



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

Presentation Details

Title of Paper: Translating the Time of Neoliberalist Precariousness

Abstract:

Volunteer translation plays a key role in those activist movements in Italy whose agenda can be defined as queer, as it mainly centers around a critique of hetero-normative genders and sexualities. Given that the critique of heteronormativity is entangled with a critique of neoliberalism, and that the notion of precariousness discussed in relation to it is tightly linked to that of temporality, this paper aims to investigate how time is re-signified in these scenarios and the role that translation plays in its theorization. A paradigmatic case is that of the queer transfeminist transcultural collective *ideadestroyingmuros*¹. The group, formed mainly by Northern Italian female activists migrated to Spain, France and Southern Italy, conceives translation, as expressed in their website, as a tool for “redeeming life”. Translation is compared by the collective to their own migration, to their “sneaking into different territories and languages” and thus to themselves as translational bodies. The group, like other queer transfeminist ones, is interested in opposing the individualistic self-exploitation and the unsustainable demands and pressures on our time posed by the threats of neoliberalist precariousness with a re-valuation of practices of collaboration and solidarity. I will try to see how these practices, encouraged as a result of migratory movements across different borders (of language, sex, genders and nations) might impact on the translational activities of the group and how activist translation, thus, participates in the theorization of new alternative temporalities.

¹ <http://www.ideadestroyingmuros.info/bio/chi-siamo/>

Author's Biography:

Michela Baldo is a lecturer in Translation Studies at the University of Leicester and a former Visiting Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Contemporary Women's Writing ([CCWW](#)), University of London, where she investigated the reception through translation of Italian-American women writers in Italy. She has written articles on Italian-Canadian works and their written and audio-visual translation into Italian, and on the concept of “queer” and its migration/translation into Italian. She has co-edited a book on drag kings in Italy, which came out in March 2014, and is now pursuing research on queer translation in activist movements in Italy.