

## Beyond the Gloss: A Conversation about Translation in Classics

For classicists, translation is always already on our minds. In the midst of rapidly growing academic programs in Translation Studies and Literary Translation, as well as public attention drawn by recent retranslations of Classical texts, like Emily Wilson's *Odyssey*, we find ourselves at a unique moment for exploring the natural overlap between our own discipline and these emerging fields of study. Though all students of Classics are trained in the practice of the literal "gloss" translation and know what a crucial role translation plays in both pedagogy and scholarship in our field, it is more rare that our pursuits as educators and scholars allow us to devote our energies to the process of translation, in all its literary and artistic dimensions. At the upcoming CAMWS 2019 meeting, I propose to lead a workshop dedicated to exploring the role translation plays in our discipline, not just as a means to an end, but as a scholarly and creative pursuit in and of itself. This proposed workshop is designed to engage with that ever-present topic of translation, discuss the interaction it has with our work as scholars and educators, and explore creative possibilities for the overlap between the fields of Classics and Translation in the future.

The four presenters include current scholars and graduate students whose research and pedagogy engages with the topic of translation in crucial ways. Since the particular expertise of each presenter lies in a different aspect of translation (including the history of translation, translating poetry, experimental retranslation, and translation pedagogy), the conversation will be multifaceted but united by a shared interest in exploring the role of translation in our lives as students and scholars of Classics. Each presenter will be given a fifteen-minute period to introduce to the group a current project they are working on. Depending on the particular presenter's focus, this might include walking the audience through a comparative reading of

multiple translations of a classical text, a presentation about the unique translation challenges pertaining to a given language pair, practice-oriented examples of creative translation strategies, or classroom exercises designed to incorporate translation into our teaching. Presenters will then field questions from members of the audience as well as their fellow presenters.

The organizer and presider of this workshop will moderate Q&A following each presentation, manage time effectively, and help direct interested participants to further resources on the topics explored in the workshop. In organizing this workshop as a conversation, rather than a traditional panel of papers, My philosophy on translation is that the process is not just an approximation in one language for the words of another, but a bilateral relationship between languages, informed by a complex network of semantic range, contextual constraints, and the particular scope and goals of a given project. With this in mind, our discussion will attempt to explore this topic from many angles, and to embrace unconventional and even experimental choices in translation, with the hope that the workshop will encourage us to explore outside of our comfort zones and the conventional limitations of the discipline.

This workshop is intended for an audience of students and scholars interested in the history, practice, and art of translation, its role in pedagogy, and the creative process of literary translators. Knowledge of the languages covered in the workshop (of which the primary focus is Greek and Latin, but panelists' presentations may also touch on translation from and into other languages) will be useful, but certainly not required for members of the audience. Any passages referenced as part of the presentations will be provided through the CAMWS website in advance of the conference, as well as distributed in print handouts and projected during the relevant portion of the workshop session.

We hope that this workshop event will provide an opportunity for interdisciplinary discussion on the natural, but under-explored, connection between the long-standing discipline of Classics and the growing fields of Literary Translation and Translation Studies. In engaging these topics through both scholarly and creative discussion, we hope to encourage further collaboration across the disciplines and foster interest among classicists in the study and practice of translation.