

Call for Applications

“Digital Translations: Literatures, Cultures, Media”

International Summer School, Centre for Translation Studies
(CTS, HHU Düsseldorf)

18-21 September 2024, O.A.S.E.



Digital technologies such as computers, smartphones and tablets or artificial intelligence and social media constantly reshape all forms of translation processes and practices. Focusing on the ubiquitous digital environments of the 21st century, this international and interdisciplinary summer school investigates the significance of digital media and methodologies in the context of literary, cultural and media translations. Human-machine interaction undoubtedly creates novel forms of communicating and networking, archiving and researching. Frequently framed as tools facilitating social as well as scholarly life, digital media promise easy exchange across cultural, spatial and temporal boundaries or even the straightforward translation of literary texts. However, viewpoints that merely highlight the potentialities of computer-based analytical and translational procedures tend to neglect the material conditions and socio-economic power hierarchies that inform digital infrastructures: What is required to access digital spaces? Who profits from the algorithmic biases that structure the Internet economy? And how can scholars engaging with online material adopt a critical position ‘outside’ such structures?

Providing theoretical insights and hands-on exercises, the summer school seeks to introduce participants to the burgeoning field of digital translations. The summer school covers a broad range of themes and methodologies: machine translation and the reception of subtitled content, readers’ translational motions between on- and offline literary spaces, the construction and evaluation of digital archives in the context of slavery studies and the computational analysis of digital literary texts and reviews by postcolonial authors and audiences, to name but a few examples. All contributions put special emphasis on the socio-cultural, political and ethical dimensions of digital translation practices, stressing the extent to which notions of the digital are entangled in the negotiation of power and resistance, identity and difference.

Generously funded by the Department for International Relations and Science Communication and organised by the Centre for Translation Studies (Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf), the summer school features a keynote address and various lectures, tutorials and workshops by internationally renowned scholars who research and teach at the intersections of literary, cultural and media studies, history, translation theory and the digital humanities. PhD students from around the world are invited to engage in lively discussions with experts and fellow PhDs, sharing their research experiences and ideas, considering their projects from the vantage of digital translations and building global networks of scholarly exchange. The keynote lecture will be given by Dr. David Orrego-Carmona (University of Warwick, University of the Free State); other confirmed speakers include Prof. Shola Adenekan (Ghent University), Dr. Beth Driscoll (University of Melbourne), Melissa Sarikaya (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg) and Dr. Joseph Yannielli (Aston University).

The summer school is open to all PhD candidates from universities and research centres around the globe. There is no fee, but attendees are asked to organise their own transport, accommodation and food. We encourage in-person attendance to facilitate practical insights and networking activities in workshops and one-to-one tutorials. However, for doctoral students with limited resources, all lectures and the majority of workshops will be streamed.

If you are interested in attending, send the following documents to Hannah.Pardey@hhu.de until **24 June 2024**: short bio and academic CV including your research interests (ca. 1 page); letter of motivation indicating if you prefer in-person or online participation and detailing your PhD project and how it relates to the summer school theme (ca. 1 page). Decisions will be communicated in early July 2024 and attendees will receive a certificate confirming their successful participation at the end of the summer school. Further details will be available on the [CTS website](#) from April 2024.