

CROSS-CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS AND REVISIONARY LITERARY HISTORY

University of Verona
Germanic Philology (Prof. Cipolla)
14-15 November 2018

The field of comparative and cross-border studies in the field of literature is growing rapidly with an ever increasing focus on cultural engagements, cultural fusion and translation as a site for identity formation and cultural resistance. This seminar will focus on the methodological approaches of cross-cultural studies, considering their implications for a new mode of understanding and formulating literary history, thereby contesting the frequently rigid national or linguistic borders of the field. We will consider concepts such as *translatio studii et imperii* and their implications for medieval practices of translation and transmission. Such an approach is particularly adept for the Apennine Peninsula; the nexus for cultural mediation between East and West in the Middle Ages and the site of unparalleled cultural fusion. Yet, it is also critical when considering the development of Nordic literary history and its place in a European literary-historical context. We will consider examples of such cultural engagements and transmission, utilising evidence from Scandinavia and beyond to showcase the impact of cultural fusion on national and international literary histories.

Session 1: Wed 14/11, at 14:30-16:10 (Polo Zanotto, Aula Daneloni)

The focus of the first session will be on providing a socio-historical background and contextualisation for the subsequent discussion of cultural engagements and movements in and across the North and the implications of a cross-cultural approach for literary history. We will then segue into the first case study that is intended to help clarify and actualise some of the methodological implications and ramifications. The first case study will focus on material and visual evidence to trace cultural transmissions and to ponder their implications for our perception (and conception) of literary history.

Session 2: Wed 14/11, at 16:30-17:20 (Polo Zanotto, Aula Daneloni)

The second section will follow the first, building on the broader socio-historical background and patterns of exchange to consider cultural networks and encounters, tracing ecclesiastic or mercantile exchange and its literary (and literary-historical) implications (second case study).

Session 3: Thurs 15/11, at 10:00-11:40 (Polo Zanotto, Aula MAC 1)

The third session builds on the previous discussion and will seek to trace some of the implications of the established socio-historical patterns through a more text-oriented examples. In this session we will therefore look more closely at a particular case of textual transmission in a third case study (Literary-Textual). We will look at some textual examples to feature the cross-cultural approach at work by utilising conventional philological comparative analysis.

Session 4: Thurs 15/11, at 12:00-12:50 (Polo Zanotto, Aula MAC 1)

The final session seeks to move beyond the literary-historical basis established in the previous two sessions by pulling together some of the previously established evidence to trace cultural transmissions and to ponder their implications for our perception (and conception) of literary history. It will provide an opportunity to ponder the ramifications of what we will have discussed, both within the Nordic context and for literary historical studies in general. Students will be encouraged to participate throughout and to engage in a final discussion about the complexities, validity and usefulness (or not!) of the approach and the potentiality of cross-cultural studies in general.

SELECTED FURTHER READINGS

- Apter, Emily, *The Translation Zone: A New Comparative Literature* (Princeton, 2006)
- Attridge, Derek, 'Context, Idioculture, Invention,' *New Literary History* 42 (2011), 681-99
- Bampi, Massimiliano, and Marina Buzzoni, eds, *Textual Production and Status Contests in Rising and Unstable Societies*, *Filologie medievali e moderne* (Venezia, 2013)
- Barnes, Geraldine, *The Bookish Riddarasögur: Writing Romance in Late Medieval Iceland* (Copenhagen, 2014)
- Byrne, Aisling, and Victoria Flood, eds, *Crossing Borders in the Insular Middle Ages*, *Medieval Texts and Cultures of Northern Europe* 38 (Turnhout, forthcoming)
- Campbell, Emma, and Robert Mills, *Rethinking Medieval Translation: Ethics, Politics, Theory* (Cambridge, 2012)
- Chakrabarty, Dipesh, *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference*, *Princeton Studies in Culture/ Power/ History* (Princeton, 2000)
- Glauser, Jürg, and Susanne Kramarz-Bein, eds, *Rittersagas: Übersetzung, Überlieferung, Transmission*, *Beiträge zur Nordischen Philologie* 45 (Tübingen, 2014)
- Heng, Geraldine, *Empire of Magic: Medieval Romance and the Politics of Cultural Fantasy* (New York, 2003)
- , 'A Global Middle Ages', in *A Handbook of Middle English Studies*, ed. Marion Turner, *Critical Theory Handbooks* (Oxford, 2013), pp. 413-30
- Hollengreen, Laura H., ed., *Translatio or the Transmission of Culture in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance: Modes and Messages*, *Arizona Studies in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance* 13 (Turnhout, 2008)
- Ingham, Patricia Clare, *Sovereign Fantasies: Arthurian Romance and the Making of Britain* (Philadelphia, 2001)
- Johansson, Karl G., and Else Mundal, eds, *Riddarasögur: The Translation of European Court Culture in Medieval Scandinavia*, *Bibliotheca Nordica* (Oslo, 2014)
- Kabir, Ananya Jahanara, and Deanne Williams, eds, *Postcolonial Approaches to the European Middle Ages: Translating Cultures* (Cambridge, 2005)
- Kinoshita, Sharon, *Medieval Boundaries: Rethinking Difference in Old French Literature* (Philadelphia, 2006)
- Quinn, Judy, and Adele Cipolla, eds, *Studies in the Transmission and Reception of Old Norse Literature: The Hyperborean Muse in European Culture*, *Acta Scandinavica* 6 (Turnhout, 2016)
- Rikhardsdóttir, Sif, *Medieval Translations and Cultural Discourse: The Movement of Texts in England, France and Scandinavia* (Cambridge, 2012)
- , 'The Phantom of a Romance: Traces of Romance Transmission and the Question of Originality', in *Medieval Romances Across European Borders*, ed. Miriam Edlich-Muth, *Medieval Narratives in Transmission* (Turnhout: 2018), 133-151
- Rose, Marilyn Gaddis, ed., *Translation Horizons: Beyond the Boundaries of Translation Spectrum* (Binghampton, 1996)
- Chism, Christina, ed., *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to World Literature*, vol. 2 (The Middle Ages), General editor Ken Seignourie, 5 vols (Chichester, forthcoming)
- Stahuljak, Zrinka, *Bloodless Genealogies of the French Middle Ages: Translatio, Kinship, and Metaphor* (Gainesville, 2005)
- , 'An Epistemology of Tension: Translation and Multiculturalism', *The Translator: Studies in Intercultural Communication* 10 (2004), 33-57
- Wallace, David, ed., *Europe: A Literary History, 1348-1418*, 2 vols (Oxford, 2016)
- Warren, Michelle R., *History on the Edge: Excalibur and the Borders of Britain, 1100-1300*, *Medieval Cultures* (Minneapolis, 2000)
- , 'Translating in the Zone', *New Medieval Literatures* 9 (2007), 191-8