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Translating and Popularizing: Scientific Translations and “Science for all” Books in Michele Lessona’s Work (1823-1894)

Carlo Bovolo (Università del Piemonte Orientale, Italy)

The paper deals with the Italian naturalist Michele Lessona (1823-1894) and his activities as translator of scientific books and papers, popular science works and self-help publications. Professor of Zoology and Mineralogy at the University of Genoa (1854) and then at the University of Bologna and member of the Italian scientific and diplomatic expedition to Persia (1862), in 1867 Lessona was appointed chair of Zoology and Compared Anatomy at the University of Turin. Lessona represented a significant figure in the 19th century science and culture: member of the Accademia delle Scienze, director of the Zoological Museum, and Dean of the University of Turin, he was an influential naturalist and zoologist, strongly involved in the popularization of science and in the translation of scientific and educational works. With the help of his wife Adele Masi, whose contribution was fundamental for his activity, Lessona translated over twenty works from English, French, and German, including the first Italian editions of Charles Darwin’s *The Descent of Man* and *The Voyage of the Beagle*, and other significant scientists and writers’ books, such as Pouchet, Lubbock, Haeckel, Brehm, Smiles. Translating and popularizing scientific texts and writing himself popular science and self-help books, Lessona gave a contribution to the dissemination of scientific knowledge both in academia and in popular culture, pursuing a cultural project of education and modernization of Italian society. The paper wants to illustrate Lessona’s translation and popularization activity and its peculiar characteristics, underlining its scientific and cultural role in the 19th century Italy.

Biography

Carlo Bovolo is lecturer in Contemporary History at the University of Eastern Piedmont (Vercelli, Italy) and collaborator with the Museum of Criminal Anthropology "Cesare Lombroso" of the University of Turin. In 2017 he obtained a PhD in history at the University of Eastern Piedmont with a thesis dealing with the apologetical uses of science in Italian Catholic press. Then, he was fellow of the Fondazione Filippo Burzio and Visiting Fellow at the KU Leuven, Belgium.

Translating Science in Italy during the Enlightenment. The Reception of Scottish Medical Works

Alessia Castagnino (University of Florence, Italy)

In recent years, historians of science have begun to take a close interest in the study of translations, starting both to consider them as results of practices of cultural negotiation and underline their importance as sources to investigate the interconnections and modalities of exchange and dissemination of knowledge across national boundaries. Starting from this assumption and trying to combine different approaches (*History of Science, Cultural and Social History of Translations, Book History*), this article aims at examining the Italian reception of the works of some of the most famous Scottish physicians (e.g. William Alexander, William Cullen, William Buchan). During the eighteenth century, European medical essays were real bestsellers, published several ways in a large number of Italian contexts and adapted for the taste, curiosities and knowledge of a new, wider readership, composed not only by learned people.

Focusing the attention on the role played by translators and publishers – who played the role of “cultural mediators” – I will analyse both the motivations behind the projects of translation, and the strategies of adaptation of textual and paratextual elements (footnotes, prefaces, iconographic and anatomical tables) trying to understand how these strategies transform and reshape the original theories and scientific languages for the new readership. By doing this, we will reflect on the idea that translations were not a simple quantitative indicator of the success of scientific books, but rather a lens through which to analyse the *quality* of the dissemination of the European medical culture in the Italian peninsula.

Biography

Alessia Castagnino, PhD in History (University Ca' Foscari, Venice), former Marie Curie Fellow at the European University Institute (Florence), is currently a Research Fellow at the University of Florence, Italy. with a project focused on the strategies of translation of scientific works in Italy during the eighteenth century. Her research areas are the *Intellectual History of Enlightenment*, the *History of Book* and the *Cultural History of Translations*. Her principal publications have been devoted to the Italian reception of the *Scottish Enlightenment*, to the practices of translation in Tuscany during the age of the Grand Duke Pietro Leopoldo, and to the European translations of Carlo Denina's works.

