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 Ulysse”
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 Ecopoetics 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”

13:00-13:30  CONCLUSION
Discussion with Emily Apter

Please RSVP to 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.