



Abstracts

Keynote speaker

Susanne Frank, Humboldt University of Berlin

*Translation: Positioning national literatures in the Soviet and – via Russian – in the global context //
Bringing the world to the national literatures*

Abstract: In my lecture I will demonstrate that in the context of what we have called “the Soviet literary cosmopolis” translation was one of the most important tools of literary (self)positioning and nation-building. Modeling and positioning of national literatures in the Soviet and even partly pre-Soviet context went in two directions: translation from the national languages into Russian and translation into the national languages. On the one hand, translation in both directions served as an instrument of literary nation-building from above, as an instrument to implement by means of institutions the model of strictly national units. In the 1920-30s translation into the national languages was the Center’s main strategy of “korenizatsia” (rooting) policy. On the other hand, translation into Russian could be initiated also by local actors aiming to position “their” literature in a broader - Soviet and global - context. Translations of master pieces of world literature into national languages (of the late Russian empire and the Soviet Union) were also an important means for local authors to develop the national literary language and to strengthen the respective national canon. Finally, I will elaborate on the fact that in the context of Stalinist repressions and even later translation served as a niche-profession for authors who because of political repressions could not publish their own texts but through translation found – sometimes subversive – ways they become actors of the literary field and indirectly to gain their own voice.

Susanne Frank holds the chair of East Slavic Literatures and Cultures at the Department of Slavic and Hungarian Studies of the Humboldt University of Berlin. Her research interests include the history of East Slavic literatures; Russian and (post)Soviet Literatures in (post)imperial contexts; theories of world literature and global literatures; literature and nation-building; modes of transnational and translingual writing; history of literary and cultural theory; geopoetics and geopolitics. She is Principal Investigator at the Cluster of Excellence EXC 2020 „Temporal Communities: Doing Literature in a Global Perspective“ (FU Berlin) and at the Graduate Cluster GK 2190 „Literatur- und Wissensgeschichte kleiner Formen“ (HU Berlin). Furthermore, she is on the

boards of the Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School for Literary Studies, the publication series *Weltliteraturen* and the journal *Welt der Slaven*.

Recent publications: Armenian Literature as World Literature, in: G.Tihanov, A.Lounsbery, R.Djagalov (eds.) *World Literature in the Soviet Union*, Boston: Academic Studies Press 2023, 35-66; Um den „Frieden“ wetteifern: Die „Zweite Berliner Schriftstellerbegegnung“ 1983 und die Rolle von Čingiz Ajtmatov, in: Berlin International. Literaturszenen in der geteilten Stadt (1970-1989), Hg. Jutta Müller-Tamm et al., Berlin 2023, 243-267; Körper, Gedächtnis, Literatur in (post-)totalitären Kulturen, hg. zus. mit F. Thun-Hohenstein: Tagungsband WSA 85/2020, Berlin 2020. <https://www.slawistik.hu-berlin.de/de/member/franksuy>

Speakers, round table participants and moderators in alphabetic order

Ioannis Brigkos, University of Vienna, is currently completing his PhD-thesis “Subtle Diplomacy in the Cold War: Greece’s Relations with Austria and the German Democratic Republic during the Colonels’ Regime, 1967-1974” at the University of Vienna, Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, and is employed at the Institute for Urban and Regional Research at the Austrian Academy of Sciences. His research interests focus on Cold War entanglements and small-state diplomacy in the 20th century.

Hans-Nikolaos Christoforakis, University of Vienna, is a BA student at the Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies and the Department of Ancient History and Classical Antiquity.

Julia Fröhlich, University of Vienna

Pitfalls, limitations and chances: Translating historical documents from multiple languages

Abstract: Multilingual source corpora are both boon and bane: On the one hand, depending on the context, they offer multi-focal insight, thus enabling researchers to discuss a given topic in depth – with nuance and sensitivity to perspective. Notwithstanding the benefits, multilingualism can amount to a considerable challenge, concerning both the researcher’s linguistic abilities and translation skills as well as general transferability of specific information (e.g. idioms, proper names) from one language to another. Considering these obstacles, this paper seeks to discuss strategies for overcoming personal linguistic shortcomings as well as acknowledging and circumventing the pitfalls of machine learning as used in translation programmes. Considering varying degrees of compatibility and similarity of given languages, this paper also addresses instances of cross-lingual interference, as language and writing systems complicate the translation of proper names

(including, for instance, spatial references) into another language, as is the case when translating from Hebrew script to Greek, for example. The final note to this very ‘nuts-and-bolts’ presentation refers to the role of genre, format and layout as far as their impact on translation strategies and their degree of accessibility to not fully proficient readers of Hebrew and Greek are concerned.