The Translation of Medical Dictionaries Published in Nineteenth-century Spain and Its Effects on Science Reception as Seen in the *Spanish Medical Lexicographic Thesaurus (TELEME)*

Bertha M. Gutiérrez Rodilla (University of Salamanca, Spain)

Carmen Quijada Diez (University of Oviedo, Spain)

The extraordinary boom in lexicographical works dealing with medicine that took place in the nineteenth century in Europe, particularly in France (to a lesser extent in Germany and England), rapidly spread to other European countries, which, lacking its own local production, tried to introduce, by means of translation, those dictionaries or encyclopaedias. That was the case in Spain, where, together with some purely original collections, some medical dictionaries translated from French (all throughout the century) and German (in the last third of the century) into Spanish were published. These works included a wide and large range of information, always adapted to the public they were intended to reach in the countries where they had been originally published. This was a cause of all sorts of problems for the translators, since they had to choose between staying true to the original text's content or else adapting it to its new Spanish-speaking recipients, and also to the ideology and even the morals of nineteenth-century Spain.

In this presentation we set out these adaptations with various examples and we aim at exploring the reasons that might explain them. In order to do so we will use the information contained in the so-called *Tesoro Lexicográfico Médico Español del siglo XIX (TELEME)*, an ongoing project on designing a Medical Lexicographic Thesaurus covering works published in nineteenth-century Spain, both originally written and translated from other European languages.

Biography

Bertha Gutiérrez Rodilla is Full Professor at the University of Salamanca in the field of History of Science. She holds both an M.D. in Medicine and Surgery and a Ph.D. in Spanish Linguistics and Literature. She completed her education at the Institute of Lexicography of the Spanish Royal Academy of Language in Madrid and has worked at the Académie de Médecine in Paris and the Université de Paris XIII-CNRS under a postdoctoral fellowship. Her main lines of research are the history of scientific language, the history of medicine in Spain and diachronic and synchronic studies of medical lexicography and terminology.

Carmen Quijada Diez graduated and gained her PhD in Translation and Interpreting from the University of Salamanca. She specialised in medical translation in German-Spanish and has experience as a professional translator, reviewer and proof-reader. She worked as a junior lecturer at the Translation and Interpreting Department at the University of Salamanca and works since 2013 at the University of Oviedo, where she teaches German language and Translation. Her research focuses on specialised translation, mainly in the medical field, and the use of translation as a didactic tool in second-language learning.

“Wouldn’t it be imprudent to conceal the insufficiency of our vernacular?”: Translating Psychological Knowledge in Eighteenth-Century Hungary

Janka Kovács (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary)

As highlighted by this quote taken from the six-volume book on dietetics by István Mátyus (1725–1802), the chief physician of the Transylvanian Maroszlók, one of the main problems Hungarian-speaking medical translators had to face was the lack of an established terminology and the ‘insufficiency’ of the language to express scientific knowledge. The objective of this presentation is to explore how four well-known Hungarian physicians, István Mátyus, Sámuel Rácz, Mihály Kovács and János Zsoldos who were trained at the most important Western European centers of knowledge (the universities of Halle, Jena, Göttingen, and Vienna), tried to overcome this difficulty.

In the eighteenth century, scientific translation can be perceived as an act of transformation, the transmission, and adaptation of ideas from one culture and linguistic environment to another. During this process, especially in the case of a minor vernacular, certain ideas and theories were reshaped to a great extent, due to the challenges posed by the insufficiency of the language. This struggle is often reflected on in the paratextual register (prefaces, dedications, in-text addenda, footnotes) and in the way medical knowledge is adjusted to the ‘horizon of expectations’ of the target audience.

In the presentation, I propose to explore the various techniques of translation and compilation, as well as the ways medico-psychological knowledge was filtered, reduced, adapted and embedded into a Hungarian linguistic and cultural context. Through the discourses on the fashionable ideas of Western psychology and their representations in Hungarian medical literature, I plan to focus on the objectives of publishing in the vernacular and the strategies and struggles behind conceiving an early Hungarian terminology of psychology.

Biography

Janka Kovács is a PhD student from Budapest, Hungary. Before obtaining her MA degrees in History and English Literature at Eötvös Loránd University, she spent a semester studying at the University of Vienna. She is currently enrolled at the Early Modern History Programme of Eötvös Loránd University, where she is working on a PhD dissertation focusing on the early history of psychology and psychiatry in Hungary. In the past few years, she has conducted research in diverse collections in Hungary and Austria, published papers in Hungarian journals, worked as an editor in several projects and organized conferences on diverse topics, from the history of deviance to the history of the body.

