

AIA 30: Experiment and innovation: Branching forwards and backwards

HEL-RELATED SEMINARS CO-CONVENED BY SLIN MEMBERS

S4: Scotland's Branches: Language, Literature and Culture Across Time

Seminar convenors

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Description:

There is something uncanny about Scotland's capacity to rely on its past in order to build its future, while being well-grounded in the present. It was in Scotland that the first historical novels reinvented the past at the onset of the nineteenth century, and even at the turn of the twenty-first century worldwide audiences are captivated by a book and TV series, *Outlander*, which centres on a story of time travel initiated in Scotland.

Nor does this capacity only apply to literature, as Scottish culture also features the same characteristics, and indeed Scotland's linguistic history has developed both independently and in close connection with the variation and changes observed south of the border. In addition, Scotland's role in a European context that is going to be affected by Brexit is likely to be viewed in light of at least two key factors: the country's historical relationship with the Continent, which dates from before the Union of the Crowns; and its ruling party's aim to regain independence so as to re-join the EU – an aim that also has its roots firmly planted in the past but which looks to the future.

Starting from these observations, in this interdisciplinary seminar we aim to shed light on the relevance of Scotland in the field of 'English' studies today, by drawing attention to genres and texts that bear witness to the various ways in which Scottish literature, language and culture have constantly branched out into the future, while constantly acknowledging the significance of the past. Contributions are invited on topics which may comprise, but are not limited to, drama, poetry, popular culture, corpora, lexicography and translation.

S20: Medical Innovation, Experimentation and Knowledge Paradigm Shifts: Past and Present Discursive Perspectives and Popularizing Strategies

Seminar convenors

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Description:

This seminar aims to provide new insights into the evolution of linguistic and discursive practices employed to popularize medical knowledge and the understanding of medicine in the period between the 1650s and the 2000s. The perspective may be either diachronic or synchronic and scholars are encouraged to submit papers approaching medical discourse popularization from different methodological viewpoints.

Scientific and technological advances in medicine, which engender new healing procedures and medical cures, are characterized and triggered by innovation and experimentation, and have always been

accompanied by important societal, (sociotechnical) and cultural changes. New knowledge paradigms are spawned by such transformations and become reflected not only in the discursive and language practices of the medical community but also of society at large. Ideological messages and ethical standpoints may also be transferred as a consequence of novel practices, as knowledge can be manipulated intentionally and thus transfer possible bias. This applies especially in the process of popularization, whereby specialist knowledge undergoes changes in order to become accessible to non-specialists through diverse communicative channels. The changing roles of experts, non-experts, semi-experts, educated or non-educated participants add to the issue's complexity and multidimensionality.

All this is to be examined in its linguistic and discursive aspects and implications. Analytical approaches based on synchronic, diachronic and/or contrastive, intralinguistic, interlinguistic and intercultural perspectives are equally welcome. Seminar themes include:

- changes undergone by specialized medical knowledge in the popularization process, in different texts, genres and/or media
- ethical and ideological implications in medical discourse popularization, especially with regard to sensitive issues and advanced technological developments
- criticality of information transmission for collective or individual decision-making processes, e.g. medical/health emergencies and subsequent institutional actions (political, legal, medical/healthcare decisions, intervention measures, informed consent to clinical treatment, etc.)
- the social construction and representation of medicine through language
- labelling disease(s) between 'the normal' and 'the pathological'
- medical issues and the social understanding of diseases through language
- the secularization of medical language and discourse
- the language of pain and suffering over time
- the framing of disease(s) and the sick role
- the discourse of innovative medical procedures and practices
- the language/discourse of pandemics and epidemics over time

S24: Language strategies in the dissemination and popularisation of information and knowledge (1500-1750)

Seminar convenors

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Description:

The seminar will provide a forum for research relating to the language and forms of discourse employed in the dissemination and popularisation of information and knowledge (1500-1750). Abstracts are invited in which linguistic and rhetorical features are discussed in relation to non-literary texts falling within the early modern period broadly interpreted as between 1500-1750. Genres of particular interest include: news pamphlets and newspapers; letters; didactic works; political and diplomatic papers; travel writing.

Objects for study include, but are not confined to:

- theoretical aspects, methodological challenges and results of empirical research in non-literary discourse
- multi-feature analysis or research on individual features (including lexical, structural and textual characteristics as well as pragmatic and sociolinguistic aspects)
- triggers, agents and mechanisms of change in genre conventions
- stylistic and multimodal strategies of dissemination
- metalinguistic awareness and its development through time
- contact and change: linguistic and cultural mediation
- dissemination to specific groups and networks

S25: Towards a history of translation collaborative practices and cooperation

Seminar convenors

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Description:

In the course of the centuries, most Western translation theories have focused on the translator as a solitary individual. As a consequence, the process of translating has been envisioned as an activity to be carried out by a single actor, with no external aid. The lack of attention to cooperation, teamwork or collaborative strategies as key constituents of the translation process has meant that historical studies of translation tend to neglect this aspect even today.