Julia Fröhlich is a PhD-candidate at the Department of Near Eastern Studies (University of Vienna), recipient of the DOC-fellowship granted by the Austrian Academy of Sciences (2023-2025) as well as Junior Fellow of the ifk, the International Centre for Cultural Studies (October 2024-June 2025). Furthermore, she is editorial manager of *Diyâr. Journal of Ottoman, Turkish and Near Eastern Studies*.

Kristina Gedgaudaitė, University of Amsterdam, is Marie Skłodowska-Curie postdoctoral fellow at the University of Amsterdam and the author of *Memories of Asia Minor in Contemporary Greek Culture: An Itinerary* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2021). Her research interests include modern and contemporary Greek culture across media, comics and graphic narratives, cultural memory and refugee studies. In December 2024, Kristina will be joining the Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek, University of Vienna.

Lukas Michael Joura, Humboldt University of Berlin

Reception and translation of Oles’ Honchar’s novel Sobor in the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany

Abstract: The presentation deals with the editorial history and reception of the novel *Sobor* (English: "Cathedral," Kyiv 1968) by the Ukrainian writer Oles’ Honchar in both German states at the end of the 1960s and the end of the 1980s. Two attempts to publish a German translation in the GDR failed, while a German translation from the Ukrainian literary diaspora in the FRG was able to appear (*Der Dom von Satschipljanka*, Hoffmann und Campe, Hamburg 1970). As part of the presentation, previously unpublished documents from the archives of GDR publishers and ministerial archives will be presented. This forms the basis on which a publication history of the novel *Sobor* can be traced, embedded both the censorship procedures and the highly politicised literary-historical context. Furthermore, the novel demonstrates the mutual influence of the West and East German literary landscapes, particularly in the area of Ukrainian literature in Germany. The case of Honchar reveals the specific nature of the reception of Ukrainian literature in the GDR translation culture, which was caught in a tension between the FRG and the centralized Soviet literary system.

Lukas Michael Joura (*1996) is an MA student at the Department of Slavic and Hungarian Studies at the Humboldt University of Berlin. <https://hu.berlin/joura>

Ewa Róża Janion, University of Warsaw

Translating the Greek of Calabria (Grecanico) into Standard Modern Greek and Polish

Abstract: The participation in summer courses of Calabrian Greek Language inspired me to organize classes of Calabrian Greek for the students of Modern Greek Philology at the University of Warsaw. In this self-reflexive presentation, I will discuss my didactic approach, learning objectives and teaching strategies, including translations. The talk will focus on placing Calabrian-Greek in various contexts, potentially meaningful to the students, such as different varieties of Greek language (Byzantine vernacular, Early Modern Cretan Dialect, Katharevousa), history and topography of the Grecanic Area, sensitivity to the social problems linked to the minority languages, and last, the contemporary political contexts and the question how the understanding of Greek of Calabria can influence our perception of Greekness (“Hellenism”).

Ewa Róża Janion, PhD, is a Modern Greek Studies scholar at the Center for Modern Greek Studies at the Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw, Poland. Her intellectual interests focus on 19th-century Polish philhellenism, modernist Greek literature and their Polish contexts, specifically the works of C.P. Cavafy and Nikos Kazantzakis, and minority cultures, especially the Greko (Calabrian Greek) language and literature.

