

*Gender and Translation: Understanding Agents in Transnational Reception*

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INTRODUCTION

**Gender and Translation: Understanding Agents in Transnational Reception. An Introduction**

*Cecilia Alvstad and Isis Herrero López*

This chapter offers an overview of the multiple ways gender issues can affect translation and transnational cultural exchange. Through their focus on understanding the impact of gender issues on the real-world agents who participate in selecting, translating, editing, promoting, or reviewing specific texts, the contributions to this volume show the complex and sometimes contradictory ways gender can affect the translation, transnational transfer and reception of texts. Special attention is given to research into Scandinavia, a region which is surprisingly understudied from a gender, translation and transnational reception perspective.

Keywords: translation, gender, transnational reception, agents, context, publishers, translators, voice, Scandinavia

CLASSICAL LITERATURE AND WOMEN IN SCANDINAVIAN RECEPTION CONTEXTS

**A Male Privilege? Women and the History of Swedish Translations of Ancient Literature before 1900**

*Johanna Akujärvi*

This chapter focuses on the only three women who translated and published ancient literature into Swedish before 1900: Maria Gustava Gyllenstierna, Hedvig Charlotta Nordenflycht, and Anna Maria Lenngren. After a background sketch of women's access to education and women and translation of ancient literature, the analysis shows that these three pre-19th century women translators followed contemporary translation trends, that their translations suggest great literary ambition, and that they tried to use their translations professionally in the same way as their male colleagues, within the limits of their sex.

Keywords: Swedish translations of ancient literature, women translators, Maria Gustava Gyllenstierna, Hedvig Charlotta Nordenflycht, Anna Maria Lenngren

## **Translation, Adaptation and Allusion: Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* on Norwegian Stages 1933-2010**

*Tor Ivar Østmoe*

The ancient Greek comedy *Lysistrata*, written by Aristophanes and first performed in Athens in 411 BC, has been translated into Norwegian four times, each time for the stage. Exploring the play's historical setting and adapting it to the context of reception, these texts are both translations and adaptations. This chapter explores their use of allusions, i.e. references to history and culture, which connect the translations to the Greek context and to the context of reception, contribute to the play's comedy, and highlight a process of adaptation.

Keywords: translation, adaptation, allusion, Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*, reception

## **GENDER AS A CENTRAL COMPONENT IN THE RECEPTION OF SWEDISH FEMALE AUTHORS ABROAD**

### **A Writer of One's Own? Mary Howitt, Fredrika Bremer, Translation and Literary "Piracy" in the United States and Britain in the 1840s**

*Åsa Arping*

Fredrika Bremer (1801-1865) was Sweden's first novelist with an international reputation. Her huge success in England and the United States in the 1840s was very much due to her English translator Mary Botham Howitt (1799-1888), an industrious writer and cultural transmitter, especially of Scandinavian literature. Through the American reception of Bremer's *New Sketches of Every-Day Life* in 1844, this chapter investigates the difficulties of literary translation when translators, without functioning international copyright laws, fought an uneven battle against unauthorized reprints. Gender and nation are used as central starting points to discuss these difficulties in relation to changing actors and functions in the literary society of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Keywords: Fredrika Bremer, Mary Howitt, translation, copyright, 1840s, gender, nationality, United States, Great Britain

### **Gender and Bestsellers: The Swedish Novelist Emilie Flygare-Carlén**

*Yvonne Leffler*

Emilie Flygare-Carlén (1807-1892) was Sweden's most widely disseminated 19<sup>th</sup> century novelist both in and outside Sweden until World War I. The aim of this article is to demonstrate how Flygare-Carlén's novels were progressively placed in a gendered context outside Scandinavia. It shows how book covers, titles and prefaces were increasingly used by publishers to attract primarily female readers. The promotion of Flygare-Carlén and her novels illustrate the significance of women writers and female readers in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, at the same time as it confirms a progressively gendered and commercialised literary scene.

Key words: Emilie Flygare-Carlén, transcultural dissemination, gendered translation, Swedish 19<sup>th</sup> century novel

## **Gender and Nationality in the French Reception of Selma Lagerlöf**

*Jenny Bergenmar*

This chapter investigates how Sweden and the idea of “Swedishness” were constructed in the critical reception of the work of Selma Lagerlöf (1858-1940) in France from 1899-1912, and aims to show how the gender of the author became significant in this process. In addition to the representation of Lagerlöf as the epitomization of “Swedishness,” two stereotypes, originating from the Swedish reception of her work, were recirculated: the gendered roles of the storyteller and the schoolmistress. Gender and nationality became intertwined in Lagerlöf’s image in France: her supposed naivety and humbleness were presented as conditioned by her origin and gender.