Translating Alexander von Humboldt in (for?) the Twenty-first Century

Vera M. Kutzinski (Vanderbilt University, USA)

What are the role and responsibilities of Humboldt's translators in the twenty-first century? Alison Martin has pointed out that Humboldt's nineteenth-century British translators were responsible for the circulation of his natural-scientific vocabularies beyond the languages in which he wrote, that is, French and German. If this is not what is at stake in our day, then what is? With this question in mind, I want to cast a critical eye at the recent English translations of Humboldt's writings on the Americas, translation in which I was involved through the Alexander von Humboldt in English (HiE) Project, to assess their goals, what they contribute, and to whom. The stated purpose of the project, which began in 2008 and came to a close with the publication of the *Political Essay on the Kingdom of New Spain* in 2019, was to make available more reliable English versions, more reliable than what his nineteenth-century translators produced. But what does "reliability" mean to us today? Fidelity to the original texts? And what are the limits of translational faithfulness in the case of source texts that are effectively texts "born in translation"? In Humboldt's writings on the Americas, the countless words and phrases from other languages (some European, others not) he incorporates in his text effectively undermine the primacy of French, challenging monolingualism and accompanying presumptions of cultural dominance. Humboldt himself hardly ever offers "proper" translations of foreign words and concepts, if he translates them at all. If he does not look for linguistic "equivalences," should his translators? Borrowing a leaf from Ottmar Ette, I have argued elsewhere that Humboldt's writings issue invitations to stray from culturally ingrained paths of thinking. What opportunities does this invitation afford Humboldt's translators today, and what are the constraints within which they nonetheless work?

Biography

Vera M. Kutzinski is The Martha Rivers Ingram Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Vanderbilt University; Director of the Alexander von Humboldt in English (HiE) Project; and co-editor (with Ottmar Ette) of the HiE series at Chicago University Press. She has participated in and coordinated three new, annotated Humboldt translations. Kutzinski has also published widely on the literatures of the Americas.

Translation as a Vector of Scientific Dynamism: The Case of Doctor Pinel

Anaïs Lewezyk-Janssen (Laboratoire Framespa, Studium Group, Université Toulouse Jean Jaurès, France)

The 18th century, which encapsulates the energy of the Enlightenment, marks a surge in translation across Europe as a whole and thus in the circulation of scientific and political ideas. At the same time, translation is closely related as much to intellectual as to journalistic activities. This was particularly evident in the period between the Age of Revolution and of Empire. The case of Dr Philippe Pinel illustrates well the relationship between scientific translation and its dynamism at the end of the 18th century. A prominent alienist physician, and father of modern psychiatry, he undertook the translation of seminal works in the course of his studies – particularly of those by authors who would influence him throughout his career. A prodigious author, with a particular interest in Anglophone writing, translation continued to form an integral part of his output. His activity as a translator, combined with that of a journalist and editor, led him to adopt a style that was particularly unusual. This paper seeks to investigate the importance of translation in the scientific and intellectual career of Philippe Pinel as a vector of scientific transmission during a pivotal period between two ages – those of Revolution and Empire.

Biography

Anaïs Lewezyk-Janssen completed her PhD in Modern History at the Université Toulouse Jean Jaurès in 2017, with a thesis that focused on the future of doctors during the 18th century in southern France. She now works at the Laboratoire Framespa, Université Toulouse Jean Jaurès, as an associate member researcher, with a particular focus on the history of medicine and sciences in the modern period, and history of universities and student populations in early modern France.

