for 2023-2026 was announced (see **Appendix I**). Our research committee comprises a small leadership group of ten and a larger email list of nearly 200 international scholars and affiliates.

In 2024, we organized two seminars. The first, “Everything Everywhere All at Once: Rethinking Intersemiotic Translation Practices,” took place at the March 2024 ACLA Conference in Montreal, with eight presenters (see **Appendix II**). This seminar was jointly organized with faculty (and newly minted committee members) associated with the San Pellegrino Summer School for Advanced Research in Translation. The second, “The ‘Growth’ of Translation Studies: View from Asia,” will take place with a broader cohort of twenty-four international scholars (see **Appendix III**) at the ICLA Comparative Literature Association of India (CLAI) Conference in September 2024.

At the 2024 ACLA conference, we also held an ICLA Committee business meeting, in which we discussed revising our CFP for the 2025 ICLA Conference in Seoul and the possibility of a guest speaker or translation-centered activity at the 2025 conference (see **Appendix IV** for the revised CFP).

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 committee president Youngmin Kim (yk4147@gmail.com) and our committee secretary Golda Van der Meer (goldavandermeer@gmail.com).

****Appendix I: New Leadership Group (Bios below):**

President

Youngmin Kim, Dongguk University, 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

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

Rindon Kundu, Sri Sri University, rindon86@gmail.com
Saswati Saha, Sikkim University, 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

Bios of our leadership group:

Youngmin Kim got his PhD at the University of Missouri-Columbia and is currently Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus at Dongguk University, Seoul, Korea; Visiting Professor at the Department of Film and Center for Intermedial and Multimodal Studies, Linnaeus University, Sweden; and Qiangtang Scholar/Chair Professor at Hangzhou Normal University, China.

He is currently President ICLA Research Committee on Translation Studies; Executive Council Member of ICLA (International Comparative Literature Association); Vice-President of IAELC (International Association of Ethical Literary Criticism); Chair-elect of CCC of ADHO, becoming Chair 2024; Editor-in-Chief of *The Korea Journal of East West Comparative Literature*; and an editorial board member of *CLCWeb*, *Foreign Literature Studies*, *Journal of International Yeats Studies*, *Journal of New Techno Humanities*. He was Visiting Professor at Cornell University, Sapporo Gakuin University, and Faculty Affiliate and Visiting Scholar at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, USA. He has received major research grants as the PI from the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF), including “AI avec Digital Humanities” (2022-2024), “The Aesthetics of Convergence and the Ethics of Critical Consilience of the AI Technology in the Humanities” (2021-2022), “The Convergence of AI, Digital Humanities, Trans Media Art, and World Literature” (2020-2021), & “Trans Media, Digital Humanities, and World Literature” (2017-2020). His current interest includes world poetries, critical theory, and posthumanism, and digital humanities. His recent work focuses on digital comparative world literature, posthumanism and digital humanities, and cultural translation.

Marlene Hansen Esplin is an Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Humanities in the Department of Comparative Arts and Letters at Brigham Young University. Her main research interests are translation studies, U.S. and Latin American literatures, and global women’s studies. Recent projects have appeared in *The Routledge Handbook of Latin American Literary Translation* and the *Wiley Blackwell Companion to Multiethnic Literature of the United States*. In 2024, she published the co-edited *Translating Home in the Global South: Migration, Belonging, and Language Justice*, together with Isabel C. Gómez at U Mass Boston (and a longstanding member and leader of the ICLA committee on translation studies). Marlene has been a part of the leadership of the ICLA Committee on Translation Studies since 2013.

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 she has been a part of the leadership group of ICLA since 2013.

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*.

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 II: Seminar Description, “Everything Everywhere All at Once: Rethinking intersemiotic translation practices” – ACLA 2024**

ACLA 2024 Seminar, Sponsored by the ICLA Committee on Translation: Everything Everywhere All at Once: Rethinking Intersemiotic Translation Practices

#Organizer(s):

Christi Merrill, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Michelle Woods, New Paltz SUNY, Marlene Esplin, Brigham Young University

The idea for this panel grew out of a discussion at the 2023 Summer School for Advanced Research in Translation in San Pellegrino as faculty and students worked together to theorize acts of multilingual and/or intersemiotic translation as distinct from the neural networks of Artificial Intelligence. We began asking: How might we understand the distinct role of human artistry in these translation practices in ways that are empowering to translators and other human creators? Which parts of our traditions fall outside the data sets recognized by current algorithms? Can interlingual translation and/or intersemiotic translation practices help present new and newly-imagined notions of the human (unbound by white, patrilinear, heteronormative and ableist thought) in the posthuman and transhuman moment? We are particularly interested in learning more about the particularities of examples that challenge the status quo and encourage both alumni of the Summer School and others interested in being part of the conversation to apply.

