



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

Presentation Details	
Title of Paper:	Literary Syntax and Translational Temporality
Abstract:	<p>What is the temporality of syntax and how does its time change in translation? If we extend Paul Ricœur's notion of how human time is constructed through narrative (Ricœur 1983/1990) to the question of how syntax constructs human time in literary texts, can we understand how a particular literary syntax-temporality is disrupted by translation or engaged with through translation? Secondly, in terms of re-translations, does the 'progress' of historical time change notions of syntactic time? Thirdly, to what extent might we speak of hermeneutic time when exegetically reading the temporality of syntax?</p> <p>This paper focuses on the three questions, through a reading of: 1/ an analysis of two passages from recent English language re-translations of Tolstoy's <i>Anna Karenina</i> (Pevear and Volokhonsky 2004, Schwartz 2014, Bartlett 2014) and their relationship to the long-standing translations (Garnett, Louise and Aylmer Maude) (Venuti 2013; Robinson 2011) in terms of thinking about Tolstoy's use of syntactic malleability and lexical repetition to produce time in the novel; 2/ time, syntax and the translator: how historico-literary time changes translators relationship to syntax and how it manifests time. I will analyze a passage from Mark Harman's 1998 retranslation of Kafka's <i>Das Schloß / The Castle</i> and the influence of Harman's reading of Samuel Beckett's <i>Trilogy</i>; 3/ finally, do readers apprehend time in the novel at a syntactic level as "rhythmic pulses"? (Hickok 2015).</p> <p>Hickok, Gregory. "It's not a 'Stream' of Consciousness." <i>New York Times</i>. 8 May 2015: SR 9. Ricœur, Paul. <i>Time and Narrative</i>. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990. Robinson, Douglas. <i>Translation and the Problem of Sway</i>. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 2011. Venuti, Lawrence. <i>Translation Changes Everything: Theory and Practice</i>. London and New York: Routledge, 2013.</p>

Author's Biography:

Michelle Woods is the author of *Kafka Translated: How Translators Have Shaped Our Reading of Kafka* (2013), *Censoring Translation: Censorship, Theatre and the Politics of Translation* (2012) and *Translating Milan Kundera* (2006), as well as numerous articles on the translation of Czech literature and film. She has published translations of modern and contemporary Czech literature in *Granta* and *Words Without Borders*. She is the editor of the forthcoming book, *Authorizing Translation* (Routledge 2016). She is an Associate Professor of English at SUNY New Paltz.