

A Global Perspective on Translation Flows

EST Congress 2022 Panel

Call for Papers

Deadline: October 15, 2022

Submissions welcome [here](#)

Panel Convenors:

Ondřej Vimr (*Institute of Czech Literature, Czech Academy of Sciences*)

Diana Roig-Sanz (*ICREA Research Professor and ERC Grantee, Open University of Catalonia*)

Julia Miesenböck (*Institute of Czech Literature, Czech Academy of Sciences; Charles University*)

Systemic approaches (Zohar, Hermans) or sociology of translation (Heilbron, Sapiro) have sought to understand the historical and contemporary acts of translation as embedded in a wider international context. Yet, the former has been criticised for overlooking the human agent, while the latter has far too often employed a centrist world-systems model and dichotomies of centre vs. periphery or dominated vs. dominating, diverting attention from the distributed (multicentric), multi-layered and non-deterministic nature of intercultural communication, including literary circulation. This panel aims to advance the investigation of translation flows by taking inspiration from Global Studies and focus on concepts that allow fresh investigations while addressing many of the familiar issues of the place of literature in the international communication and cultural exchange. We suggest topics falling into three categories:

Connectivity, connections, and space. How does connectivity – or the fact that people stay in touch with each other as technology of the time allows – impact the international translation flows both now and from a historical perspective? Translations are results of such connectivity, and they are a form of connections across linguistic and geographical borders. How can we map translation zones and understand the patterns and circuits of connections between multiple regions, literatures, publishers, authors, literary agents, book fairs and festivals, or translators? How does connectivity and connections relate to each other?

Scales, layers, and time. A global perspective involves an integration of different scales and layers. How do we approach local acts or regional patterns of translation from a global perspective? What is the interplay between the local, regional, and global scale of translation? How do unforeseen layers of international literary circulation (such as involving specific genres, topics, or repertoires) impact our understanding of translation flows at various scales and different historical epochs?

Agency. Literary translation involves many actors, including translators, authors, publishers, literary agents, scouts, diplomats, institutions, or other cultural mediators (Roig-Sanz and

Meylaerts 2018). Most of them act in multiple capacities, across various scales and layers at the same time. What methods do we have at hand to disentangle the complexity of such relations and explore the impact of individuals or groups of individuals on literary flows at a particular time and place? How does global consciousness and connectivity affect their choices and actions? How do the actions of individuals affect the global? And what role do women play in these global translation flows?

We welcome proposals employing all methods, including qualitative and computation (digital humanities) approaches, from all parts of the globe, addressing issues at any scale dating to any historical era as long as a global perspective is employed.

For panel related enquiries contact: vimr [at] ucl.cas.cz

Essential bibliography

James, Paul, and Manfred B. Steger. 2016. 'Globalisation and Global Consciousness: Levels of Connectivity'. In *Global Culture: Consciousness and Connectivity*, by Roland Robertson and Didem Buhari-Gulmez, 5–20. London - New York: Routledge.

Nederveen Pieterse, Jan. 2021. *Connectivity and Global Studies*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Roig-Sanz, Diana, and Reine Meylaerts (eds.) 2018. *Literary Translation and Cultural Mediators in 'Peripheral' Cultures: Customs Officers Or Smugglers?* Palgrave Macmillan.

Vimr, Ondřej. 2022 (forth.): 'Choosing Books for Translation. A Connectivity Perspective on the Current Practice of Translation Publishing' in Diana Roig-Sanz and Neus Rotger (eds.): *Global Literary Studies: Key Concepts*. Berlin: De Gruyter