

# “Spatializing Translation History”

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In the 1980s researchers began to focus on space which, before, had been neglected in favor of time as the leading and most important research category within the humanities. In recent years, said focus on space can also be observed in Translation Studies where researchers (mainly with regard to historical topics) take up ever more questions related to space. Hence, the understanding of space has broadened and become more differentiated.

Initially space came to be understood predominantly in two ways: as a discursive category (e.g. cultural spaces in a figurative sense) as well as the product of social interactions (cf. relationships between agents). Nowadays, this understanding is complemented by a strict physical approach, including issues regarding the material side of translation, which leads to questions such as: Where does translation in a strict sense take place? Which place do translators occupy? Which routes do translators and translations cover? And is it therefore possible to speak of a translation space in a geographic sense, which encompasses the planning, production and dissemination of translation?

In my presentation, I will theorize about the advantages of taking into account a spatial approach to translation history. Beside necessary theoretical-methodological considerations, I will present several examples taken from the Russian tsardom at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. On the basis of these examples I will show highly differentiated and complex movements of translators and translations as well as their location in natural space. My main argument is that spatial considerations allow us to deepen our understanding of translation within a historical approach as they provide us with new insights, which would not be possible otherwise.

## Bibliography:

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