Science for the Public: Intralingual Translation and the Popularization of Science in mid-19th century Japan

Ruselle Meade (Cardiff University, UK)

Following the opening of treaty ports in Japan in 1859, among the first imports to Japan were science books written in, or translated into, Chinese by British and American protestant missionaries. These works were especially popular among the scholarly classes in Japan who were literate in Chinese and who wanted to understand the latest advances in science. Eventually these works were all translated into Japanese, and when Japan was gripped by *kyūri netsu* (science fever) in the 1870s these translations became a source for popular works for less-scholarly audiences. Translating these texts interlingually involved considerable modification; content considered irrelevant was culled, additional information was inserted where deemed necessary, images were reworked, and scientific terminology was changed to render concepts comprehensible to new audiences. Through an examination of a number of intralingual translations of *An Introduction to Science (Kakubutsu Nyūmon)* by the American Presbyterian missionary William Alexander Parsons (W.A.P.) Martin, this paper will discuss the range of strategies used by Japanese translators to render specialist terminology comprehensible to popular audiences. These strategies included adding or modifying illustrations, and vernacularizing scientific terminology by drawing on practices and concepts from daily life and traditional artisanal practices. In contrast to scholarly translations, which aimed for accuracy, these vernacular translations aimed at comprehensibility. A closer look at this alternative approach reveals the intellectual machinations involved in translating complex scientific concepts for new audiences in 19th century Japan.

Biography

Ruselle Meade obtained her PhD from the University of Manchester in 2013. She originally trained as an engineer and worked for an intellectual property translation firm in Tokyo. She is now a lecturer in Japanese studies at Cardiff University. Her research interests include the history of translation, particularly of scientific and technical translation, in modern Japan. She is co-investigator on the ESRC/AHRC-funded project, *The Japanese Scientist in Japan and in the World: De-centering the History of Science*, which explores the emergence of the ‘scientist’ as a social and professional category in Japan, and which investigates the role of transnational networks in the development of Japanese scientists’ careers. Her previous publications have explored technical translation by non-elite scientists and artisans, and scientific writing for juveniles during Japan’s Meiji period (1868-1912).

Scientific Nomenclature and Translation: The Case of the *Origin of Species* and its Translations into Portuguese

Pedro Navarro (Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil)

By the end of the eighteenth century, after the works of Carl Linnaeus, naturalists incorporated the binomial nomenclature for species. The main attribute of Linnaeus' proposal was to help naturalists memorize species names, rather than provide stability for said names. It was, therefore, a necessity that precise rules should govern the nomenclature system. Commonly referred to as "good manners", these rules could stabilize species names and ensure their universalization. Using scientific names, different researchers could be sure that they were talking about the same organisms. There is an interesting philosophical question here that has not been addressed by scientific translation studies. The scientific nomenclature, even before Linnaeus, seeks to suppress the considerable geographic and temporal variations of the living organisms' common names. The option was more and more in favour of a single universal name, which theoretically means the end of the need for translation and the end of the so-called concept of things being "lost in translation." In this presentation, I will analyse the translations into Portuguese of Charles Darwin's book *On the Origin of Species*. My objective is to understand how translators deal with scientific and common names while not being specialists in biology.

Biography

Pedro Navarro is a PhD student at the Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil. He has experience studying Darwin and the *Origin of Species*. Currently, he is working with the Portuguese translations of the *Origin*, focusing on Brazil.

Translating M. et Mme/Mr. and Mrs in 19th-Century Natural Science: The Case of Male Scientific Translators and the Forging of Science by Women

Mary Orr (University of St. Andrews, UK)

The feminist turn in the late 1980s fundamentally changed investigative scholarship of gender and science. It alerted scholars to the ‘uneasy careers’ (Abir-Am and Outram, 1989) of women in its fields in the long nineteenth century, busy translating, illustrating and corresponding their way into collaborative science endeavour allegedly undertaken only by their fathers, husbands and brothers. Subsequent scholarship has challenged the assumptions and implications of this model of women’s secondary roles in science by uncovering women making primary contributions. This paper, however, presses harder on the pivotal assumption in Abir-Am and Outram that has not received enough attention: the male scientist is the rule. Where, and how else, can one look for exceptions to it that restore additional and otherwise hidden women in science? This paper is a first step to some answers.

