

# The Translating Theologian as empowering Mediator between Exegesis and Eisegesis

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A multicultural group of female theologians from Chile attempts to offer a new translation of the Bible that challenges its traditional reception and interpretation. The project's starting point is the context-steeped theology that often only exists as an oral tradition and thus initially appears to be outside the academic context.

The deep suspicion with which these Chilean women view the Bible is reflected in the ongoing debate over inclusive, or gender-neutral, language, and the patriarchal values and white male-centered hegemonic western world view that are transported by it. In the colonial and postcolonial patriarchal culture in Chile and South America, the paradigm of gender sensitivity has led to fierce polemical debates not only between theologians and feminist scholars, but also in social networks and everyday life.

Feminist exegesis and gender-neutral translation play an essential role in preventing new theological dogmas from taking shape, and in promoting sharpened attention to the overlays of meaning which have been transferred by tradition. The Chilean project is a gender- and culture-sensitive translation from the perspective of the oppressed, many of whom are renowned female scientists. Especially in the protestant-evangelical world, education is not openly available. Thus, women are doubly disadvantaged and excluded from education. It is therefore especially important to develop a translation with women that follows current theological and translation research as much as the ethical parameters of a new time.

Nowhere in theology is the center-periphery dichotomy as apparent as in a gender-oriented translation of the Bible. The goal of this translation is to call awareness to the profoundly ideological nature of every interpretation and all translation. It's our goal to deconstruct dominant paradigms in the Biblical text and exegesis with the help of feminist hermeneutics, in order to (re)construct the emancipatory liberation potential of Biblical texts through translation.