



**Translation and Time:
Exploring the Temporal Dimension of Cross-cultural Transfer**

Presentation Details
<p>Title of Paper:</p> <p>Translation, Transition, Transgender: Framing the Queer Life of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf</p>
<p>Abstract:</p> <p>This paper applies insights from queer theory to frame analysis, underscoring the notion that narrative frames, far from being unified and fixed, are often overlapping, contradictory and contested. This queer approach to frame analysis will be applied to the English translation and retranslation of the memoirs of East German transvestite Charlotte von Mahlsdorf against the backdrop of the so-called transition period following the fall of communism in Eastern Europe. Initially framed as a “gay hero,” von Mahlsdorf was reframed by playwright Doug Wright as an “enigma” following the release of her secret police file in the 1990s, which in turn precipitated a re-edition of the memoir in English. While the initial framing was positive and celebratory and the second more negative and ambivalent, both were shaped by a developmental model, which assumes Western capitalist democracy as the endpoint of development, “the end of history” in Francis Fukayama’s formulation, and casts Eastern Europeans as other. This Western developmental frame will be contrasted with von Mahlsdorf’s self-framing, as presented in the memoir.</p>
<p>Author’s Biography:</p> <p>Brian James Baer is Professor of Russian and Translation Studies at Kent State University, where he teaches translation-related courses at the undergraduate, Master’s, and doctoral levels. He is founding editor of the journal <i>Translation and Interpreting Studies (TIS)</i>, general editor of the Kent State Scholarly Monograph Series in Translation Studies, and co-editor, with Michelle Woods of the book series <i>Literatures, Cultures, Translation</i> (Bloomsbury). He is author of the monographs <i>Other Russias</i> (2009), which was selected as a Choice Outstanding Academic Title by the American Library Association in 2011, and <i>Translation and the Making of Modern Russian Literature</i> (2015). In addition, he has edited a number of collected volumes: <i>Beyond the</i></p>

Ivory Tower: Re-thinking Translation Pedagogy, with Geoffrey Koby (2003), *Contexts, Subtexts and Pretexts: Literary Translation in Eastern Europe and Russia* (2011), *No Good without Reward: The Selected Writings of Liubov Krichevskaya* (2011), *Russian Writers on Translation. An Anthology*, with Natalia Olshanskaya (2013), and *Researching Translation and Interpreting*, with Claudia Angelelli (2015). He is also the translator of Juri Lotman's final book-length work, *The Unpredictable Workings of Culture* (2013) and is currently working on an annotated translation of Andrei Fedorov's 1953 *Introduction to Translation Theory* for which he was awarded the 2014 EST Translation Prize.