



9th IATIS Regional Workshop

Perspectives on Translation, Feminisms and Gender from Latin America

La Plata, Argentina, December 3-4 2020

REPORT

Rationale and call for papers

Translation Studies in Argentina is a booming discipline and a growing number of university centers and programs are showing an interest in the intersections of translation and gender. In the framework of the current debates regarding feminist and gender issues in Argentina, the topic acquires more relevance than ever before. Argentina's concern with gender and/or sex-related issues may be traced back to a decade ago when the Comprehensive Sexual Education Program was established by law (Law 26.150) in 2009, thereby making sexual education part of the curriculum across all levels of the educational system. Also in 2009, the Argentine Congress passed a law protecting women against all kinds of violence (Law 26.485). It is also worth noting that Argentina was the first country in Latin America to pass a same-sex marriage law (Law 26.618) in 2010; furthermore, in 2012, the Congress voted for two other key laws: the gender identity law (Law 26.743) and the so-called femicide law (Law 26.791). From then onward, several movements have put gender and feminist issues in the country's cultural, educational, political, legal, and social agendas. In 2015, the feminist movement *Ni una menos* (Not One Less) emerged in Argentina to stand up against violence against women and its most extreme manifestation, i.e. femicides. Since its inception, the movement has extended to other countries in the region, such as Uruguay, Bolivia, Peru, Mexico and Colombia, among others. In 2018, Argentina adhered for the first time to the International Women's Strike. Moreover, a milestone Congress debate around the "Voluntary Pregnancy Interruption" bill seeking the decriminalization of abortion has also brought feminist issues to the fore in the past

two years. The need to articulate a voice amidst this controversial discussion led to the creation in 2018 of a collective of feminist translators and interpreters in Argentina: *Traductoras e intérpretes feministas de la Argentina*. In the same year and following the #MeToo Movement in the United States, a group of Argentine actresses collectively started to denounce male sexual abuse in the local entertainment industry. This socio-historical background has, in turn, had an impact on discourse and linguistic practices, to such an extent that a gender-inclusive language debate has been invigorated, calling for a revision of what is deemed as a Spanish bias toward the male gender. All of this currently challenges the academia in various ways and calls for an urgent critical review of translation and interpreting practices. A scholarly debate of this kind has not yet been fully pursued in our region from the methodological angles considered in this workshop.

This IATIS regional workshop focuses on issues of translation, gender and feminisms, aiming at engaging in productive dialogues between established and emerging paradigms in the field. Feminist Translation Studies is a strong area of research within Translation Studies, encompassing the study of discursive, ideological, cultural, sociopolitical aspects of work by women translators and authors, and focusing on gender representations, gender awareness, and gender-based criticism. This approach calls for the revision of long-standing discourses about translation and studies translators' intervention in translated discourses (Flotow and Kamal *forthcoming*). As noted by Flotow (2019), a significant turn toward a transnational perspective is being consolidated through various scholarly networks in Feminist Translation Studies across the world (Alvarez et al. 2014; Postigo and Martínez 2014; Yu 2015; Castro and Ergun 2017; Flotow and Farahzad 2017; Castro, Ergun, Flotow and Spoturno 2018; Sousa Araújo, Silva and Silva-Reis 2019). As a consequence of these initiatives, the emphasis is on translation as a powerful and necessary "means of producing identities, knowledges and cross-cultural encounters" (Castro and Ergun 2017: 1). A transnational view of Feminist Translation Studies and practices has various but related implications for the Latin American as well as other regional contexts. It still implies questioning patriarchal categories of colonial modernity such as gender and gender patterns (Lugones 2010), and now compels us to recognize not only the value of intersectionality but also that of interconnectivity in the making of identities (Anzaldúa 1990; Crenshaw 1991) and in their representation through translation practices. The transnational paradigm promotes the collective construction of knowledges and critical epistemologies beyond the Anglo-American Eurozone, thereby empowering discourses emerging in the East-West and South-North directions. In this context, a transnational perspective means committing to an ethics of justice and inclusion through translation practices and/or reflections on translation.