****Appendix II: (ACLA Seminar Participants)**

Translator Memoirs and the Autotheoretical Text
Michelle Woods, New Paltz (State University of New York)

Decolonial translations in Hindi literary texts: The case of Prakashwati Pal
Swarnim Khare, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

Translating Futures: All Too Human
Bella Brodzki, Sarah Lawrence College

“Every beloved object is the center of a garden of paradise:” The Shapes of Story in Too Loud a Solitude
Summer Mohrmann, New Paltz (State University of New York)

Intersemiotic Translation as a response to denied translation
Siri Nergaard, University of South Eastern Norway

Language-Agnostic Space: From NMT to Multimodal AI
Avery Slater, University of Toronto

PEMT as Feedback Loops between Artificial Intelligence and Human Intelligence
Youngmin Kim, Dongguk University

Translation, History and the Digital Counterarchive: Chris Marker’s Level Five
Claire Gullander-Drolet, City University of Hong Kong

****Appendix III: Collaboration with Rindon and Saswati re the Comparative Literature Association of India (CLAI)**

XVII Biennial International Conference in collaboration with University of Delhi, September, 10-12 2024; Conference-specific CFP authored by committee members Rindon and Saswati: **The ‘growth’ of Translation Studies: View from Asia**

Even if a theory claims to be universal, according to Said (1983) it will alter when applied to a different location or era since all theories are “worldly,” or historically contextual. Said is of the opinion that no system or theory can exhaust the environment from which it comes or to which it is moved, despite the fact that transfers have the potential to diminish and institutionalise strong ideas. The same applies to Translation Studies (TS), its theories and practices. Although TS has largely centred around the Western epistemological discourses on translation, the discipline has seen rapid growth in countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Recent researches on mapping the intellectual structures and research trends in TS (Pan & Wu 2023; Lee & Wan 2018) have dealt with the keyword analysis, research sub-areas and institutional factors proving that TS has

continued to flourish outside the Western world. Considering the interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary tendencies inherent in TS, scholars have also talked about the changing landscape of TS vis-à-vis the changes in the thematic concepts, methods and approaches thereby making translation “more fluid while scholars in TS are becoming more nomadic (in their affiliations and between disciplines) (Gambier 2023).

This panel will enquire into the growth of translation studies as a discipline, especially in Asian academic circles and will try to investigate whether the growth is taking place considering the local ethos and taking the situational realities in its purview or the development of the field in Asian land is orchestrated by reinforcing the western hegemony of the discipline through the channel of ‘globalization’. Since ‘translation’ as an act oscillates between the ‘present’ and the ‘past’, with shifts and overlaps in paradigm, this panel would also like to inquire into the historiography of the discipline in Asia and its future perspectives and challenges.

This seminar, organized by the ICLA Translation Studies Research Committee, invites abstracts interrogating the disciplinary growth of Translation Studies especially in Asia and considers themes including but not limited to the following:

Asian Translation Studies

Translation Studies: Local vs Global

Trajectory of the Discipline

Future of Translation Studies

Metahistoriography/ Historiographical methods of TS

Multidisciplinary nature and continuous paradigm shifts of TS

Institutionalization of TS in non-western countries

Challenges (internal/external) faced by TS in Asia today

Importance of collaboration in translation

****Appendix III (Seminar Participants)**

Transformative Translation in the New Digital Age

Youngmin Kim, Dongguk University

Translationality: An Everyday Theory of Translation

Matthew Reynolds, Oxford University

Local Concerns and Trans-national Influences: Imagination of Reform in the Early Arabic and Urdu Historical Romances

Mohammad Irfan, Ambedkar University Delhi,

Mapping the Intellectual Landscape in India: Translation Today and the changing dynamics of research trends

Saswati Saha, Sikkim University, India

Use of Transmodality in ‘Modern’ Historiography of Assam Colony

Pompi Basumatary, Christ (Deemed to be University), Delhi NCR, India

Translating India's Northeast: A Study of Select Anthologies from the Region
Niborna Hazarika, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Assam and the Assamese in English Translation
Shibani Phukan, University of Delhi, India

