

**Institute of Germanic & Romance Studies'  
Postgraduate Conference**

31st May 2012

IGRS, Stewart House, Russell Square, London

Call for Papers – deadline for abstracts: Friday 17th February 2012

**'Translations'**

translating language // translating media // translating experience

*In translation, only creative transposition is possible: either intralingual transposition- from one poetic shape into another, or interlingual transposition- from one language into another, or finally intersemiotic transposition, from one system of signs into another, e.g. from verbal art into music, dance, cinema or painting.*

(Roman Jakobson, 'On linguistic aspects of translation', 1959)

übersetzen, traduir, traduire, tradurre, traduzire... The etymological roots of the word 'to translate' in Germanic and Romance languages is in the idea of setting something across from one shore to another on a boat. The process of translation always involves movement.

What happens to an object of translation in its passage across? How far is it a 'moveable object'? Can it arrive intact on the other shore? The person bringing the translation about must ask, what or where is the object of translation? What are the aesthetic, ethical, and political dimensions to the practice and theory of translation?

Translation into any medium (text, film, image) is never a transparent process; there are always aesthetic, ethical and political factors to be considered. This one-day conference is for postgraduate students who work in Germanic and Romance languages to explore a broad range of themes relating to the process of translation, not only from a language to another one, but also between different historical periods, genres, codes and media in all forms of art. We invite papers that think broadly about the practice of translation both from a technical and epistemological point of view.

**Topics might include:**

- What makes something translatable?
  
- Theoretical/philosophical issues in translation
- Issues of translation from one language to another
- Dialogue between different literary genres
- Politics and ideology of translation

- The translator as a fictional character
- Translation between historical periods and contexts
- The 'translation' of a narrative from textual to filmic medium
  
- The translation of sound within a language
  
- Translation as a textual impasse

... and any other ideas around the theme of 'Translation'

We welcome papers from those working in disciplines including literature, linguistics, film, art history, and philosophy/theory, in the languages areas of German, French, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese.

All papers must be in English and all aspects of papers must be coherent to English speakers. Papers must be no more than 20 minutes long, and we suggest that papers begin with an object of contemplation whether quotation(s) on a printout, or powerpoint, an image or a film clip. This is to enable fruitful discussion between those working in different fields of knowledge.

Please submit an abstract of no more than 250 words with a brief C.V.

**Email all abstracts and queries to:** [forum@igrs.sas.ac.uk](mailto:forum@igrs.sas.ac.uk)

**Address language-specific queries to:** Rebecca Johnson (UCL)-Germanic, Marta Perez-Carbonell (Royal Holloway)-Spanish and Portuguese, Jo Bruton (UCL)-French, Francesco Schiavon (Royal Holloway)-Italian