

The Institute of Culture Studies and History of Theatre at the Austrian Academy of Sciences plans to hold an international conference as part of its new 'Translation' research programme from 6 – 8 October 2010. The conference will address the most significant research topics of that often-quoted but only rarely adequately depicted and clearly described phenomenon known as the 'Translational Turn' in Cultural Studies.

**Translatio/n.
Narration, Media and the Staging of Differences**

'Culture as translation': What began as the trace of an intuitively grasped connection has turned into a privileged and established path toward understanding transcultural and transnational processes. Since the 1990s, the concept of 'translation' has served the fields of Cultural and Postcolonial Studies as a metaphor for hybrid diaspora identities in the context of another, dominant culture. Homi Bhabha's well-known and seminal definition of Translation as a 'staging of cultural difference' encouraged research in the culture sciences to expand the narrow concept of linguistic and textual translation to include cultural and social practices.

Translating may be understood as 'staging', as the 'mise en scène', or the 'entanglement and the intertwining of the Self and the Other' (Bachmann-Medick), with translation itself as a cultural experience. In this case, processes are at work which generate new, hybrid spaces, – spaces which open up and operate as anti-essentialistic entities.

Based on these findings, we are now able to use a transdisciplinary approach to the concept of '*translatio*' or cultural translation, as distinguished from the traditional linguistic concept of 'translation', i. e. not only as a translation from one language to another, but as a concept including all those processes which by means of de- and re-contextualisation make communication between varied groups – be they linguistically, religiously, socially, generationally, or otherwise defined – and different traditions of discourse possible. We understand this cultural interaction and cultural practice of communication to be the performative negotiation of differences between identities.

The international conference will work from this perspective, proposing three different approaches:

1. 'Translatio(n)' in all its theoretical complexity. These papers will contribute to the precision and accessibility of the concept's characteristics, specifics, and potential for the field of cultural studies.
2. The second approach will be devoted to the underexplored field of relationships between translation and the construction of identity, between cultural translation and narration. Here the emphasis will be not only on Bhabha's space of translation as a metaphoric space of communication, but also on another aspect: to what extent has cultural translation as a performative practice shaped, and to what extent and in what ways does it continue to shape, the formation of identity? Further discussion will also be devoted to translation as a function of conflictive processes of negotiation between cultures, discourses, and epochs.
3. The third approach will examine the relationship between cultural translation and media. As a practice of performative negotiation between various identities, cultural translation always has to be performed among a plurality of different media, a transmedia phenomenon contributing to the formation of collective memory.

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- Emily Apter Department of French, New York University
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 - Christopher Balme Institut für Theaterwissenschaft, LMU München
 - Johanna Borek Institut für Romanistik, Universität Wien
 - Gerhard Budin Institut für Corpuslinguistik und Texttechnologie, ÖAW Wien
 - Roberto Dainotto Romance Studies, Duke University, Durham
 - Federico Italiano Institut für Kulturwissenschaften und Theatergeschichte, ÖAW Wien
 - Camilla Miglio Dipartimento di Studi europei e interculturali, Università "La Sapienza", Roma
 - Walter Mignolo Centre for Global Studies and the Humanities, Duke University, Durham
 - Matthias J. Pernerstorfer Don Juan Archiv, Wien
 - Michael Rössner w.M., Institut für Kulturwissenschaften und Theatergeschichte, ÖAW Wien
 - Raoul Schrott Literaturwissenschaftler, Komparatist, Schriftsteller
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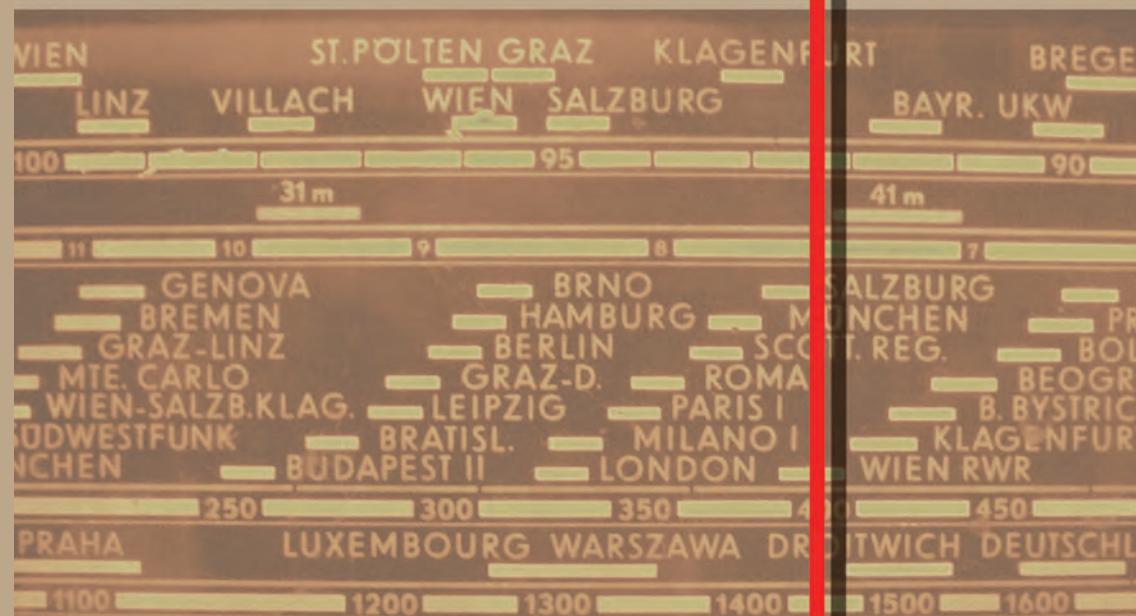
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TRANSLATION.

