

INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION DAY

THE BRITISH LIBRARY, 2 OCTOBER 2017

9.00AM – 9.30AM REGISTRATION

9.30AM – 9.45AM WELCOMES AND INTRODUCTION

9.45AM – 11.10AM OPENING PLENARY

This plenary panel will examine the UK's changing demographics, and what they might tell us about who translators are and where we might find them. How has the make-up of our cities changed? Will translators of the future be drawn mostly from second-generation urban immigrants rather than (as in the past) primarily anglophones with modern languages degrees? Will Brexit make things worse, or better? How well is the diversity of our contemporary culture currently reflected in the translation profession, and what can we do to improve the breadth of that representation?

With **Sarah Ardizzone**, **Vanni Bianconi**, **Adrian Blackledge** and **Francisca McNeill**, chaired by **Erica James**, Director of the Poetry Translation Centre.

11.10AM – 11.30AM BREAK

11.30AM – 12.45PM MORNING SESSIONS

TRANSLATION MASTERCLASS *Aimed at early career translators*

A masterclass by **Helen Stevenson** who was longlisted for the 2017 Man Booker International Prize with Alain Mabanckou for *Black Moses*. She will share her experience, practice, and advice, and discuss the collaborative work it takes to produce an outstanding book in translation. *Support from the Booker Prize Foundation.*

TRANSLATORS AT THE BRITISH LIBRARY *Mid-career*

Hear from curators and our translator-in-residence about what the British Library can do for you. This session will introduce some of the extensive resources available to translators and explore their potential for use across a wide range of research, educational, professional and creative work. The Library's collections include archives of literary translators, sound and oral history recordings, a vast array of print publications in most written languages of the world, historical dictionaries and much more.

With **Rachel Foss**, Head of Contemporary Archives and Manuscripts, British Library, **Jen Calleja**, Translator in Residence, British Library, and colleagues **Pardaad Chamsaz**, **Deborah Dawkin** and **Teresa Vernon**.

TRANSLATING POETRY *Experienced translators*

What are the specific challenges of translating poetry? Who is best equipped to do it - the solo translator, co-translators or even collaborative groups - and why? How do you best engage with a source text, and how do you ensure that the end result 'lives and breathes' in the target language? Does it matter whether poetry translations are 'marketable', or do they exist primarily to further academic research? And could translation be a part of the UK's poetry 'renaissance'?

Join practising translator and academic **Sophie Collins**, Literature Across Frontiers director **Alexandra Büchler** and Poetry Book Society manager **Alice Mullen** to mull over the big issues of the day for poetry in translation. Chaired by **Erica James**, managing director of the Poetry Translation Centre.

GENDER, SEXUALITY AND TRANSLATION *General interest*

How do you translate a social construct? What can translators do when confronted with a text whose sexual politics are different from those of the culture they are translating into? And how can we work towards a more equal representation of marginalised groups in translation? The panel will discuss implicit and explicit representations of gender and sexuality, ways to contextualise cultural differences, and how these reflect the challenges and joys of translation.

Chaired by **Dr Chantal Wright**, Associate Professor at the University of Warwick and coordinator of the Warwick Prize for Women in Translation, the panel will include **Emily Rose**, PhD candidate at the University of East Anglia writing about the translation of trans* identity, **ShengChi Hsu**, PhD candidate at the University of Warwick writing about gender and sex in translation of Taiwanese literature, and **Deborah Smith**, translator and founder of Tilted Axis Press.

12.45PM – 2.15PM LUNCH (INFORMAL SESSIONS WILL RUN 1.00PM-2.00PM)

#WEARETRANSLATING a lunchtime workshop with the Poetry Translation Centre

Join the PTC for an informal lunchtime translation session, led by the poet **Clare Pollard**. Starting from a 'literal' or bridge translation by SOAS scholar **Dr Martin Orwin** we will work our way collaboratively towards a new English version of a short poem by leading Somali poet Asha Lul Mohamud Yusuf. All are welcome and no specific language knowledge is required.

TRANSLATOR OR ACTIVIST? Join PEN staff for an informal lunchtime session on the crossover between translation and activism.

