



A Space for Translation: Thresholds of Interpretation

Presentation Details	
Title of Paper:	Spaces of Translation: U.S. Immigrant Newspapers, 1918-1941
Speaker:	Brian James BAER, Professor of Russian and Translation Studies, Department of Modern and Classical Language Studies, Kent State University
Abstract:	<p>In recent years, Translation Studies has begun to investigate translation outside traditional nationalist frameworks, focusing, for example, on non-standard forms of language, languaging on borders, translation before the rise of Romantic nationalism, and the experience of individual emigré writer-translators. One understudied area, however, remains translation as practiced in diasporic communities, despite the attention paid to the phenomenon of diaspora and migration in postcolonial studies. This paper presents preliminary results from a collaborative study of three diasporic communities in the USA during the inter-war period (1918-1941): Russian, Slovene, and Spanish. The diasporic communities selected represent large, stable communities capable of supporting at least one language newspaper over the course of the period under investigation; they also represent a variety of diasporic experiences and histories. The purpose of the study is to explore immigrant newspapers as a specific space of translation by focusing on the uses of translation both into and out of the dominant language. Special attention is paid to the ways in which translations allow these communities to exert a certain degree of agency in constructing an image of themselves for Anglophone audiences. Preliminary results reveal translation in the context of diaspora to be a complex and contested site of positioning between the minority language community and the metropole, where diaspora identities “are constantly producing and reproducing themselves anew, through transformation and difference” (Hall 1990:235). On a methodological level, this study seeks to present a methodology that can be applied and adapted to the study of other diasporic communities in the U.S. and in other cultural and political contexts.</p>

Reference

Hall, Stuart (1990). "Cultural Identity and Diaspora." In *Identity, Community, Culture, Difference*, ed. by J. Rutherford, 222-237. London: Lawrence and Wishart.

Author's Biography

Brian James BAER is Professor of Russian and Translation Studies at Kent State University, where he teaches translation-related courses at the undergraduate, Master's, and doctoral levels. He is founding editor of the journal *Translation and Interpreting Studies* (TIS), general editor of the Kent State Scholarly Monograph Series in Translation Studies, and co-editor, with Michelle Woods of the book series *Literatures, Cultures, Translation* (Bloomsbury). He is author of the monographs *Other Russias* (2009), which was selected as a Choice Outstanding Academic Title by the American Library Association in 2011, and *Translation and the Making of Modern Russian Literature* (2015). In addition, he has edited a number of collected volumes: *Beyond the Ivory Tower: Re-thinking Translation Pedagogy*, with Geoffrey Koby (2003), *Contexts, Subtexts and Pretexts: Literary Translation in Eastern Europe and Russia* (2011), *Russian Writers on Translation. An Anthology*, with Natalia Olshanskaya (2013), *Researching Translation and Interpreting*, with Claudia Angelelli (2015), *Translation in Russian Contexts*, with Susanna Witt (2018), and *Queering Translation, Translating the Queer*, with Klaus Kaindl. He is also the translator of Juri Lotman's final book-length work, *The Unpredictable Workings of Culture* (2013) and is currently working on an annotated translation of Andrei Fedorov's 1953 *Introduction to Translation Theory* for which he was awarded the 2014 EST Translation Prize.