It is a truism that nineteenth-century gentleman (British) and institutional (French) science excluded women, but it also shut out men of lesser rank and also creed. By illuminating the need for better understanding of ‘secondary’ men in science we therefore differently probe and address the question of translating Mr and Mrs/M. et Mme, by re-examining translation by men of nineteenth-century science for the promotion and diffusion, or further effacement, of work by its primary women. Serious ‘vulgarisateurs’ (in the French senses *contra* the Victorian ‘populariser’) forged scientific careers by translating science intra- and inter-lingually for well-informed publics. The three case studies examined in this paper therefore provide starting points for discussion, and lessons for further research. By also taking what appears as a backwards step in treating these alternative models in anti-chronological order, the paper can also reassess the unshaken benchmark of the male professional scientist as rule. W. H. Davenport Adams (1828-1891), translated the works of Figuier and Michelet. Théodore Lacordaire (1801-1870), translated the first biography of Georges Cuvier into French in 1833 for simultaneous publication in London, Paris and Philadelphia. Gerson Hesse (n.d.) translated the work in 1826 of a Mrs Mary Trummer (sic). If the first and third case differently promote and the second demotes the science of ‘Mistress’ and ‘Madame’, women in science are writ larger in these translations as serious primary contributors. It is therefore imperative not automatically to assume that nineteenth-century scientific translations are secondary scientific endeavours.

Biography

Mary Orr is the first woman Buchanan Chair of French at the University of St Andrews. Her research publications and monographs on intertextuality, the French novel and literatures of nineteenth-century French natural science are encapsulated in the ground-breaking study *Flaubert’s Tentation: Remapping Nineteenth-Century History of Religion and Science* (OUP, 2008). She is currently completing the first major study of pioneering scientific writer and traveller Sarah Bowdich then Lee (1791-1856) in grateful acknowledgement of the British Academy/Leverhulme Donald Winch Senior Research Fellowship for 2021-22.

Reading and Translating Humboldt's Papers Today

Ulrich Päßler (Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Berlin, Germany)

Alexander von Humboldt's oeuvre is characterised by its multilingualism and multidisciplinaryity. Humboldt wrote his letters, notes, memoirs and travel diaries mainly in German and French, but also in Spanish and Latin. In this paper, I will discuss the benefits and pitfalls of a semi-automatic translation process that we apply to the digital edition of his manuscripts. Using the example of botanical nomenclature in Humboldt's papers, I will demonstrate how the markup language TEI-xml, combined with modern databases, can help to make these historical texts accessible for today's readership.

Biography

Ulrich Päßler studied Modern History and Political Sciences at the Universities of Tübingen, Freiburg i. Br. and Amherst/Massachusetts and received his Dr. phil. from the University of Mannheim in 2009. He worked as a lecturer and research associate at Humboldt-University Berlin and is now employed at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (project "Travelling Humboldt – Science on the Move"). Ulrich Päßler is currently editor of source documents from Humboldt's papers focusing on plant geography and biosciences as well as practices of scientific travel.

Sir Syed (1817-1898) and Science: The Place of Polymaths and Popularizers in Nineteenth-Century History of Science

Sarah Qidwai (University of Toronto, Canada)

In 1844, Sayyid Ahmad Khan (1817-1898), founder of Aligarh Muslim University, published a translation titled *Tashil fi Jar-e Saqil* (science of forces or mechanics) in India. This publication, an Urdu translation of a Persian text, was an extract of an Arabic risala (a short treatise) from Yemen. In *Tashil*, Sayyid Ahmad translated the use of various machines that could lift heavy objects, cut hard material, and squeeze intractable matter. This text was his first attempt to popularize scientific texts into a local vernacular language; Urdu in this instance.

From the 1860s onwards, he moved away from Persian sources and started focusing on English texts. In 1864, he established a society in Ghazipur called The Scientific Society. The society's stated purpose was to translate historical and scientific texts from English to Urdu. In this paper, using Sayyid Ahmad as a case-study, I will highlight the complexities that arise when we examine the reconfiguration of scientific knowledge in a multilingual colonial context with pre-existing knowledge communities and longstanding intellectual traditions. In this case, Sayyid Ahmad's translations moved away from Persian sources to English ones, but the translations were always in Urdu. By outlining Sayyid Ahmad's intellectual and linguistic shifts, we can begin to understand science popularization in British India through a new lens, one that focuses on the local context.

Biography

Sarah Qidwai is a 5th-year PhD candidate at the University of Toronto's Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology. Her thesis situates Sayyid Ahmad Khan (1817-1898) as a key figure in the history of science in British India. Through an interdisciplinary approach she investigates the development and implementation of Sayyid Ahmad's scientific popularization efforts and how he dealt with science's role in its historical context. Her recent publication "Darwin or Design?" examines Sayyid Ahmad's views on human evolution.

