

Translating minority voices in a globalized world

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This panel aims to address the interconnections between “minority voices” and translation in today’s globalized world. “Minority” here is to be understood in a broad context encompassing a wide range of voices – linguistic, cultural, ethnic, racial, gender – that have and continue to remain on the margins. The nexus between translation, migration, and globalization has been addressed by a number of scholars, such as Inghilleri (2017) and Polezzi (2012), who have argued for a renegotiation of traditional notions of citizenship and considered the positions occupied by migrants as objects of translation respectively.

Translational – intended in a broad sense – and polylingual practices are in fact a significant strategy for minority voices to be heard and are inherent to the construction of their identities. Translating also releases a “heteroglossia”, as Michael Cronin (1998) suggests, challenging and changing the dominant hegemonic system. Thus, we no longer only speak of the effects of the “major” on the “minor” in and through translation, but of heterogeneous languages and forms that translational processes create. In literature, heterolingual and hybrid texts created by minor voices call into question traditional definitions of texts as well as challenge hegemonic discourses in support of national literatures canons. In the case of other forms of art, such as Hip Hop music, it is through a complex interaction between a type of music expressed in a global language, English, and localization processes that global practices are reinterpreted and combined with local linguistic, musical, and cultural resources.

The panel thus aims to focus on translation both as a process inherent to globalization, in its many forms, and a critical and interdisciplinary perspective in addressing – among others – the following themes:

- Translingual (or translational) practices in art forms
- Translation as a way of resistance and (minority) identity construction
- Minority language translators, minority language publishing houses and their strategies
- Heteroglossia, multilingualism, hybridization of English
- Migrant/diasporic artists as self-translators

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