

Call for Papers for an ACLA seminar

American Comparative Literature Association
University of Washington in Seattle, March 26-29, 2015
<http://acla.org/annual-meeting>

Double frames: authors, texts, audiences in original translation

Seminar Organizers: Brigitte Rath (Innsbruck/Berlin) and Beatrijs Vanacker (Leuven)

Writing a text as if it were a translation creates a specific kind of fiction: it overlays the act of authorship with an invented author, and the original text with an invented original in a different language, aimed at a different audience. Original translation does not (only) invite readers to imagine a fictional world, but to imagine a fictional original version of the very text they read.

Examples of such “translations without an original” (Apter), “pseudotranslations” (Toury), “fictitious translations” (Bassnett) or “original translations” span centuries and literatures: among them Monmouth’s *Historia Regum Britanniae*, a 12th century history of the Kings of Britain, purportedly translated from an ancient book, Cervantes’ *Don Quixote* (1605/1615), mostly a supposed translation from an Arabic manuscript, Macpherson’s hotly discussed *Fragments of Ancient Poetry collected in the Highlands of Scotland* (1760), Merimée’s *Guzla* (1827), a collection of “authentic” folk songs from the Balkan, and Makine’s *La fille d’un héros de l’Union soviétique* (1990).

This seminar will explore some of the conceptual and historical implications of this widespread phenomenon specifically for Comparative Literature, focusing on three main areas: (1) How does writing such a text allow authors to position themselves differently, and challenge concepts of authorship; (2) how does imagining a preceding original that only exists in the author’s and reader’s act of imagination question the authority of original texts; (3) and how does the other culture in which the original texts are supposedly situated offer a foil to contemporary political and social conditions?

We invite case studies and systematic or conceptual approaches and especially welcome contributions on non-European texts.

To **submit a proposal** (no more than 250 words), please register/ log in at <http://acla.org/user> and then choose “Double frames: authors, texts, audiences in original translation” in the drop-down seminar menu. Deadline: October 15, 2014.

Please contact both Brigitte Rath (brigitte.rath@uibk.ac.at) and Beatrijs Vanacker (beatrijs.vanacker@arts.kuleuven.be) with any questions regarding this seminar.

CfP online: <http://acla.org/double-frames-authors-texts-audiences-original-translation-0>