IT7010  Discovering the Other: East-West Encounters in Translation History

Module type  Optional (approved module: MPhil in Literary Translation)

Term / hours  MT / 22

ECTS  10

Coordinator(s)  Dr James Hadley (hadleyj@tcd.ie)

Lecturer(s)  Dr James Hadley

Module description

This module explores the interactions between Europe and East Asia that occurred through translations during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Each week, it focuses on a specific individual, who was active in the translation either of East Asian texts for speakers of European languages, or of texts in European languages for speakers of East Asian languages. It examines their life histories, the texts they produced, and the ultimate effects of those texts over culture and history. The module is discursive in nature, relying on a series of readings, student presentations, and in-class debate. The assessment is essay-based. Students choose a historical figure or moment pertinent to Europe-Asia interactions, research one aspect of it, and present their findings in the form of an essay. Students must also complete at least one presentation over the course of the module.

Assessment

The module is assessed through an in-class presentation (10%) and a 2,000-word essay (90%).

Indicative bibliography


Liu, Lydia He, *Translingual Practice: Literature, National Culture, and Translated Modernity—China, 1900-1937* (Stanford UP, 1995).


**Learning outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- **LO1** Recognise the historical and cultural backdrop to translation traditions and attitudes to be found today in East Asia and Western Europe.

- **LO2** Discuss the developing role and impact of translation(s) on the political, cultural, and technological development of identified cultural contexts.

- **LO3** Discuss the changing conceptions of translation in the context of specific historical moments.

- **LO4** Recognise the often radically different conceptions of translation, uses for translation, and roles of translators, and how these function in context.

- **LO5** Articulate informed views about key primary sources and scholarship the field of translation theory in academically appropriate language.

- **LO6** Critically discuss the lasting impact of named translators over their linguistic contexts.