

Translating Structure/Structuring Translation

Lecture Series (2017-2018 academic year)

Organizers: Marc Schachter, Sergey Tyulenev and Bingham Zheng

Sponsors: MLAC, OWRI, IAS, CIM

This lecture series brought three prominent academics working in and around translation studies to explore some of the ways the discipline intersects with other areas of academic inquiry. Our aim was to spark conversations between colleagues who consider translation studies central to their research and colleagues for whom translation is not a major concern, conversations that might in turn lead to future collaboration.

Karen Emmerich, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature at Princeton University and an acclaimed translator of modern and contemporary Greek literature, opened the series with a presentation based on her monograph, *Literary Translation and the Making of Originals* (Bloomsbury, 2017). Her talk explored the intersection between textual scholarship and translation practice, focusing on instances in which the production of translations was instrumental in the consolidation of an original, thereby challenging a common assumption about the relationship between source and target text. Dr Emmerich also participated in a workshop considering how to translate tricky material and led a discussion with Syrian refugees and support volunteers considering the ethics of interpreting.

Our second speaker was the eminent sociologist **Gisèle Sapiro**, Director of Research at the French National Centre for Scientific Research and Director of Studies and Vice-President of International Affairs at The School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (Paris). Professor Sapiro led a workshop and gave a talk, both addressing the role of translation in the international book market. Her exceptionally well attended lecture led to dynamic discussion about the way the centralization of publishing organized the market for translations in specific contexts and how small independent publishers offered different models for envisioning the future production and dissemination of translations.

Our third and final speaker was **Todd Reeser**, Professor of French at the University of Pittsburgh and author of a prize-winning monograph, *Setting Plato Straight* (The University of Chicago Press, 2015), that explores the role played by the reception of Plato's dialogues in the consolidation of ideas about sexuality during the Renaissance. Professor Reeser participated in a round-table discussion of his book in which colleagues from classics and early modern studies offered reflections on the volume's arguments about the role of translation in the history of sexuality. Professor Reeser also led a discussion of recent work in affect theory and masculinity studies within the history department.



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