In this light, this IATIS workshop aims at facilitating scholarly discussions around fundamental topics of translation, gender and feminisms. The main goals of this workshop are to revisit translation practices, contexts and concepts in the wider current context of gender and feminist debates; to stimulate research and discussion on the relations between established and emerging paradigms in Feminist Translation Studies; and to build new avenues for scholarship.

We invite proposals for individual paper presentations, in English or Spanish, addressing themes and aspects of translation, feminisms and genders relating to both paradigms in the field of Feminist Translation Studies. While a vision of the region will be favored, the scope of the workshop will not be restricted to cases in the local scenario.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Gender representations, feminisms and translation practices, contexts and concepts in a diverse Latin American context.
- Gender awareness and gender criticism within practices of self-translation, retranslation, collaborative translation and practices of interpretation.
- Genders, feminisms and historiography of translation practices. Translation and censorship in Latin America and other regions.
- Genders, translation, multimodality and intermedial studies.
- Gender, linguistic, translation policies and the politics of translation.
- Feminisms, genders, translation discourse and ethics of inclusion.
- Feminist Translation Studies in/and cultures of translation, and institutional frameworks in Latin America and other regions.
- Critical feminist epistemologies and pedagogies and/in translation.
- Genders, feminisms and translation/interpreting practices. Collectives of feminist translators and interpreters in the region.
- Dialogue and tension between established and emerging paradigms in Feminist Translation Studies.

Workshop organizers

Organizing Committee

Beatriz Cagnolati, Ana María Gentile, María Leonor Sara, María Laura Spoturno (**General Coordinator**), and Gabriela Yañez

Workshop Collaborators (undergraduate students and recent graduates, UNLP)

Magdalena Chiaravalli, Nadia Crantosqui, María Escobar, Sabrina Ferrero, Natalia Galarraga, Lucrecia García, Ana Kancepolsky Teichmann, Mariela Romero, Albertina Seri Medei, Daiana Troche and Lucia Volpe

Hosted by Área de Investigación en Traductología/Laboratorio de Investigaciones en Traductología, Instituto de Investigaciones en Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales, Facultad de Humanidades y Ciencias de la Educación, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Técnicas y Científicas, La Plata, Argentina

Workshop overview

The 9th IATIS Regional Workshop “Perspectives on Translation, Feminisms and Gender from Latin America” was attended by 48 participants from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Spain and United Kingdom. Speakers and organizers accessed the event online via Zoom. The event was also followed by approximately 30-50 people live on the 9th IATIS Regional Workshop YouTube channels —created specifically for the event— and watched by over 300 people on YouTube after the Workshop.

The event opened with the projection of two institutional videos (IdIHCS and IATIS). This certainly helped participants frame the event in the broader contexts of the institutions which made it possible. The welcoming words by Dr Sue-Ann Harding, the Chief of the IATIS Executive Council, set the tone for the two days of work at this conference.

In the opening plenary session, Prof. Luise von Flotow made an overview of feminist/gender-aware translation and translation studies and the developments toward the 'Transnational.' The Workshop was organized around twenty-seven panel presentations organized in sessions including a variety of themes, such as gender representations, feminisms and translation practices, contexts and concepts in a diverse Latin American context; gender awareness and gender criticism within practices of self-translation, retranslation, collaborative translation and practices of interpretation; collectives of feminist translators and interpreters in the region, among other relevant issues in the field. Some of the highlights of the event were the presentation of two recent publications with new discussions and directions on translation, feminism and gender, the *Routledge Handbook of Translation, Feminism and Gender* (Kamal & Flotow) and the special issue on *Transnational Feminist Translation Studies*, published in the Colombian journal *Mutatis Mutandis* 13 (1), 2020 (Castro, Ergun, Flotow & Spoturno).

Throughout the Workshop, participants were able to engage in a fruitful dialogue with speakers and other participants by asking questions, making comments, and exchanging contact information during and after presentations. We also made available a Wonder meeting room, where participants and speakers alike could socialize and network during breaks.

The Workshop ended with the participation of Dr Hephzibah Israel, the Regional Workshop Committee Chair, who kindly joined the Zoom session for some closing words. Hephzibah Israel's support and guidance in the different stages of the organization of this event must be acknowledged here as well.

