

CfP: The Wrong Direction – Workshop on Early Modern Translations into Latin

April 13 and 14, 2023
at Philologisches Seminar

Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen

Application Deadline: June 30, 2022

The early modern period is marked by its widespread and broad use of the Latin language in international communications, science, education, and ecclesiastic contexts which correlates with the preeminence of Latin works in print well into the 18th century. Its functions as *the* language for communication and scientific exchange have been frequently described (Ijsewijn/Sacrè 1999; Leonhart 2009 e.g.). Nonetheless, at first glance, it may seem irritating, even illogical, that in the early modern period vernacular texts on such a large scale have been translated into Latin. What are their functions? Who translated and for what kind of readership; which expectations were placed on these translations by translators, editors, and printer-publishers? Were they successful, reprinted, overruled by rival products, or was their efficiency augmented by being intermediary versions for translations into other languages?

Based on the research in context of the DFG project *Versio latina* by Prof. Anja Wolkenhauer at Universität Tübingen (<https://uni-tuebingen.de/prof-dr-anja-wolkenhauer/versiolatina>), we aim to decidedly change our perspective and to focus particularly on early modern Latin translations, looking, as Peter Burke once articulated ‘into the wrong direction’ (Burke 2007). Hereby, we want to apply a broad understanding to the term translation, which takes into consideration and analyzes the deeply interwoven linguistic, cultural, medial, and material processes of translation contexts (Toepfer/Burschel/Wesche 2020).

Their actors did not solely produce translations, they also framed their prints with various elements such as technical features, layout, and paratexts. What role did the Latin translators envision for themselves, against which other actors did they try to delimitate themselves? To what extent and how were women and people of color involved? By which means, strategies, forms, and pictorial programs were translation processes reflected in

theoretical debate as well as practical application? Which texts and documents can be considered as landmarks for certain time periods or networks in the early modern period (Bruni, *De interpretatione recta* e.g.)?

All in all, translations functioned as catalysts for linguistic and literary changes. Following the international routes of commerce and exploration, they participate in global (inter)cultural communication processes. Translations into Latin, for instance, aided the knowledge transfer from indigenous cultures, however, connected this knowledge in various ways with coded and connotated terms of the Latin language and norms of the target culture that need to be critically discussed. Therefore, we especially look forward to abstracts focusing on and investigating translations from other languages of the Mediterranean region and of Asian and African languages. Which text genres were preferred for Latin translations? Who translated them for whom? In which cultural, social, and political contexts were those translations produced? What appeal and radiance did they develop in global context?

Confirmed Speakers are Prof. Dr. Reinhold F. Glei (Bochum), Prof. Dr. Andreas Gipper (Mainz-Germersheim), Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Martin Korenjak (Innsbruck), Prof. Dr. Marianne Pade (Aarhus) and Dr. Bernhard Söllradl (Wien).

The call invites researchers from the various fields of research focusing on the early modern period, looking for a particular emphasis on Latin translations. Young researchers are encouraged to send their abstracts! We plan to reimburse travel expenses. Talks are scheduled for 20-30 minutes, followed by ample time for discussion. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us. Please send your questions and abstracts (250 words maximum, German or English) to the following address:

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