From China to Europe: On the Role of “Translation” in the History of Mathematics

Martina R. Schneider (Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Germany)

In 1856 a long article on the arithmetic of the Chinese was published by one K.L. Biernatzki in German in the journal *Journal für reine und angewandte Mathematik*. Due to a lack of Chinese sources, it became the main reference source for historians of science in Europe during the second half of the 19th century. Biernatzki’s paper was in fact a kind of “translation” of an article published by the missionary A. Wylie in a Shanghai newspaper in 1852. In my talk I will focus on Biernatzki’s “translation”. I will show in what ways Wylie’s paper was changed, and analyse how a mistake shaped the reception of ancient Chinese mathematics in Germany.

Biography

After studying mathematics, philosophy and Science and Technology Studies at the universities of Wuppertal, Edinburgh and Utrecht, Martina R Schneider wrote a PhD thesis on van der Waerden’s contributions to quantum mechanics. She worked on the interrelationship between mathematics and physics in Germany with the Saxon Academy of Sciences in Leipzig, and since 2010 she has been a lecturer of the history of mathematics and science at the University of Mainz. She is currently investigating the historiography of ancient mathematics in 19th century Europe. She used to be a member of the ERC Project “Mathematical Sciences in the Ancient World” (PI K. Chemla) at the university of Paris 7 (Diderot).

Translation and the Transformation of the Sciences around 1800

James Secord (University of Cambridge, UK)

It is widely acknowledged – although less known outside the history of science than it should be – that knowledge practices changed dramatically around 1800. These changes included new disciplinary boundaries, new identities for the scientific practitioner, and new modes of experiment and observation. But what did these changes add up to? Were they, as some authors suggest, a 'second scientific revolution' or an 'epistemic rupture'? The language that infuses such discussions is often violent, implying (especially in the works of Thomas Kuhn and Michel Foucault) a dramatic sense of incommensurability. In Kuhn's *Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (1962) – as in much writing from mid-twentieth century America – communication is assumed to be unproblematic except in cases of 'breakdown', the only occasion when the problem of translation between linguistic communities is seen to be analytically relevant. This paper re-examines these issues from a more historical perspective. Those who worked within the increasingly trans-national scientific community of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries recognized that different ways of pursuing knowledge could never be perfectly communicated, even among those who spoke the same language. But they also knew that translation, however incomplete, was always possible – as indicated by the emergence of the three-language system (French, German and English) during this period. A focus on translation as a model for understanding communication thus has the possibility of opening up new ways of conceptualizing large-scale historical changes in science.

Biography

James Secord is Professor of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Cambridge, Director of the *Darwin Correspondence Project*, and a professorial fellow at Christ's College, Cambridge. He has published many books and articles on the history of the sciences during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, including *Visions of Science: Books and Readers at the Dawn of the Victorian Age* (Oxford and Chicago, 2014) and *Victorian Sensation: The Extraordinary Publication, Reception and Secret Authorship of Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation* (Chicago, 2000). He is writing a short book on current issues facing history of science.

Conjuring the ‘spirit of Laplace’ in the Translations of Mary Somerville (1780-1872)

Brigitte Stenhouse (Open University, UK)

In early 19th century Britain, the need to increase the acceptance and utilization of ‘continental’ mathematics was keenly felt, in order to combat the perceived decline in British science. The difficulty and superiority of works by mathematicians such as D’Alembert, Euler and Lagrange were treated extensively, for example by John Playfair in Edinburgh, and the Analytical Society in Cambridge.

In 1826, Mary Somerville began preparing what was intended to be a translation of Pierre-Simon Laplace’s *Traité de Mécanique Céleste* (printed in five volumes between 1799-1825), one of the continental mathematical works deemed to be the most important but also the most abstruse. Published in 1831 under the title *Mechanism of the Heavens*, this work was received with great critical acclaim. There were, however, many key differences between the work of Somerville and the original text; during the translation process, Somerville focused on preserving ‘the spirit of Laplace’ whilst making it both accessible and palatable to a British readership. Nevertheless, the translation appears to have been commercially unsuccessful. Somerville made a second attempt at circulating the works of Laplace, intended to be more ‘popular’, and which was instead a descriptive survey of results, illuminating the fecundity of the so-called analytical methods without presenting the mathematics itself.