We obtained permission from photographer Vicente Viola to use a wonderful picture of our city and, during the event, we were also able to show the video "Por el camino más corto," in which different local choirs celebrate our hometown.

Working languages

The working languages of the Workshop were Spanish and English. Interpreting services (English-Spanish/Spanish-English) were provided at this event. Interpretation services were offered pro-bono by Gabriela Yañez, an interpreter and member of the Organizing Committee. This guaranteed that all non-English-speaking scholars and students wishing to take part in the event could profit from the plenary session and some of the talks delivered in English.

Likewise, IATIS institutional videos were subtitled into Spanish by Magdalena Chiaravalli, who also worked pro-bono, as well as Nadia Crantosqui, María Escobar, Sabrina Ferrero and Mariela Romero who revised and translated part of the book of abstracts and bionotes.

Publication plans

As a result of this highly productive event, the Organizing Committee is working on the publication of a special issue, which has already been agreed with the Brazilian journal *Belas Infiés* (University of Brasilia). A selection of papers presented at this Workshop will be submitted to be peer reviewed by the journal to become part of volume 1 in 2022.

Special circumstances

With the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns imposed worldwide, the Workshop Organizers decided to postpone the Workshop, scheduled initially for early May 2020. After obtaining the approval of IATIS to have the Workshop online, it was necessary to adapt the program and other Workshop activities to the new circumstances. To accommodate to this new format, sessions and discussions were slightly shorter than in an in-person event and speakers were encouraged to comment on their work rather than reading their papers. While this was quite a dynamic and productive Workshop, it is a fact that we would normally benefit from longer group and one-to-one discussions after sessions.

A sound provider was required and hired to put up the technological infrastructure to make the event possible. Two Zoom meeting rooms were set up, one allowing for simultaneous interpretation. Also, in order to facilitate access to the sessions, the book of abstracts as well as the speakers' bionotes were shared both in English and Spanish through the IATIS webpage, as well as through mailing lists prior to the event. A good number of colleagues and students were able to access the talks live on the 9th IATIS Regional Workshop YouTube channels. Other than supplying the technology, the Organizing Committee obtained written permission from all speakers to live stream their talks.

It was only to be expected that technical difficulties should arise in an online event such as this one, in which not all participants were in the same time zone and in some areas of Brazil and Argentina there were problems with the electricity and Internet supply. To avoid inconveniences, we planned all stages of the event well in advance and in writing in case the organizers lost their connections.

Feedback comments from participants¹

I.

This was a well-planned, well-organized and interesting event, the first of its kind that I am aware of in Latin America. I found the number and quality of the conference presentations very impressive and listened to many of them with great interest. Unfortunately, due to Covid and the ZOOM-technical aspects of the conference, the discussions after the presentations were minimal. Under normal circumstances, there would have been much more lively interaction. But even so, the attendance and participation was good: with attendees in Europe, Mexico,

¹ We thank participants for their permission to reproduce and publish their comments in this report.

Canada and throughout South America. It drew a good crowd of scholars interested in the field of feminist transnational translation studies and in expanding it.

The work of the organizers needs special mention: their technical expertise, the work they volunteered as simultaneous interpreters, the interventions and responses to presentations that they offered in order to get discussions moving were excellent. They were extremely well-prepared and disciplined in the running of this complex event.

I very much enjoyed attending it on both days and was present throughout. A very diverse and interesting conference.

Luise von Flotow, University of Ottawa, Canada

II.

*The organization of the IATIS Regional Workshop was absolutely impeccable. I was particularly impressed at how well interpreting worked via Zoom. The quality of the papers presented was impressive, leading to very lively and insightful discussions via the chat and video function. The theme of the conference was indeed very timely, and I am looking forward to reading the selection of papers that will be published in *Belas Infieis*.*

Olga Castro, University of Warwick, UK

III.

The workshop was great! The subject was explored from various angles and different perspectives. The presentations were insightful, inspiring, thought provoking and engaging. I still can't believe I had the opportunity to enjoy the discussion and the knowledge (experience, views, approaches, practices, ideas) shared by so many brilliant women.

