

THE TRANSLATION OF ANCIENT LITERARY AND THEOLOGICAL TEXTS

A hybrid workshop hosted by the Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS)

Aarhus University, Denmark, 25 February 2022

09.00 *Registration and coffee*

09.30 **Welcome and introduction (Helen Van Noorden)**

Panel: Translating Classical Greek genres 1 (chair: Evert van Emde Boas)

09.40 **George Hinge (Aarhus)**

Translating Pindar into Danish

10.10 **Kristoffer Maribo (Copenhagen)**

Come along and sing - Translating Greek tragic choral odes into Danish

10.40 Discussion

11.10 *Coffee break*

Panel: Translating Classical Greek genres 2 (chair: Christian Djurslev)

11.40 **Katarzyna Jazdzewska (AIAS)**

Between ancient texts and modern readers. Dilemmas of a translator of Greek prose

12.10 Discussion

12.30 *Lunch break*

Panel: Past and present approaches to scriptural and Classical texts (chair: Jakob Engberg)

13.45 **Marianne Pade (Aarhus)**

Non verbum verbo – theoretical stances and practical examples from fifteenth-century Humanist translation

14.15 **Martin Ehrensverd (Copenhagen)**

A Study of Very Difficult Choices: A Report from Seven Years of Translating the Bible

14.45 Discussion

15.15 *Tea break*

Panel: Philology and translation (chairs: Helen Van Noorden and Katarzyna Jazdzewska)

15.45 **Sophus Helle (Berlin) [remote]**

The Translation of Philological Crises

16.15 Pause

16.20 **David Bloch (Copenhagen) [remote]**

Response / prompts to discussion

16.35: Round-table discussion

19.00: *Dinner for speakers and chairs*

Introduction to the workshop

Translation of ancient texts has recently come back to international headlines with such high-profile examples as Emily Wilson's translation of Homer's *Odyssey* (2018), and, in Denmark, the publications of *Bibel 2020* by a large committee and of the Babylonian epic *Gilgamesh* (2019). The Danish training of Classicists is unusual in encouraging graduate students to work on translations alongside their research. This workshop aims, through short presentations and group discussions, to highlight new or underrepresented issues in translating ancient texts and to reflect on the value of translation in relation to philological activity past and present.

Presentation abstracts

Martin Ehrensvärd (Copenhagen):

A Study of Very Difficult Choices: A Report from Seven Years of Translating the Bible

The new Danish bible breaks with tradition by being very freely translated. This creates a set of interesting and hard, new problems.

Marianne Pade (Aarhus):

Non verbum verbo

Theoretical stances and practical examples from fifteenth-century Humanist translation.

Katarzyna Jajdźewska (AIAS):

Between ancient texts and modern readers. Dilemmas of a translator of Greek prose

*I will talk about conceptual and practical challenges which I encountered as a translator of Greek prose: *Physiologus*, *Plutarch*, and *Dio Chrysostom*.*

George Hinge (Aarhus):

Translating Pindar into Danish

Pindar was admired throughout Antiquity for his amazing, yet extremely complicated lyric poetry. I shall discuss some of the challenges I have faced in working on a Danish verse translation of his odes.

Kristoffer Maribo (Copenhagen):

Come along and sing - Translating Greek tragic choral odes into Danish.

How can the translator of ancient Greek tragedies make the readers sense that the choral odes were originally sung to the accompaniment of music?

Sophus Helle (Berlin):

The Translation of Philological Crises

Translators of ancient texts often confront the question of how to render philological problems—or, as I will term them, “crises of reading”—such as fragmentary texts, variation across manuscripts, obscure words, and the like. I will argue that these crises can have their own poetics, one that translators can engage with in creative ways.