

Call for Papers

Book Series: Translation, Interpreting & Transfer (TI&T) – Leuven University Press

Volume editors: Joanna Sobesto (Jagiellonian University, Poland)
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Positionalities of Translation Studies and its Scholars

Beginning in the early 20th century with the works of Karl Mannheim (1925) and Ludwick Fleck (1935), many sociologists of knowledge and philosophers of science developed a heightened awareness of the historicity and social embeddedness of scientific knowledge. Starting from the assumption that *pure*, unmediated knowledge does not exist *in itself*, attention is directed to the “existential determination of knowledge” (*Seinsgebundenheit des Denkens* – Karl Mannheim), that is, to the geographical and temporal position from which an object is studied. Moreover, with the ‘linguistic turn’ in philosophy, the notion of language as a transparent medium for grasping and conveying reality began losing ground to a new understanding of language as a formative condition of thought. These developments called the universality of scientific knowledge into question and exposed the temporal, geographic and linguistic determinants of the scientific process.

The volume applies this tradition of reflection to the field of Translation Studies – often considered interdisciplinary, hybrid and multidimensional by definition (Bachmann-Medick 2016). It thus investigates the historical, geopolitical and linguistic *positions* of Translation Studies and its scholars in order to examine the impact this situatedness had on the development of Translation Studies as a discipline and to the further redefinitions of the field. In doing so, the volume aims to merge current debates in Translation Studies that have been discussed separately thus far:

- (1) The presumed ‘Western’ position of Translation Studies and the dominant ‘Western’ thinking in the theorization of translation (Tymoczko 2007; Baer 2020; Van Doorslaer/Naaijkens 2021)
- (2) The problematization of a monolingual scientific discourse (Bennett 2014), and the awareness that knowledge is formed and adopted differently in different languages
- (3) Consideration of the historical moment of Translation Studies by explaining certain trends and blind spots in translation theory (Rozmysłowicz 2019; Odrekhivska 2021)

By bringing these voices and discourses together, the volume hopes to advance a profound confrontation of the discipline with its own temporal, spatial and linguistic position(s).

The editors welcome contributions concerning, but not limited to, work in the following areas:

- History of Translation Studies
 - the historical contexts in which Translation Studies emerged as a discipline and their influence on the further development of the field
 - translation practices and reflections on translation that circulated before the emergence of the discipline and their influence on the conceptualizations of translation within Translation Studies
 - the languages that are and have been used in discourses in Translation Studies
 - (self)translation and non-translation in Translation Studies
- Sociology of Translation Studies
 - everyday pre-constructions (Bourdieu/Wacquant 1992: 235-247) that are adopted in Translation Studies, in terms of the problems that are discussed and/or the concepts and tools that are used
 - reflections on the power of English as a Lingua Franca in Translation Studies and its interconnected effects of inclusion in the discourse and exclusion from it
 - the concept of ‘native reader’ and ‘foreign reader’ (Walkowitz 2015) applied to the context of Translation Studies scholars
 - investigation of “thought collectives” (Fleck) within Translation Studies
 - reflections on one’s own background (as a translator, a translation scholar, an activist; having studied Translation Studies, Linguistics, Cultural Studies) and its influence on one’s own research
- Meta-reflections
 - on the linguistic, geographical, and temporal situatedness of research and the role translations play or could play in the tense relationship between the universality and perspectivity of knowledge
 - on the borders of Translation Studies, its relationships to other disciplines and the relationships between its sub-disciplines

Abstract submission

Please send your abstract (500-750 words) to both volume editors, Joanna Sobesto (joanna.sobesto@doctoral.uj.edu.pl) and Garda Elsherif (elsherif@uni-mainz.de) by September 30, 2022. Volume editors will review all submissions based on relevance to the scope of the volume and the overall quality of the abstract. Authors invited to submit a full manuscript will be notified by October 31, 2022.

Chapter manuscript submission

The length of the manuscript should be **6,000-8,000 words**, including references. All manuscripts will be **double-blind peer reviewed by at least two reviewers**. Authors should adhere to Chicago style guidelines and follow the author-date system for citations.

Schedule

Abstract submission	September 30, 2022
Decision on abstract	October 31, 2022
Submission of chapter manuscript	April 31, 2023
Estimated publication	Winter 2024

References

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- Baer, Brian James (2020) “On Origins: the Mythistory of Translation Studies and the Geopolitics of Knowledge”, in: *The Translator* 26(3), 221-240.
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- Fleck, Ludwig (2021[1935]) *Entstehung und Entwicklung einer wissenschaftlichen Tatsache. Einführung in die Lehre vom Denkstil und Denkkollektiv*. Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp.
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- Odrekhivska, Iryna (2021) „Historiosophy of Translation”, in: van Doorslaer, Luc/Naaijken, Ton (eds) *The Situatedness of Translation Studies. Temporal and Geographical Dynamics of Theorization*. Leiden: Brill (Approaches to Translation Studies 48), 34-59.
- Rozmysłowicz, Tomasz (2019) “Die Geschichtlichkeit der Translation(swissenschaft). Zur paradigmatischen Relevanz der maschinellen Übersetzung”, in: *Chronotopos: A Journal of Translation History* 1(2), 17-41.
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