Congratulations! And thank you for the inspiring and insightful talks and presentations!

Vasiliki Misiou, University of Thessaloniki, Greece

III.

Congratulations for the organization and quality of this event.

Maribel del Pozo Triviño, University of Vigo, Spain

IV.

Many thanks for this Workshop, for your generosity, excellent organization and dedicated work.

Irene Chikiar Bauer, National University of San Martín, Argentina

V.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to present my work in this Workshop. I also want to congratulate you for moving the Workshop online. It was just perfect!

In times like this, it is wonderful to have the chance of learning and sharing knowledge with colleagues from different parts of the world. Thanks IATIS and the Organizing Committee for building these bridges.

Paula Bajo Moreno, National University of Córdoba, Argentina

IV.

The Workshop made it possible to get to know firsthand the latest developments in feminist translation theories. We had the chance of 'meeting' the authors behind the theories and reflect together with them (Luise von Flotow, María Laura Spoturno and Olga Castro) in a friendly environment. Besides, in the different presentations we learned about specific studies applying the theory, such as the studies by Maribel del Pozo and Cristina Marey on interpretation and gender policies, by Gabriela Yañez or María Eugenia Ghirimoldi. The Workshop was excellent!

Meritxell Hernando Marsal, Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil

V.

I would first like to congratulate the Organizing Committee and all those who collaborated in the organization of the 9th IATIS Regional Workshop "Perspectives on translation, feminisms, and gender from Latin America," held virtually on December 3rd and 4th at the University of La Plata, Argentina. Renowned researchers in the field of feminist translation studies, such as Luise von Flotow, María Laura Spoturno and Olga Castro, took part in the event as well as scholars working from a gender studies perspective, among other disciplines. Presentations were inspiring and most informative in regard to the research currently being developed on feminisms.

Andrea Lombardo, National University of La Plata, Argentina

VI.

I loved being part of this Workshop, which was wonderfully organized by committed scholars, such as María Laura Spoturno and many others. It was a unique opportunity to meet researchers working from a feminist translation studies perspective in Latin America. It is paramount that we get together in events like this so that trans-border alliances can be forged. This may be the first of many steps in that direction, so needed in the South. Many thanks, saravá from Florianópolis in Brazil, where I can hear Yemanjá in the midst of the waves, odocyaba.

Beatriz Regina Guimarães Barboza, Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil

VII.

Congratulations for this Workshop; it was a total success! It was a wonderful meeting, held in a magical, stimulating and friendly environment. It was inspiring to listen to the plenary sessions and all presentations. The Organizing Committee was perfectly articulated.

María Eugenia Ghirimoldi, National University of La Plata, Argentina

VIII.

The Ninth IATIS Regional Workshop, which was to be held in La Plata, went online due to the covid pandemic. Although everyone would have loved to meet in person, I would like to congratulate the organizing committee for quickly adapting and for holding an absorbing, inspiring and relevant event. Engaging with fellow scholars and exchanging experiences on Feminist Translation certainly added to the strong theoretical, networking and solidarity potential we have in the region. Significant and exciting collaborations have already started to unfold! I would like to express special thanks to Professor María Laura Spoturno and congratulations again to the organizing committee.

Luciana Carvalho Fonseca, University of San Pablo, Brazil

IX.

It was such a pleasant surprise to see such moving presentations, both because of their academic interest and their commitment and kindness. Participating in the Workshop helped me learn about transnational feminist translation studies and theories, as well as their application. All of this was inspiring for my future career as a researcher.

Ana Kancepolsky Teichmann, recent graduate, National University of La Plata, Argentina

X.

As a recently graduated translator, the 9th IATIS Workshop "Perspectives on Translation, Feminisms and Gender from Latin America" represented for me a privileged space for learning from renowned scholars: I had the opportunity to participate in a workshop of great importance where I could update my knowledge on translation studies thanks to state-of-the-art research presentations which, in turn, enabled a true and enriching transnational dialogue.

María Laura Escobar, recent graduate, National University of La Plata, Argentina