Dilara Kaplan and Konstantinos Sampanis, University of Vienna

Iordanidou’s Loxandra and Theotokas’ Leonis: Turkish translations and Old Istanbul nostalgia

Abstract: Often portrayed as a lost paradise, *Old Istanbul* as a theme recurs in various forms and shapes across literature, popular culture, media, and cinema within the Turkish Republic. Notably, Orhan Pamuk, the Turkish Nobel Prize winner in 2006, has been described as an author "in quest of the melancholic soul of his native city (Istanbul)". It is therefore unsurprising that Greek novels depicting historical Constantinople as a heritage space become entwined in this discourse. This paper will examine two significant examples: Iordanidou’s *Loxandra* and Theotokas’ *Leonis*. Both authors, originally from Istanbul and later residing in Athens, romantically portray Greek Orthodox life in the city, contributing significantly to the literature surrounding the Greek Orthodox presence in Ottoman Constantinople. When translated into Turkish, these novels undergo immediate transformation: They get assigned subtitles. *Loxandra* becomes an *Istanbul dream* and *Leonis* is further enriched with: “*The city in the center of a world – Istanbul 1914-1922*”. Moreover, the translator’s preface of *Leonis* positions Istanbul as “another hero of the book”, alongside *Leonis* himself. Hence, this paper aims to examine the relevance of the topics of *Old Istanbul* nostalgia, romantizations and (self)orientalism in the translations.

Dilara Kaplan, BA BA MA studied Political Science (BA & MA) at the University of Salzburg, Boğaziçi University, and BGSU. She completed Oriental Studies (BA) at the University of Vienna and is an MA-student of Turkology and of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies. Currently she is finishing her master's thesis in Turkology, analyzing functions of code-switching practices in Armeno-Turkish and Karamanlidika letters and has started a project on registers of Greek Orthodox communities of Cappadocia compiled in Karamanlidika.

Dr. Phil Konstantinos Sampanis is a post-doctoral researcher and lecturer at the University of Vienna (Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies), currently conducting ethnographic and sociolinguistic field and archival research on today's Greek-Orthodox community of Istanbul. Additionally, his recent publications revolve around the diachrony of the Greek language, dialectology, language contact and linguistic nationalism.

<https://www.byzneo.univie.ac.at/ueber-uns/mitarbeiterinnen/akademisches-personal/sampanis-konstantinos/>

Sotiris Karageorgos (University of Warsaw)

Translations in the teaching of Modern Greek Language and Literature

Abstract: The act of teaching is in its nature a kind of “translation”, if we go back to the etymological root of the term. Teaching also means transmitting knowledge. In the case of teaching a foreign language, transmission is not limited to language as a code of mutual communication. It includes specific culture and mentality aspects as well. Learning how to translate from our mother tongue to a foreign language can prove to be a very useful tool in order to receive this transmission. Teaching Polish students how to think in Greek appears to be a fascinating challenge. A comparatist overview of both linguistic systems at their cultural and historical backgrounds reveals striking similarities and differences simultaneously. Syntax and grammar similarities oppose abysmal phonetic and structure differences. Translating everyday expressions, press articles or literary texts present different kinds of obstacles and difficulties and require different kinds of skills. But this is what reveals the field of interaction between two linguistic systems.

Sotiris Karageorgos teaches Greek language, translation and comparative grammar at Center for Modern Greek Studies at the Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw, and at the School of Eastern Languages. He has a degree of Italian philology from the Faculty of Modern Languages at the University of Warsaw. He is currently working on a doctoral thesis titled “Religious motifs in the works of Bruno Schulz”.

Przemysław Kordos (University of Warsaw, CENTRAL group leader)

Translating popular culture into objects in the classroom: Object turn and Modern Greek Studies

Abstract: Material turn in Modern Greek education is for me introducing objects into the process of teaching. During my didactic practice, I teach the subject "Introduction to Modern Greek Studies" for the 1st year students where I present a variety of objects on different occasions, for example while teaching about comics (as a pop-cultural example), evil-eye amulets, worry beads (*kombolois*) and *tavli* boards. It is not enough to exhibit these objects - they are supposed to be touched, operated - used. I try to show extralinguistic significance, a thing important especially for Modern Greek students who haven't mastered the language yet but look for ways to understand the Modern Greek culture better. During my presentation I will focus on specific objects and present ways I work with them in class and try to provide some methodological/theoretical basis for such practices.