Keywords: reception history, Selma Lagerlöf, nationality, gender, France

WOMEN PHILOSOPHERS: FROM ABSENCE TO GENDERED PRESENCE

## **Less Travelled Texts: The Case of Women Philosophers**

*Tove Pettersen*

This chapter discusses several possible reasons why works by women philosophers have traveled significantly less than those written by men, although women’s contributions go back to the start of European history of philosophy. Differentiating between geographic, linguistic, historic and philosophical travels, Tove Pettersen claims that gender is particularly significant with regard to historical and philosophical traveling. As the case of women philosophers clearly demonstrates, their gender hampers the circulation of certain texts and inhibits the transhistorical exchange of knowledge and ideas.

Keywords: non-traveling texts, gender and reception, feminist history of philosophy, women philosophers, feminist critique of the philosophical canon

## **Clashing Methods, Common Goals? Negotiating Ideology in the 1970 Norwegian Translation of *Le deuxième sexe***

*Ida Hove Solberg*

In any literary translation, different and/or conflicting norms or ideological stances can come into play. This chapter shows how the concept of ‘multiple translatorship,’ which acknowledges that multiple agents have an impact on a given translated text, can facilitate analyses of translations whose ideological viewpoints may seem conflictual or even paradoxical. The focus is on the 1970 Norwegian translation of Simone de Beauvoir’s feminist text *Le deuxième sexe* and the paradoxical way in which the topic of sexuality is downplayed in the translation, but highlighted in paratexts.

Keywords: feminist Translation Studies, multiple translatorship, omissions, sexuality, Simone de Beauvoir, *Le deuxième sexe*

## **A Woman is a Woman is a Woman? Simone de Beauvoir Transnationalized. A Translator's Point of View**

*Bente Christensen*

On the basis of my more than forty-year practice as a translator, I make a small investigation into the translators and translations of Simone de Beauvoir's texts into five different languages (Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, German and English). Beauvoir's work is a typical example of how translation in the broad sense changes and negotiates ideological and aesthetic values, and has been so widely translated and read that she has become a sort of institution, transcending traditional gender limitations.

Keywords: Simone de Beauvoir, women writers, translation practice, Norway

CULTURAL AGENTS: NEGOTIATING WITH GENDER IDEOLOGIES

## **"It is impossible to be a woman here": Great War Nurses Translated by a Belgian Author**

*Elke Brems*

The centenary commemoration of the First World War in Belgium led to a spate of new literary works as well as translations about the war, which filled the alleged 'gap' in Belgium's memory of the Great War. The Belgian author Erwin Mortier translated three novels by war nurses that are exceptionally critical of the traditionally masculine war discourse. By approaching his translation activity using the concept of 'voice as agency' I lay bare gender issues that are at play in the way the novels are presented in Dutch translation.

Keywords: literary translation, voice, gender, First World War, cultural memory

## **Jane Austen in Early 20th-Century Spain: What if Gender Ideologies Stayed the Same?**

*Isis Herrero López*

This chapter explores how the strict gender ideology of the Francoist Dictatorship influenced the selection, translation and publication of Jane Austen's novels in Spain during the 1940s. The analysis is contextualized within the complex ideological and political panorama of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Spain. It also includes reflections on the translation strategies used to face the Francoist censorship and highlights the connections between the Francoist translations of the 1940s and versions from the 1920s as well as between their respective gender ideologies.

Keywords: Jane Austen, Francoist translation practices, gender ideology, Francoist censorship

## **Norwegian "New Feminism" and the Formative Role of the PAX Paperback**

*Synnøve Skarsbø Lindtner*

This chapter examines the significant role the New Left publisher Pax played in forging a public culture around feminist commitments in Norway in the 1960s and 1970s. Pax translated and distributed numerous cheap, popular topical paperbacks that had a formative impact upon Norwegian "New feminism." Where earlier accounts have seen Norwegian "New feminism" as

formed by American feminist literature by the early 1970s, this analysis emphasizes the role of Pax and the New Left.

Keywords: New Feminism, New Left, public culture, translation, Pax, publisher, Norway

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