Vivek Mishra, Southfield College (Loreto), Darjeeling, India
Comparative and Critical Perspective on selected works of William Butler Yeats and Hari
Bhakta Katuwal

Oral Traditions in Transition: An English Translation of the Ao Naga Story "The Story of
Yartsüngla and Tenlala"
Kikumnaro, St. Joseph University, India

Translation as a Method: Nourishing Generic Extant in Pre- Modern Chinese Literary Tradition
Barnali Chanda, Harvard Yenching Institute and Ashoka University, India

Parallel to Global South: Chinese Literature in Translation
Suvro Parui, Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF), New Delhi, India

Performative to the Prescriptive: An attempt to plot the important milestones in the practice of
translation in Maharashtra
Priyada Padhye, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Drama Translation in Western India from 1860 to 1912: A Trend in Theory of Translation and
Social Reform
Kavita Patil, B. M. Ruia Girls' College, Mumbai, India

The Challenges of Indirect Literary Translation in India
Nidhi J. Makwana, Pandit Deendayal Energy University, Gandhinagar, India

Untranslatability as Method: Practicing Plurality in Translation
Deepshikha Behera, University of Hyderabad, India

Dynamics of Abridgement: Mapping the Spread of English in India
Manas Ranjan, University of Delhi, India

Complexities in Translating Hindi Literature for Global Audiences
Anjali Kumari, Central University of Gujarat, India

Memories and Desire in Margins: Reading Select Adivasi women poets from Kerala as
Translation Mechanism of multi-lingual Affect
Gihana P., Institute for Social Sciences, Humanities, and Oceanic Research (I-SHORE), India

Importance of Collaboration in Translation: A Study of Amruta Patil's Kari and Srividya Natarajan's A Gardener in the Wasteland
Indulekha G, Central University of Gujarat, India

Translating Narratives: An Analysis of Benyamin's Aadujeevitham and Its Film Adaptation by Blessy
Reneeta Anna Robert

Ferrying back the 'Girmitiyas': A case for translating the Francophone Literary works from the West Indian Ocean into Hindi
Runjhun Verma, Pondicherry University, India

Towards Inclusive Translation Practices: Disability Perspectives in Asian Contexts
Jyoti Prasad, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Translating Again and Again: Towards the Conceptualization of Multiple Translations
Ajay Varma Alluri, English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India

The 'growth' of Translation Studies: A view from South Asia
Rindon Kundu, Sri Sri University, India

****Appendix IV: ICLA Translation Committee Business Meeting at ACLA:
Revision of CFP for ICLA 2025**

ICLA 2025 CFP: Translation Futures

The digital age presents the professions and fields of translation and interpretation with manifold opportunities and challenges. These matters are only compounded as Artificial Intelligence in the form of Large Language Models moves into the public sphere. This seminar explores how new forms of technology and media shape the work of translation and prompt new forms of reading and engaging with archives or bringing the past into the present and future. We also consider ethical and philosophical implications of emerging translation technologies. How do new translation technologies and literary ecosystems disrupt notions of authorship, textuality, and agency? What translation interventions are warranted to safeguard and lend visibility to minority languages and marginalized subjects? What are the particular perils and opportunities for translators in an era of globalization and our shared susceptibility to crises such as pandemics, the manipulation of information, and a changing climate? We ask what translators and translation theorists might offer a world coming to terms with new problems of language, communication, truth, and representation.

This seminar, organized by the ICLA Translation Studies Research Committee, invites abstracts interrogating digital translation encounters from a variety of methodological and theoretical perspectives—literary, historical, sociolinguistic, ethical—and considers themes including but not limited to the following:

Translation as Hospitality

- “Translation and World Literature
- “Translation, Gender, and Performance”
- “Translation, Ecology, and Narrating Rights”
- “Translating Human, Nonhuman, and Inhuman Demands”
- “Translating the Other: In Other Words in Other Worlds”
- “Translation and Migration”
- “Translation Justice in the Digital Era”
- “Translation Futures”
- “Translation and Translanguaging”
- “Translating Self”
- “New and Old forms of (Self-)censorship”
- “Poetics of Cultural Translation”

Report Respectfully Submitted on July 14, 2024, on behalf of the ICLA Translation Committee Leadership Group, by:

Youngmin Kim
Professor Emeritus
Department of English and Comparative Literature
Dongguk University, Seoul, Korea