Daniel Chartier (University of Quebec, Montreal)

What Is the “Imagined North”? Ethical Principles

The North has been imagined and represented for centuries by artists and writers of the Western world, which has led, over time and the accumulation of successive layers of discourse, to the creation of an “imagined North” – ranging from the “North” of Scandinavia, Greenland, Russia, to the “Far North” or the poles. Westerners have reached the North Pole only a century ago, which makes the “North” the product of a double perspective: an outside one – made especially of Western images – and an inside one – that of Northern cultures (Inuit, Sami, Cree, etc.). The first are often simplified and the second, ignored. If we wish to understand what the “North” is in an overall perspective, we must ask ourselves two questions: how do images define the North, and which ethical principles should govern how we consider Northern cultures in order to have a complete view (including, in particular, those that have been undervalued by the South)? In this presentation, I try to address these two questions methodologically from the perspective of spatial construction through language, first by defining what the imagined North is and then by proposing an inclusive program to “recomplexify” the cultural Arctic.

For the workshop, the students can read this:
Français: https://archipel.uqam.ca/11181/
English: https://archipel.uqam.ca/11349/

Biographical Note
Daniel Chartier is Full Professor at the Université du Québec à Montréal, Research Chair on Images of the North, Winter and the Arctic and Director of the International Laboratory for Comparative Multidisciplinary Study of Representations of the North. In recent years, he has published some twenty books and a hundred articles on the representation of the North, the Arctic and Winter, Québec, Inuit and Nordic cultures, cultural pluralism, including The End of
Iceland’s Innocence (2010), Le lieu du Nord (2015), Le froid (2018) and a multilingual essay in 14 editions (in 14 languages of the North) on What is the “Imagined North”? Ethical Principles. Over the course of his career, he has led many peer-reviewed projects which led to hundreds of public interventions (books, articles, chapters, interviews, conferences, communications, conference organizations). He has lectured in many universities, including Lund, Paris 3, Paris Sorbonne, Helsinki, Stockholm, Iceland, Greenland, Buenos Aires, Fribourg, Groningen and Yale.

Şule Demirkol Ertürk (Boğaziçi University, Istanbul)

Analysing Image Creation through Translation: Paratexts and Online Reader Responses

This presentation deals with the critical analysis of paratexts and online reader responses as a tool for examining the creation, furthering and challenging of national images. The case of the retranslation of Ahmet Hamdi Tanpınar’s Saatleri Ayarlama Enstitüsü (1961) translated into English by Maureen Freely and Alexander Dawe as The Time Regulation Institute, and published by Penguin classics in 2014, is analysed as an example illustrating the importance of paratextual elements in situating literary works in the context of the recent images of the source countries in the target culture. In the case under study, peritext writers offered a new interpretation of Tanpınar’s work, situating the work in the context of the recent images of Turkey as a country that lost connection with its own tradition due to a modernization from above, an image which is very apparent in Orhan Pamuk’s works. Although this image was echoed in most of the reviews dealing with the translation, reader responses shared on the websites of online retailers transcended the frame set by paratext writers, exploring the book from a variety of perspectives.

Biographical Note

Şule Demirkol Ertürk holds an MA degree in Translation Studies from Yıldız Technical University. She completed her PhD in Translation Studies at Boğaziçi University in 2010 with her dissertation titled “The City and its Translators: Istanbul Metonymized and Refracted in the Literary Narratives of Ahmet Hamdi Tanpınar and Orhan Pamuk in Turkish, English and French.” Her research interests include topics such as translation and the city, translation and cultural memory, images of Istanbul in translated literature, retranslations, paratexts, and translation of Turkish literature into English and French. She is working as Assistant Professor of Translation Studies at Boğaziçi University. She is also an active translator of scholarly texts from English and French into Turkish.