

Big translation history: the use of data mining and big data approaches

Diana Roig-Sanz, Open University of Catalonia/Oxford Internet Institute

Ondrej Vimr, University of Bristol

Laura Fólica, Open University of Catalonia

Data mining and big data approaches are changing the ways we create knowledge, access information and preserve our cultural heritage. At the same time, they have transformed the ways we interpret personal, societal and cultural relations including their spatial and temporal dynamics. At the intersection of humanities and data science, this panel aims to advance the study of translation history in a big data age, explore both theoretical and methodological aspects of big data approaches and discuss case studies in the framework of big translation history. In this respect, big translation history is defined as driven by big data mining, analysis, interpretation and visualisation, and the convenors propose to address the following subtopics:

- Methods for the analysis of translation history at a large scale: Which methods and tools can be designed to develop the potential of big translation history and transform translation historiography? What impact will these innovative methodologies have on the theoretical debates within translation history?
- Methodological challenges for the collection, analysis and visualization of data and metadata: What are the key limitations specific to big data approaches in relation to big translation history? How to overcome the challenges of dealing with vast, scattered and multilingual data and metadata on books, periodicals and other translation-related media? How to interpret these datasets and integrate visualisation and historiography?
- The qualitative-quantitative relationship in the analysis of big translation history: Is it possible to develop mixed qualitative-quantitative methods that put micro-textual analysis (close reading) into play, without neglecting the macrotextual (distant reading)? How to include individual lives of people of flesh and bone, the agents of translation (be it translators, publishers or other cultural mediators) into the big translation history on both global and more local levels?
- Case studies in the paradigm of big translation history targeting diverse translation and publishing settings from various geographical spaces and historical times showcasing the innovative data-driven approach and its application.

Essential bibliography

Hitchcock, Tim (2013) 'Confronting the digital: or how academic history writing lost the plot'. *Cultural and Social History*, 10 (1). pp. 9-23.

Jockers, Mathews L. (2013). *Macroanalysis: Digital methods and literary history*. University of Illinois Press.

Moretti, Franco (2005). *Graphs, maps, trees: abstract models for a literary history*. Verso.

Roig-Sanz, Diana & Meylaerts, Reine (2018). *Literary Translation and Cultural Mediators in 'Peripheral' Cultures. Customs officers or smugglers?*. New York/London: Palgrave MacMillan.

Nello Cristianini, Thomas Lansdall-Welfare & Gaetano Dato (2018) 'Large-scale content analysis of historical newspapers in the town of Gorizia 1873–1914', *Historical Methods: A Journal of Quantitative and Interdisciplinary History*, 51:3, 139-164.