As early as in the 1960s, when Translation Studies as a discipline was launched, Eugene Nida divided translation into a decoding and encoding phase, with a translator in between, who was responsible for the transfer of the message from the source to the target language. In spite of the attention to the complexity of the process, split into two distinct activities, a single agent appeared to be responsible for the whole procedure. Teamwork did not appear in this model, although Nida himself was a key figure in Bible translation into a number of languages, actively participating in collaborative work of groups such as the Wycliffe Bible Translators and the American Bible Association. The impact of Nida's theory went well beyond Bible translation, and has been acknowledged as a driving force for the development and multifarious specialization of contemporary Translation Studies. At the same time, this model does not represent an isolated statement of translators' "solitary agency", but comes at the end of a specific Western historical development of translation thinking.

No wonder a seminal text in translation history, published under the title "Translators Through History" (Delisle and Woodsworth, 1995, 2012), focuses on single translator figures "in terms of their position in a cultural and temporal space" (1995:2). A history of translators'/interpreters'/language mediators' cooperative strategies and collaborative work has yet to be written, in spite of the fact that a few steps in this direction have already been produced by scholars working in translation and cultural exchange in early modern periods, or interested in specific topics, such as feminist collaborative practices, audiovisual translation, or distinctive concepts such as loyalty or trust.

In the wake of the current pandemic, probably as never before after the second world war, cooperation and collaborative work has become a rallying cry in many aspects of our society, and Translation Studies is no exception. Hence, starting from contemporary practices and looking backwards in history for the traces of collaborative work in translation/interpreting/ and language mediation is not merely an archaeological endeavour, but a moral imperative.

This panel aims to generate debate by exploring the effects of collaborative work, cooperation - or lack of cooperation - in the history of translation, interpreting and intercultural contacts, from and into English. In the course of history, from the Early Modern Period up to the Modern and Post-Modern age, the type of cooperation expected of translators, interpreters and other intermediaries has varied, producing a number of different effective - or in some cases ineffective - strategies.

We would like to receive proposals which explore how translators/ interpreters/ and language mediators have (or have not) facilitated the exchange, transfer, or appropriation of ideas and texts (both oral and written) by employing inter-personal and intra-textual strategies, so as to ensure cooperation and produce effective communication.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited, to the following:

- theoretical and methodological aspects of collaborative practices throughout translation/interpreting/language mediation history;
- case studies focusing on the relations between translators, interpreters and other agents or intermediaries, such as printers, publishers, editors, patrons, magazine directors and collaborators, etc;

- case studies analysing teamwork experiences over history, targeting diverse translation and publishing settings (including literary, religious, scientific as well as other text genres);
- issues pertaining to the impact of technology on collaborative practices in translation in the course of history, starting from the invention of printing, the early periodicals and magazines, the advent of the internet and including new trends in audiovisual translation, crowdsourcing or phenomena like fansubbing and fandubbing;
- the diachronic evolution of activist and volunteer interpreting in conflict and emergency situations;
- the development of collaborative solutions in public service and community interpreting;
- feminist and queer translation over history;
- cooperative practices enhanced by machine and computer assisted translation.

The outcomes of this panel will hopefully enable us to write a new chapter in translation history.

OTHER SEMINARS CO-CONVENED BY SLIN MEMBERS

S5: English for Academic Purposes (EAP): From past to present for the future

Seminar convenors

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Description:

Research into EAP has expanded enormously in the last decades, owing to the burgeoning use of English for professional reasons as well as for the concerted interest it has attracted in higher and further education courses for native speakers and non-native speakers of English worldwide (see among others Alexander, Argent & Spencer (2008); Basturkmen (2006); Dudley-Evans & St. John (1998); Hyland (2006); Jordan (1997); McDonough (2005); Richards & Farrell (2005)). Stemming principally from ESP, EAP in the last few years has obtained its own space as a highly skill-based area of language study that can be examined at different degrees of specificity, more generally as English for General Academic Purposes (EGAP) or more specifically as English for Specific Academic Purposes (ESAP). Emerging from a long-standing literary tradition of theoretical and empirical contributions in the area of English linguistics and applied linguistics, EAP still needs defining. The aim of this panel is to explore the state of the art of EAP: i.e. where it stands today in relation to where it came from and where it is destined to go. We welcome papers that will discuss theoretically and/or empirically either the genesis and history of EAP or its present state and/or future direction.

S8: Social stylistics: Language, styles and contemporary challenges

Seminar convenors

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Description:

The cultural, social and political complexity of today's many-sided world is mirrored by a proliferation of discourses and texts that keep growing in their effort to reproduce, construct and convey a range of topical issues across many domains. Narratives, in particular, seem to foreground, manipulate or give voice to questions as diverse as environmental and ecological challenges, social issues and postcolonial preoccupations, for example pertaining to aspects such as identity, discrimination and migration. To fully understand and critically unpack the themes and attitudes that authors and text-producers elaborate, it is vital to apply linguistic frameworks and theories that not only combine an empirical approach with considerable accuracy, but that can also trigger a reflection on social and ethical responsibility. Such linguistic frameworks and theories are provided by the discipline of stylistics which, in its innovative contemporary developments, can be used to tackle and investigate texts that belong to a wide variety of contexts and text-types, including hybrid and experimental ones. The exploitation of territories and peoples, the annihilation of marginalized subjects and the naturalization of destructive ideologies are just some of the implications that

scholars and practitioners of stylistics unveil when they examine textual materials. This seminar proposal is thus aimed at gathering contributions dealing with various social and cultural themes, and informed by stylistic methodologies, in the hope to critically engage with some of the stories and global problems that we need to bear in mind to understand the present and the future that looms ahead.