

The role of translations in the shaping of National identities during the Enlightenment

Panel session organised by Alessia Castagnino (European University Institute, Florence) at the 15th International Congress for Eighteenth Century Studies (Edinburgh, 14-19 July 2019).

In recent years, cultural and intellectual historians have gradually started to take a close interest in translations as sources to deeply understand historical phenomena and investigate the ways in which ideas and texts were disseminated and re-elaborated in new contexts. Translations have been progressively considered as cultural practices and the result of various processes of cultural and intellectual “negotiation” between two different contexts, a “source” and a “target” context, which does not receive the text passively but significantly changes it.

The eighteenth century has proven to be an ideal research field to analyse these dynamics. During that period, in fact, translations became an extraordinary vehicle for the dissemination, reception and circulation of a large number of texts and ideas across linguistic and cultural boundaries, distinguishing themselves as a tool for the formation of new political, economic, philosophical and historiographical languages. As effectively underlined by Fania Oz-Salzberger, «translation, the tool of a new Enlightenment cosmopolitanism, eventually became the medium (and target) of new linguistic self-awareness and cultural nationalism [...]. Toward the end of the century, National cultures were consciously being constructed, enriched, and even challenged to originality, by means of translation» (Fania Oz-Salzberger, *Enlightenment, national Enlightenments, and translation*, in *The Routledge Companion to Eighteenth Century Philosophy*. London: Routledge, 2014, p. 33-60).

Starting from these theoretical and methodological assumptions, the aim of this panel is to examine, in a comparative view, the characteristics of these cultural tool, focusing the attention on different geographical, institutional, social and cultural contexts.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- the use of translation as a political tool;
- the influence of political and/or cultural institutions upon translation practices;
- the role played by translators and publishers in the production and distribution of translations and their networks;
- translations and minority languages;
- the materiality of translations.

Please submit proposals for papers (max 2000 characters, in English or French) with a short CV to alessia.castagnino@eui.eu by 15th January 2018. Proposed papers should not exceed 20 minutes in length. You will receive an answer by 25th January 2018. Then, the panel proposal will be submitted to the ISECS committee by 1st February.

For more details please see: <https://www.bsecs.org.uk/ise/cs/en/cfp/>