

# UNTRANSLATABILITY IN LITERATURE AND PHILOSOPHY

19-21 March 2017

What can problems in translation, perhaps so extreme as to warrant the label untranslatable, tell us about literature and philosophy, and about the relationship between the two? This conference explores the concept of untranslatability from both the literary and the philosophical perspectives: it examines how translation functions in relation to modernist and postmodern experimental texts (Mallarmé, Joyce, Villa, Masala), and it looks at the theoretical questions that emerge from translating philosophy and critical theory (Derrida, Blanchot, Nancy, Lacoue-Labarthe).

## SUNDAY MARCH 19

19:00 OPENING CONCERT  
Venue: Dublin Unitarian Church, 112 St Stephen's Green

Singer – Francesca Placanica  
*MotoContrario Ensemble*: Saxophones – Emanuele Dalmaso; Viola – Andrea Mattevi; Piano – Cosimo Colazzo  
With the participation of the poet Alberto Masala

## MONDAY MARCH 20

### UNTRANSLATABILITY AND LITERATURE

9:00-9:30 WELCOME: COFFEE & TEA  
Venue: Trinity Centre for Literary Translation, 36 Fenian Street

9:30-11:00 PANEL 1  
Alexandra Lukes (Trinity College Dublin): “Mallarmé Translating, Back-Translating, and Not Translating”  
Dennis Duncan (University of Oxford): “Tracing the Protean Ptyx: From Nonsense to Non-Translation and Back Again in Mallarmé’s ‘Sonnet en -yx’”

11:00-11:30 COFFEE & TEA

11:30-13:00 PANEL 2  
Sam Slote (Trinity College Dublin): “Derrida and the Phantom Yeses of *Ulysses*”  
Bianca Battilocchi (Trinity College Dublin): “Emilio Villa, poet and translator: the desperation of translation”

- 13:00-14:15 LUNCH
- 14:15-15:30 ROUND-TABLE  
Robbert-Jan Henkes & Erik Bindervoet (Utrecht & Antwerp): “*Finnegans Wake*, the Ultimate Translatable Book”
- 15:30-15:45 COFFEE & TEA
- 15:45- 16:45 CONCLUSION  
Marzia D’Amico (University of Oxford) & Alberto Masala (Bologna): “Where I end and you begin. The horizon of translation, the dimension of performance, the margins of the text”
- 18:30-19:45 KEYNOTE  
Venue: Trinity Long Room Hub  
Emily Apter (New York University): “Translational Materialisms: Mining Metaphors and the Eco-poetics of Overburden”
- 20:30 DINNER

## TUESDAY MARCH 21

### UNTRANSLATABILITY AND PHILOSOPHY

- 9:00-9:30 COFFEE & TEA  
Venue: Trinity Centre for Literary Translation, 36 Fenian Street
- 9:30-11:00 PANEL 1  
Hannes Opelz (Trinity College Dublin): “Mimesis Transferred: ‘D’une insuffisance de traduction”  
John McKeane (University of Reading): “What is the Task of the Translator at the Closure of Philosophy?”
- 11:00-11:30 COFFEE & TEA
- 11:30-13:00 PANEL 2  
Zakir Paul (University of Wisconsin): “Before the Verb: On Blanchot’s Use of \*Se”  
Michael Holland (University of Oxford): “Translating ‘mouvement’, translating movement: the challenge of Blanchot’s writing”
- 13:00-13:30 CONCLUSION  
Discussion with Emily Apter

Please **RSVP** to [lukesa@tcd.ie](mailto:lukesa@tcd.ie) if you would like to attend the talks on Monday and Tuesday in the Trinity Centre for Literary Translation because space is limited. There is no need to RSVP for the concert on Sunday or the keynote on Monday.