Through a comparison of Somerville’s two works with that of Laplace, I will demonstrate how the *Mécanique Céleste* was re-shaped and repurposed during its transition into the British scientific community, and thus identify what constituted this deeply desirable ‘spirit of Laplace’.

Biography

Brigitte Stenhouse is a PhD student in the history of mathematics at the Open University, UK. Her research focuses on the mathematics of Mary Somerville (1780-1872), from Somerville’s early publications in question and answer sections of mathematical periodicals, to her books on the differential calculus written in the 1830s (both published and unpublished). Brigitte also researches how Somerville’s gender affected the way she engaged with mathematics, and the work she thus produced.

‘From London with Love’: Translation and Authorship in Early Hungarian Evolutionary Literature

Katalin Stráner (University of York, UK)

In my paper I will explore mid-19th approaches to authorship and translation in Central European scientific writing in the context of the early translations and circulation of works by Robert Chambers, Charles Lyell, Charles Darwin, and T. H. Huxley into Hungarian during the 1860s. This will in particular draw attention to the complex, intertwined roles of the translator as author and scholar in cultural encounter. The paper will focus on the contribution of Jácint Rónay, a Benedictine monk in exile in London after the Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence of 1848-49. Between the early 1850s and 1860s he produced two volumes based on his own translations, extracts, and commentaries of current developments in natural science. One of these was written in what he described as ‘fanciful’, poetic style, about the history of the natural world; the other was more of a *Bearbeitung*, based on translated extracts as well as Rónay’s abridged summary of recent work by Darwin, Lyell and Huxley. Rónay, however, considered himself to be an author in his own right rather than a translator, asserting his own agency as a scholar in these publications. In this paper, I rethink his role in the translocation of Darwinism into Hungarian in light of the flexibility and uncertainty of translation and especially authorship in the literary traditions in mid-nineteenth century Central Europe. I situate his agenda to circulate Darwinism and scientific knowledge at a meeting point where boundaries of language, science and public space were just as blurred as Rónay’s carefully negotiated identity between scholar, translator author.

Biography

Katalin Stráner is Lecturer in Modern History at the University of York. She has a PhD in History from the Central European University, Budapest. Her fields of interest include the history of science; urban history and print culture; the role of exile in the communication of scientific knowledge; and translation and communication in the history of science and ideas. She is currently completing a monograph on the translation and reception of Darwinism in 19th-century Hungary.

Science for the Nation: Translation into Slavic Languages in the Habsburg Empire

Jan Surman (University of Prague, Czech Republic)

The connection between translation and nationalism has been a widely researched topic, as has been the connection between science/scholarship and nationalism. The history of nineteenth century Slavic literature – here Czech, Polish and Ukrainian – in their struggle for literary and scientific language provides, however, interesting insights into the question of the threefold connection between science, translation and nationalism. In all these three languages, translation played an important role, providing early texts of scholarly literature. However, it was also a contested tool, as many claimed that translating foreign scholarly literature will inhibit native scholarly production. Most importantly, foreign authors and translations were involved into struggle about the “correct” language, with their scholarly authority being used by translators to ascertain dominance of particular versions of their language and terminology.

In my presentation I will concentrate on the question of role of scientific translation in the early stages of nation-building processes, namely the late 18th century (Polish case), the first half of the 19th century (Czech case) and the late 19th century (Ruthenian/Ukrainian case), tracing similarities and differences in the use of strategic uses of translation. While each of these cases has its own particularity, I will argue that adaptation of foreign texts, especially from the “West” (here Germany and France), was crucial for each of the nation building processes, having repercussions way beyond scholarship. Due to particularities of scholarly language, considered widely as the highest level of literary language, standards set in (translated) scholarly literature, trickled down to other domains of literary language, and finally to everyday one.

