

19th International Congress of the International Association for Neo-Latin Studies (Aix-en-Provence, 14-20 July 2025)

Proposal for a Special Session

***Versio latina*: Translating into Latin in the Early Modern Period**

Complementary to previous research, the DFG project “Versio latina” focuses on Latin as the target language of translation processes. To this end, we amassed bibliographical information on printed Latin translations in the early modern period into a new catalogue (CVlat or Catalogus versionum latinorum). Combined with detailed case studies comprising different genres and source languages, we investigate the cultural functions and economic or otherwise objectives that fuelled these translation processes. Introducing these observations into teaching and organising multiple opportunities for exchange, we aim to foster a sustainable network among researchers. The proposed three talks share our methodology, approach, and results. (100w)

Organizer:

Julia Heideklang

Scientific Researcher at the Chair of Latin Philology with an additional focus on Book History

Classics Department, Eberhard Karls Universität,

Wilhelmstr. 36, 72074 Tübingen,

julia.heideklang@uni-tuebingen.de

+4917630566116

Proposed Chair:

Prof. Dr. Francesco Lucioli

Ricercatore a tempo determinato di tipo B in Letteratura Italiana

Dipartimento di Lettere e Culture Moderne, Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia

Sapienza Università di Roma

francesco.lucioli@uniroma1.it

1) *Latinitate donati, 1450-1800: Actors, Aims, and Functions of Early Modern Translations into Latin*

Complementary to our quantifying approach, I analysed various case studies in detail, reconstructing the networks and cultural, political, and linguistic contexts from which these translations arose. With flashlights into translations from different source languages and genres, I want to present my findings. Key aspects and recurring phenomena, such as the self-translations by Campanella (e.g. his *Civitas Solis*, 1611/1623) and Birck (*Judith*, 1539 and *Susanna*, 1532) in contrast to translations by others, the migration of translations along protestant cities and a network of printers, as is the case with Machiavelli's *Il Principe* (1513), or the intriguing and fascinating phenomenon of retranslation, observable in Milton's *Paradise Lost* (1667) and Gray's *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard* (1751), will be mapped out and discussed. Drawing threads together, I aim to present the overarching aspects that we can determine from our research, especially when contextualizing these case studies within the collected entries of the *Catalogus versionum latinarum*. With this, we can not only describe, with more nuance, the larger phenomenon of translating into Latin in the early modern period but also indicate demands for future research, such as the challenge of (in)visibility of certain actors involved in making these translations. (196 words)

Julia Heideklang

Scientific Researcher at the Chair of Latin Philology with an additional focus on Book History

Classics Department, Eberhard Karls Universität,
Wilhelmstr. 36, 72074 Tübingen,
julia.heideklang@uni-tuebingen.de

2) *Theophanes Prokopowicz (1681-1736) eiusque opera de devictis Suecis ab ipso Latine reddita*

Inter doctissimos viros et disertissimos oratores, quos Petri Magni regis Russorum praeclara aetas tulit, Theophani Prokopowicz principem locum tribuendum nemo dubitet. Kioviae natus inde a puero studiis litterarum ac humanarum artium assiduam operam dabat magnamque doctrinam consecutus est. Disciplinis in patria traditis non contentus primum Cracoviam et Leopolim, dein Romam petivit ibique in Collegio S. Athanasii receptus apud optimos magistros summopere exercebatur. Ex Italia reversus in Academia Kioviensi artem poeticam et rhetoricam docuit, quarum iure meritoque callidissimus habebatur. Hoc munere cum fungeretur, gratulatoriam dixit orationem in ecclesia S. Sophiae rege praesente, qui anno 1709 de Suecis victoriam ad Poltavam adeptus Kioviam lustrabat. Quam Petrus ut audivit maxime approbavit et iussit Latine

verti divulgarique per orbem, ut rem publicam litterarum de victoria sua certio-rem faceret. Nulla mora fuit quin Theophanes orationem verteret eamque carmine triumphali de eadem pugna addito in lucem proferret, quapropter amplissimam sibi gratiam apud regem collegisse videtur, nam aliquot annos post Kiovia evocatus Petropolim venit ut rei publicae administrandae prodesset. Theophanis panegyricus et epinicius inter rara exempla numeratur, quae primum Rossice pacta Latine reddita sunt. Haec opuscula in acroasi nostra oportet fusius tractemus, ut ea ex indigna atque turpi oblivione revocemus ac auctoris rationem vertendi melius assequamur. (199 words)

Jan Shavrin

Scientific Researcher at the Chair of Latin Philology with an additional focus on Book History

Classics Department, Eberhard Karls Universität,
Wilhelmstr. 36, 72074 Tübingen,
jan.shavrin@uni-tuebingen.de

3) The Wrong Direction?

The study of early modern translations into Latin is still a relatively young field of research. Over the past five years, we conducted research in this field at the Tübingen Department of Classics, partly in cooperation with the DFG-funded priority project 2130 'Translation Cultures of the Early Modern Period'. In terms of content, we are focussing on the translation of vernacular fiction into Latin, and we want to understand how this differs from the translation from Latin to the vernaculars. Who translates for whom and why? Where are the temporal and spatial boundaries? What are the consequences of translation into Latin for fictional literature?

Methodologically, we have discussed and developed different cataloguing approaches with German academic libraries. Our questions are: What scholarly results are even possible with current European catalogues? How could cataloguing be further developed to support our kind of research? We would like to briefly present some initial results of our research for discussion. (156 words)

Prof. Dr. Anja Wolkenhauer

Chair of Latin Philology with an additional focus on Book History

Classics Department, Eberhard Karls Universität,
Wilhelmstr. 36, 72074 Tübingen,
anja.wolkenhauer@uni-tuebingen.de