

Call for papers

Inverted Runes: New Perspectives on Literary Translingualism

A symposium at Uppsala University, 4-5 September 2015

Organizers:

Michael Boyden, Department of English

Julie Hansen, Department of Modern Languages & Uppsala Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies

Keynote speakers:

Steven G. Kellman (University of Texas at San Antonio)

Rebecca Walkowitz (Rutgers University)

The phenomena of bi- or multilingual authors and the use of multiple languages within one and the same literary text or oeuvre are as old as literature itself. However, they have arguably become more visible recently due to globalization and increased migration. Translingual literature has also received more attention from literary scholars in the past two decades, but many questions remain to be explored.

This symposium aims to elucidate the functions and effects of the varied forms of literary translingualism, with a focus on defining and refining theoretical approaches and conceptual tools for the study of it. Questions related to the reception, translation and genres of translingual texts will be addressed. The symposium will also examine power relations between various languages and registers in translingual texts and oeuvres, as well as the role of translingualism within the world system of languages.

By bringing together researchers and graduate students working on the topic of literary translingualism in various languages and within different academic disciplines, this symposium will primarily focus on broader questions related to literary translingualism, rather than on individual cases of translingual writers or texts, although the analysis of specific texts may serve to illustrate and elucidate broader issues. Contributions dealing with translingualism in all languages, periods and literary traditions are welcome.

Specific issues addressed may include:

- Distinctions between different kinds of multilingualism in literature
- The functions of interaction between different languages
- “Vertical” and “horizontal” forms of translingualism, indicating the power relations between various languages and registers
- Diglossia and literary translingualism
- The reception of translingual texts
- The translation of translingual texts, particularly in contexts where the target language is one of the embedded languages in the original
- The question of pseudotranslation, understood as the evocation of a foreign language for readers not proficient in that language
- Literary genre and translingualism
- Translingualism and censorship
- Translingualism and the world system of languages

We invite proposals for individual paper submissions. Proposals involving alternative presentation formats or discussion sessions dealing with new developments in the field of translingualism are also welcome. A network meeting on translingual writing is also planned as part of the program.

Please submit an abstract (250-350 words) with a short CV to both Michael Boyden (michael.boyden@engelska.uu.se) and Julie Hansen (julie.hansen@moderna.uu.se) by April 1, 2015. Notifications of acceptance will be sent out in May.