For more than 50 years, PEN has been campaigning on behalf of writers at risk around the world - whether imprisoned, on trial, subject to threats or whose work is banned. Translation has always been a crucial component of this work: helping to inform the outside world of their situation, facilitating contact with their families and legal teams, and giving a voice to those that have been silenced.

In more recent years, PEN has also worked with displaced writers and those living in exile, many of whom have themselves been at risk in their own countries and often struggle to have their voices heard here in the UK.

During this informal session, we will discuss the various ways in which translators can support PEN's work and, more generally, use their linguistic skills for good. Join us to share your thoughts, ideas and experiences.

TOUR OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY ARCHIVES

Following the morning session on Translators at the British Library, Head of Contemporary Collections and Manuscripts, **Rachel Foss**, leads a tour of some of the library's manuscripts, audio recordings and translator archives.

NEW PROJECTS AND OPPORTUNITIES Poster room

2.15PM – 3.30PM SESSION 2 – AFTERNOON

PROGRESS IN TRANSLATION: NEW INITIATIVES FOR AND BY LITERARY TRANSLATORS

Early career

This session will look at how the career of the literary translator as we know it has been changing over the last year through new opportunities, working models and self-initiated sidelines. Coming together to discuss the significance, importance and, in some cases, necessity of these new developments will be British Library Translator in Residence **Jen Calleja**, **Ruth Clarke** of new translation collective The Starling Bureau, and a member of Shadow Heroes, a project bringing translation into schools, and Shadow Heroes co-founder **Gitanjali Patel**. The panel will be chaired by Writers' Centre Norwich's International Director, **Kate Griffin**.

EFFIN' AND BLINDIN' - CHILDREN'S LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION *Mid-career*

What is, and is not, acceptable in translated literature for children in different cultures? What to do when the story in the source language offends sensibilities in the target language? The panel will include **Mélanie McGilloway**, school librarian and founder of www.librarymice.com; **Alessandro Gallenzi** of Alma Books; and Danish children's publisher **Elin Algreen-Petersen**; and will be chaired by **Daniel Hahn**, noted translator and advocate of children's literature.

TRANSLATING HUMAN RIGHTS *Experienced translators*

Join translator and academic Amanda Hopkinson who will present three South American authors she has worked with who never intended to address human rights in their work, but found it impossible not to. **Professor Alison Phipps**, head of Researching Multilingually at the Borders of Language: the Body, Law and the State at the University of Glasgow, will discuss the real life interactions that migrants face when fleeing their home countries. She will be joined by the project's poet in residence **Tawona Sithole**. **Chris Gribble** joins the panel in his role as the chair of the board of International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN). **Samantha Schnee**, Founding Editor of Words Without Borders, will chair the session.

TRANSLATING ARABIC *General interest*

The panel assesses the cultural impact made by the literature of the vast, Arab-speaking region with its multiple countries and histories, on a global English-language readership that has become increasingly ready to engage with literature in translation. Which works are translated into English and to what extent do they challenge or perpetuate stereotypes? Does 'the Arab world' as conveyed through the books we see published give us the whole picture - or are there many other works in Arabic which deserve to be translated? Which authors and narratives are privileged over others, and which ones get left out? How do titles make their way into the English-language market, who are the gatekeepers who decide what is translated, why and when?

Panel: **Ali Bader** (author and publishing editor), Alice Guthrie (translator, producer of Shubbak festival's literary programme), **Marcia Lynx Qualey** (ArabLit blog), **Wen-Chin Ouyen** (academic, SOAS)
Chair: **Bidisha** (writer, journalist, broadcaster)

3.30PM – 3.50PM BREAK

3.50PM – 4.50PM CLOSING PLENARY – TRANSLATION CENTRE STAGE

[Foreign Affairs] Translates! is a programme designed to give theatre translators the opportunity to see and respond to their work performed whilst still in development. By taking our translators out of the usual isolated writing process and immersing them in theatre practice, we aim to help them improve the quality of their work through a greater understanding of the process by which it will be performed. During this session we will share the results and impact of our inaugural programme – to end the day the audience will be invited to navigate the practicalities of their craft in a mass-translation session alongside the company's ensemble actors led by **William Gregory** and **Trine Gulliver**.

4.50PM – 5.00PM WRAP UP AND THANK YOU

5.00PM – 6.30PM DRINKS