NARRATION, MEDIA AND
THE STAGING OF DIFFERENCES



Internationale Konferenz
des Instituts für Kulturwissenschaften
und Theatergeschichte
der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften
Lesung: Raoul Schrott, 6. Oktober 2010, 18:00
Vorträge & Diskussionen (englisch und deutsch)
Eintritt frei

6.–8. Oktober 2010
Österreichische Akademie
der Wissenschaften
Theatersaal
Sonnenfelsgasse 19
1010 Wien

Wednesday October 6th, 2010

06 00 p.m. **Raoul Schrott**
Reading

Thursday October 7th, 2010

09 15 a.m. **Michael Rössner**
Address of Welcome

Theoretical Perspectives

09 30 a.m. **Walter Mignolo**
Translation across Colonial Epistemic Differences:
Languages, Media and Visual

10 10 a.m. **Doris Bachmann-Medick**
From Hybridity to Translation: Reflections on
"Travelling Concepts"

10 50 a.m. Coffee break

11 10 a.m. **Birgit Wagner**
Cultural Translation: A Value or a Tool? Let's Start
with Gramsci

11 50 a.m. **Michael Rössner**
Translating "Translatio/n"

12 30 p.m. Lunch break

Translation and Literature

02 00 p.m. **Emily Apter**
The Right to Untranslatability

02 40 p.m. **Camilla Miglio**
Translation, Rewriting and Literary Negotiation:
A New Pattern for Comparative Literature

TRANSLATIO/N.

Narration, Media and the Staging of Differences

As recent years have revealed, the concept of "translation" has grown increasingly important in a globalizing world and a multimedial society. Seeing translation as the negotiation of differences between identity constructions not only contributes to the understanding of contemporary cultural processes, but also makes it possible to find orientation and critical discerning in the constantly changing social, political and media spaces. The conference is part of the research focus Translatio/n of the Institute of Culture Studies and Theatre History at the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

Wie sich in den letzten Jahren gezeigt hat, kommt in einer globalisierten Welt und einer multimedialen Gesellschaft dem Konzept der „Übersetzung“ eine eminent wichtige Bedeutung zu. Das Verständnis von Translation als Aushandlung der Differenzen zwischen Identitätskonstruktionen trägt nicht nur zum Verständnis gegenwärtiger kultureller Prozesse bei, sondern eröffnet auch die Möglichkeit, sich in ständig verändernden sozialen, politischen und medialen Räumen zu orientieren und kritisches Reflexionspotenzial zu entfalten. Die Veranstaltung ist Teil des Forschungsschwerpunktes Translation des Instituts für Kulturwissenschaften und Theatergeschichte der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften.

03 20 p.m. **Johanna Borek**
Translating in a Globalized World: It's Literary
Translation that Makes (the) Difference

04 00 p.m. Coffee break

Translation and Transculturation

04 20 p.m. **Gerhard Budin**
Translating Knowledge Cultures: A Global, Trans-
cultural Perspective

05 00 p.m. **Madina Tlostanova**
Transculturation and Trickster Aesthetics/Aesthetics
in Eurasian Borderlands

Friday October 8th, 2010

Translation and Theatre

09 30 a.m. **Christopher Balme**
Translating Theatre in the First Age of Globaliza-
tion

10 10 a.m. **Matthias J. Pernerstorfer**
Edition and Cultural Translation: "Der 30jährige
ABC-Schütz" in the German-Speaking World

10 50 a.m. Coffee break

Translation and Geography

11 00 a.m. **Roberto Dainotto**
Translating Laws: Montesquieu and the South

11 40 a.m. **Federico Italiano**
Orientation as Translation

12 20 p.m. Final discussion