Call for workshop participation

Towards a feminist translation theory?

Connecting feminist and translation theory

14-15 November 2024

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The last decade has seen an **unprecedented revival in the study of feminism and translation.** Numerous anthologies, special issues, and monographs attest to this boom. All these works do not only provide extensive overviews of the state of the art of Feminist Translation Studies within and beyond the Anglo-American Eurozone and outline the potential future pathways of the discipline. They also **explore and challenge prominent feminist theories and analytical categories,** including 'gender', 'intersectionality', 'transnationalism', or 'resignification'. Feminist scholars, on the other hand, continue to remain **largely unconcerned with translation-related matters.**

Against this background, **the workshop pursues two goals:** Firstly, it aims to provide possible **explanations for the persistent imbalance** in the relationship **between feminist studies and Feminist Translation Studies.** How can the latter enrich feminist research on a broader level? How should this be done? And what analytical potential does the dimension of translation actually bring to feminist research?

The second step will address how these considerations may be incorporated into the **conception of a feminist theory of translation.** In the spirit of a **transdisciplinary endeavour**, the proposed theory shall eventually not only be applicable to original translation studies research, but might also advance the research questions and approaches of non-translation studies scholars.

The workshop does, of course, not aspire to produce a fully developed theory. Rather, it aims to **lay the groundwork** by exploring the **potentially defining features** of a feminist translation theory.

In order to guarantee in-depth discussions, the workshop will only **host a maximum of 10 people** (myself included). Once I have received a response from all the invitees, I will be happy to share the full list of participants with you. If you decide to follow my invitation, I would be very pleased if you could (1) provide me with an **abstract (300 words)** and a **working title** of your contribution **by 15 May**, and (2) prepare a **very short presentation (of 10 minutes)** for the workshop.

The nature of the workshop will be one of thorough discussion. These discussions shall enable you to further develop your presentation for publication. It is planned to publish the **workshop proceedings as an anthology or special issue** (more details to be given at the workshop).

The following questions may serve as a starting point for your own contribution:

1. What should be the main guiding principles in the development of a feminist translation theory?
2. Is the focus more on the qualitative or the quantitative?
3. How might these principles differ depending on one's own geographic, cultural and interdisciplinary position?
4. To what extent do these principles change when it comes to working with historical sources?
5. What are the notions and concepts that scholars of Feminist Translation Studies must find consensus on to be able to take a step further towards theory-building?
6. What notions and concepts from gender and feminist studies could and should be included in such considerations? Which key concepts can be made especially fruitful for Feminist Translation Studies (e.g. sex/gender; queer; performativity; intersectionality; public/private; feminist conceptions of politics; theories of patriarchy; periodization; resignification; politics of location, …)?
7. What potential do feminist theories of the public (including multiple public spheres, public opinion, public discourse, public participation, …) in particular hold for the development of a feminist theory of translation?
8. Can existing translation studies theories be adapted into a feminist translation theory? Or are there elements of existing translation theories that can or need to be integrated into a feminist translation theory?
9. How can both an agent-centred and a process-centred approach be included in such a theory?
10. To what extent do certain practices of translation provide the basis for (feminist) theory formation?
11. Which feminist practices have inspired theoretical developments in certain contexts?