Biography

Jan Surman received his PhD from the University of Vienna in 2012 and was a visiting fellow at the Poletayev Institute for Theoretical and Historical Studies in the Humanities, National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow. He concentrates in his research on scientific transfer, academic mobility and scientific internationalism and is currently working on a book on the history of scientific languages in Central Europe 1780-1930. His publications include, *Universities in Imperial Austria 1848–1918: A Social History of a Multilingual Space* (West Lafayette: Purdue UP, 2018); ed. with Mitchell G. Ash, *The Nationalization of Scientific Knowledge in the Habsburg Empire, 1848–1918* (Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012); “The Circulation of Scientific Knowledge in the Late Habsburg Monarchy: Multicultural Perspectives on Imperial Scholarship”, *Austrian History Yearbook* 46 (2015): 163–182.

A Physician and a First-Class Writer: The Authorial Persona of J. G. Zimmermann as Communicated by English Translations

Laura Tarkka (University of Turku, Finland)

In 1771, the Swiss-born physician Johann Georg Zimmermann was introduced to British readers via two English translations: *A Treatise on the Dysentery* and *An Essay on National Pride*. In the former, the translator Charles Rivington Hopson observed that Zimmermann was not only an esteemed physician but also a first-class ‘German writer’ indulging in ‘high flights of metaphorical expression’ befitting ‘the genius of his countrymen.’ At the same time, *An Essay on National Pride* introduced Zimmermann as a ‘Physician in ordinary to His Britannic Majesty’ who contributed to the ‘cause of liberty and virtue.’ Towards the end of the century, Zimmermann’s literary fame on account of *Solitude*, a work which drew on his medical expertise but ended up circulating in a number of heavily adapted versions.

Concerned with questions of authority, authorship, and the construction of national cultures in scientific translations, this paper examines the contours of Zimmermann’s public persona from the perspective of those who read his work in the English language. As a disciple of Albrecht von Haller, Zimmermann was firmly linked to the scientific tradition of physiology, within which transnational communications were based on the use of Latin as a lingua franca. Nevertheless, in the English literary market, Zimmermann’s works were frequently represented as expressions of Swiss and German sentiments. Accordingly, the aim of the paper is to establish how and to what extent his persona as a patriotic author was related to his work in the field of the medical sciences.

Biography

Laura Tarkka studied history and comparative literature at the Universities of Helsinki, Hannover and Edinburgh, earning her PhD in General History at the University of Helsinki in 2017 with the thesis ‘Rudolf Erich Raspe and the Anglo-Hanoverian Enlightenment’. Her research interests revolve around the transfer and translation of ideas in the long eighteenth century, as well as the use of travel literature in historical and political writing. In 2018, Laura held a Visiting Research Fellowship at the Sussex Centre for Intellectual History, where she began to work on a post-doctoral project concerning the transnational and multilingual circulation of Johann Georg Zimmermann’s *Von dem Nationalstolze* (1758-1805). In April 2019, she joined the School of Languages and Translation Studies at the University of Turku in order to complete this interdisciplinary project, funded by the Academy of Finland (2021-2024).

“Not a Hasty Compilation”: Commercial Journals and the Translation of Scientific Findings in Late Georgian Britain

Jonathan Topham (University of Leeds, UK)

One of the defining features of the new commercial scientific journals that began to be produced in Germany and France in the second half of the eighteenth century was their promise to give readers quick, cheap, and convenient access to a wide range of material extracted and, where necessary, translated from learned transactions in the various vernaculars of Europe. In Britain, such journals only began to be produced in the 1790s, but when they did, they made the same pitch to busy and cash-strapped readers. This paper examines that development, charting the rise and development of scientific journals over the early years of the nineteenth century, the difficulties of securing the requisite materials for translation during the protracted war with France, and the process of producing translations, including the transformational work that went into rendering Continental science meaningful within the British context.

Biography

Jonathan R. Topham obtained his PhD in History from the University of Lancaster in 1993. He is a Senior Lecturer in History of Science at the University of Leeds, UK. His research relates mainly to the history of printed communication in science, and to science and religion, in late Georgian Britain. Among his co-publications are *Science Periodicals in Nineteenth-Century Britain: Constructing Scientific Communities* (forthcoming 2020), *Science in the Nineteenth-Century Periodical: Reading the Magazine of Nature* (2004), *Culture and Science in the Nineteenth-Century Media* (2004), and *Science in the Nineteenth-Century Periodical: An Electronic Index* (2005).