

PGR Translation and Interpreting Conference:

From Current Trends to Future Insights

27th March 2015

Report by Valentina Ragni – Centre for Translation Studies

A Postgraduate Conference in Translation Studies - organised *by* PGRs and *for* PGRs - took place on the 27th March 2015 at the University of Leeds.

First and foremost, the event was intended to draw together PGR students, early-career researchers and practitioners from a variety of disciplines connected to Translation Studies (TS), in order to discuss research on topics relevant to the field, ranging from New Technology to Literary Studies. Secondly, the conference aimed at triggering and expanding the discussion on TS as a field, its position in the current socio-cultural and political debate and directions for future research.

On the day, two great and thought-provoking talks were presented by keynote speakers Susan Bassnett from the University of Warwick and James Dickins from the University of Leeds, and 13 papers were presented by PGR students. The conference ended with a communicative Round Table held by Jeremy Munday, Susan Bassnett, Dragoş Ciobanu and Serge Sharoff, enriched by input and questions coming from an audience engaged until the very end.



Delegates came from all over the world, including Darmstadt (Germany), Liege (Belgium) and Shanghai. Attendance was beyond expectations: more than 70 people crowded the Clothworkers Speakman lecture theatre in the morning and most stayed

until the end for the round table. Researchers from all over the UK were present (Portsmouth, Manchester, Edinburgh, Belfast amongst others) as well as lecturers from other departments in LCS, and members from other faculties such as the School of English and Education, thus affirming the role of this conference as the international inter-disciplinary event it purported to be.

The variety of topics covered throughout the day – from bilingualism to folktales, from film subtitles to political comic strips translations, from ISIS to paratexts – underlined the dynamic nature of the field, whilst simultaneously providing a synoptic picture of current research trends and a place to take stock, to stop and reflect on the development of TS through its dawning as a separate academic discipline in the 70s.

Thanks to the contributions from LCS and LEAP, it was possible to keep the event free of charge, thus truly speaking to the TS postgraduate arena, whilst making it possible for practitioners *outside* of academia to attend, as confirmed by the number of translators and freelancers present.

The research work being carried out at Leeds and in particular at CTS was successfully showcased and its role promoted within the wider academic community through a day which, it is hoped, marked the beginning of a successful PGR Conference tradition.