Przemysław Kordos graduated from Warsaw University in sociology and ethnology and defended in 2007 the doctoral thesis "20th century Greece in Polish Travel Texts". His habilitation thesis (2020) was published under the title "Beyond Greekness. Studies in contemporary Modern Greek prose". He teaches at the Center for Modern Greek Studies at the Faculty of "Artes Liberales", University of Warsaw, Greek topography, ethnology and modern literature; he also teaches courses on the methodology of cultural studies and on speculative fiction (SF) literature. He has been involved in research programmes on philhellenism, Cyprus, Sparta and the "Object in traditional Greek dance" in cooperation with the Greek Dances Theatre "Dora Stratou". He has translated into Polish books by Nikos Dimou, Petros Markaris and Antonis Georgiou.

Emilia Kowalska (University of Warsaw) is a BA student at the Center for Modern Greek Studies at the Faculty of "Artes Liberales" of the University of Warsaw.

Sona Mnatsakanyan (Humboldt University of Berlin)

Greek Reception of Armenians through Soviet lens. The Case of Mitsos Alexandropoulos "Travelogue"

Abstract: In this paper, I explore the travelogue *The Armenians: Journey to Their Country and History* (1982) by the Greek author Mitsos Alexandropoulos. My research is based on the Armenian and Russian translations of the book, published in 1984 and 1985 respectively. While Alexandropoulos's narrative focuses on Armenian culture and the historical ties between Armenians and Greeks, I argue that there is a subtler, yet significant, presence of a third party: the tradition of Russian and Soviet travel writing in Armenia, which significantly shapes the portrayal of Armenia in the text.

Sona Mnatsakanyan received her BA and MA in Armenian studies from Yerevan State University. Since 2020, she has been pursuing her doctoral studies at the Department of Slavonic Languages and Literatures at Humboldt University of Berlin. Her research, titled *Constructing a New Center for the New Self: Reading Mkrtych Armen's Novel "Yerevan" in the Context of (Post-)Soviet Literary Nation-Building*, analyzes how literary narratives contribute to the construction of spatial imagery and the formation of local or national identity. Currently, Sona teaches Armenian Literature at the American University of Armenia.

Lucija Poljičanin (University of Vienna)

From exchange to standstill. Translation practices between Croatia and Greece after the dissolution of Yugoslavia

Abstract: Translation practices between Croatia and Greece encounter two major challenges: a shortage of qualified translators and a lack of academic programs offering Modern Greek language instruction. These obstacles are closely tied to political developments. Following the fall of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the Yugoslav Republics, sought to distance themselves from communism and redefine their national identity based on capitalist values. During the Yugoslav era, cultural exchange with Greece flourished, with many Greek literary works and films translated into Serbo-Croatian. However, after Croatia's independence in 1991, the nationalist government led by the HDZ prioritized establishing a distinct Croatian identity, which involved separating Serbo-Croatian into two distinct languages. This shift contributed to the marginalization of cultural and literary works in the Serbian "Ekavica" dialect. Similarly, Greek, once prominent in Yugoslav academia, became marginalized as focus shifted to national languages and the classics. Today, few Greek works are translated into Croatian, and those that are — such as Ioanna Karystiani's *Mikra Anglia* — are often translated from English rather than Greek. However, recent developments, including the publication of Greek-Croatian dictionaries by the University of Zagreb in 2016 and the normalization of bilateral ties with Serbia, suggest a gradual restoration of these literary connections.

Lucija Poljičanin (*2002) is pursuing MA degrees in Sociology and Journalism & Communication Studies at the University of Vienna, where she also works as a student assistant. She earned her BA in Journalism & Communication Studies with minors in Modern Greek Language and Literature, as well as Sociology. Her research focuses particularly on the societal impact of paradigm shifts following May 1968 and the fall of the Berlin Wall, with a specific emphasis, on Southeast Europe, especially the former Yugoslavia and Greece.

Judith Ramharter (University of Vienna) is a pre-doctoral researcher at the Department for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies at the University of Vienna. Her dissertation focuses on Karl Krumbacher's views on the Modern Greek language question. Her research interests include palaeography, historical linguistics and textual editing.

