

**Colloquium Group 10 – WORLD LITERATURE & TRANSLATION 2**  
**The Institute for World Literature, University of Copenhagen, 2017**

**REPORT**

The Colloquium “World Literature & Translation 2” aimed at discussing the role and functions of translations in the circulation of world literature across national and linguistic borders. The group consisted of 12 participants, including the group leader, coming from various countries with different backgrounds and fields of specialization.

In the preliminary phase of abstract collecting I recommended that the presentations should especially focus on methodological aspects in order to make interdisciplinary confrontation and discussion easier. The presentations were then organized in four sessions characterized by both thematic affinity and diversity of approaches and fields. In every session, the first hour was devoted to the scheduled participants’ talks, followed by a common discussion in the second hour. This organization aimed at encouraging discussion on common issues found in different presentations.

The first session (6 July) had two presentations, so that we had time for everybody to introduce themselves at the beginning. The common theme was the translator as a fictional character. Ali Homod Almajnooni (Binghamton University) discussed the English translation of Saud Al-Sanousi’s *The Bamboo Stalk*, a novel structured itself as a fictional translation. Denise Kripper (Lake Forest College) presented her work on the representation of translation in Latin American novels.

The second session (13 July) was devoted to cross-cultural dialogue between two cultural areas or between different components within one cultural system. Li Tongwei (Beijing Language and Culture University) focused on cross-cultural interpretation of ancient Chinese classics in Qian Zhongshu’s work. Thea J. Autry (Vanderbilt University) highlighted issues of identity and its perception or definition in the production and reception of Ralph Ellison. Jack McMartin (Leuven University) analyzed the translation and circulation of Flemish literature in English in a sociological perspective.

The third session (20 July) collected contributions on the translation of nonfiction. Martins Laizans (University of Latvia) talked about the translation of Plato’s works, especially *Cratylus*, into Latvian. Zhu Ruida (Beijing Language and Culture University) discussed the English translations of *I Ching* (*The Book of Changes*). Andrew Robbins (Rutgers University) investigated the translation of science in early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Italy.

The final session (25 July) focused on poetry. Jennifer Nicholson (University of Sydney) dealt with issues of multilingualism in Shakespeare’s works and their relation to Montaigne’s essays. Wu Qiong (Hebei University of Science and Technology) discussed the theoretical framework associated with the translation of classical Chinese poems. Julia Nawrot (University of Granada) presented her experience of collective translation of poetry in a project at her home university.

The two hours’ time we had for every session was perfectly adequate for organizing both the presentations and the discussion. Most speakers stuck to the assigned time, and since we had a common discussion at the end I preferred not to interrupt any of the very few who took some more minutes for their talks, this did not compromise other speakers nor the following confrontation. Most colloquists took very actively part in the discussion, I seldom had to ask questions or suggest

new topics to elicit comments. I sometimes intervened to make sure that every presentation was granted the due attention. The group members attended the colloquium regularly, three of them could not come to one session each, but they always informed me in advance, and this happened on three different days, so we were never fewer than eleven people. We could not use any technical devices in the room since it turned out to be problematic, but this did not hinder our work, the speakers who wished to use a powerpoint presentation sent it by email in advance so that everybody could follow.

**Andrea Meregalli**  
**Colloquium Leader**  
**Assistant Professor of Nordic Languages and Literature**  
**University of Milan, Italy**