Bubulina Spanosová (Charles University of Prague)

Artificial Intelligence, machine translation and the role of the post-editor

Abstract: The presentation addresses the role of the post-editor and its differentiation from the role of the translator in the context of rapid technological developments in the field of machine translation and artificial intelligence. Based on personal experience, the author points out certain problems that can arise from the use of machine translation and artificial intelligence.

Bubulina Spanosová is a lecturer of Modern Greek language at the Institute of Greek and Latin Studies, Charles University. She studied Humanities and Anthropology at the faculty of Humanities, Charles University and has started her PhD studies in Greek literature at Masaryk University, which she has currently interrupted. She has been working as a translator and interpreter for more than 15 years and has translated various kinds of texts, such as technical, legal, financial, and marketing texts.

Maria A. Stassinopoulou (University of Vienna, CENTRAL workshop leader and spokesperson)

Who speaks what? Language in 'The Guns of Navarone' (1961) and 'Captain Corelli's Mandolin' (2001)

Abstract: Language and dialect stereotyping in fiction film have been recently discussed mainly from the perspective of translation and dubbing. I would like to use concepts from this field to pick up again the discussion of how "Greekness" is visually and acoustically constructed in cinema. In this paper I focus on two international productions about WWII based on bestselling novels, with a plot situated in Greece. I seek to understand how "prefabricated orality", in particular "Greek" dialog and "Greek" pronunciation of English is used in order to define characters and locality and to interact with the viewers' expectations.

Maria A. Stassinopoulou (*1961 in Athens, GR) holds the Chair of Modern Greek Studies at the University of Vienna. She has published widely on early modern and modern Greek intellectual history, Greek film history, and migration history and led research programs. Her current project discusses women's education and emancipation in the 20th century through a collective biography of Greek kindergarten teachers educated in Asia Minor.

Lisa Stenech (University of Vienna)

Lisa Stenech (*2000) is pursuing MA degrees in Global History and Global Studies as well as Byzantine Studies and Modern Greek Studies at the University of Vienna, where she also earned her BA in History. She works at the Jewish Museum Hohenems and at a tax consultant firm. Her research focuses on migration with an emphasis on questions of identity and belonging.

Konstantinos Tsivos (Charles University of Prague, CENTRAL group leader)

Translations from Czech into Greek and vice versa: the subjective factor

Abstract: The presentation will review the literary translations made in the post-war period from Greek into Czech and vice versa. It will focus on the asymmetry that exists in literary translation between the two countries (significant backlog of Greek translations into Czech), as well as on the preparation of professional translators. Emphasis will be placed on the role of translators as mediators in the publishing industry and in cultural exchange between the two countries in general.

Konstantinos Tsivos is Associate Professor at the Institute of Greek and Latin Studies and the head of Modern Greek Studies of the Faculty for Arts, Charles University in Prague. He teaches also at the Institute of Classics Studies in Masaryk University, Brno. His research focuses on Greek Civil War, especially the Greek Emigration, the history of Greek Communism, the Greek Crisis and the Greek-Czech relations. He has authored and co-authored books and published widely in Greek, Czech and English on Modern Greek History, the Greek Crisis and Czech-Greek relations. He has also translated well-known Czech literary authors and historians into Greek.

Niovi Zampouka (Humboldt University of Berlin, CENTRAL group leader)

Anthologies of Modern Greek Prose in the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Poland and the Soviet Union

Abstract: As a derivative work of art that assumes the existence of original literary texts, an anthology invariably serves a specific purpose—one that may not align precisely with that of its individual components. This characteristic renders anthologies a valuable instrument for literary and cultural politics. The paper undertakes a comparative analysis of notable anthologies of Greek literature published during the Cold War period in some of the countries of the former Eastern Bloc and in West Germany. The objective of this study is to examine the canonization and representation of modern Greek literature across various target cultures and ideological contexts.

Niovi Zampouka is a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Slavic and Hungarian Studies at Humboldt University of Berlin. <https://www.slawistik.hu-berlin.de/de/member/zampouka/vita>