Crossing Borders: Language, Culture and Society across Space and Time

Friday 13 May 2011
Humanities Research Institute
The University of Sheffield
34 Gell Street
Sheffield
S3 7QY

09.00-9.45 Reception and coffee

Panel 1 - Writing across boundaries
09.45-10.15 Michelle Hunt (Sheffield): The status of women in El Pensador, an eighteenth-century journal of critical thinking in Spain
10.15-10.45 Cristina Rios (Leeds): Crossing Narrative Boundaries: Framing, Embedding and Metalesis in Boccaccio’s Filocolo

11.15-11.30 Coffee

Work in Progress panel
11.30-11.50 Clémence Touchet (Sheffield): Transgression of linguistic and social boundaries: The evolution of Enide's voice in Chrétien de Troyes' Erec and Enide
11.50-12.10 Eleanor Hodgson (Sheffield) Figure Humaine as a work of artistic resistance: Paul Eluard and Francis Poulenc during the Occupation
12.10-12.30 Ivy Love (Sheffield): "Our heroine Marguerite Bourgeoys": Hierarchy of power and personal autonomy in French and English versions of the life of Canada's first female saint

12.30-01.15 Lunch

01.15-02.15 Publication Workshop

02.15-02.30 Coffee

Panel 2 - Working within borders
02.30-03.00 Nicole Sparwasser (Leeds): The Image of the GDR: Perception of the Berlin Wall
03.00-03.30 Pascale Baker (Sheffield): Multinational Visions of a Bandit named Joaquín:
A Comparative Literary Study

03.30-04.00  Rhiannon McGlade (Sheffield): Tísner in exile: crossing the ultimate boundary

04.00-4.15 Coffee

Panel 3 Across linguistic boundaries

04.15.-4.45  Suzie Holdsworth (Sheffield): Conceptual Representations of European Citizenship: A Commission Narrative at the Multilingual Interface

04.45-05.15  Daniel Williams (Sheffield): Cross-language phonetic similarity of vowel quality: influence of native accent

05.15-5.30  Network aims / future directions - closing discussion

Registration
To register please send an email to Rhiannon McGlade (spp10rm@sheffield.ac.uk) or Naomi Wells (jhm3nasw@leeds.ac.uk) with the following information:
- Your name, university and the degree you are studying towards.
- If you are going to attend the conference dinner.
- If you have any dietary requirements or need disability access.
The deadline for registrations is Monday, the 9th of May.

Directions from Sheffield Station

Supertram
Trams link the railway station and the city centre directly to the University. The tram stop is located at the back of the railway station. Trams from the station to the University run on the Blue route (destination "Malin Bridge").
Trams from the city centre to the University run on both the Blue route and the Yellow route (destination "Middlewood").
During the day, trams run every 10 minutes (15 minutes on Sundays) from 6.00am to midnight.
To reach the HRI disembark at the 'University of Sheffield' stop on Upper Hanover Street. Cross the tramlines, and then the road. After crossing the road, turn left and then immediately right into Leavygreave Road. The HRI is on your right, and can be approached either from Leavygreave Road itself, or from Gell Street, which is the first turning on the right.

Buses
Buses to the University are frequent and inexpensive. From the railway station and coach station you can take the number 60 directly to the University. Other buses from the city centre include the 51 and 52.

Abstracts

Michelle Hunt (Sheffield): The status of women in El Pensador, an eighteenth-century journal of critical thinking in Spain

This paper examines the views of the status of women as expressed in the eighteenth-century journal, El Pensador. Directed by José Clavijo y Fajardo and published in two stages between 1762 and 1767, El Pensador was a major literary vehicle for the communication of ideas in the high period of enlightenment in Spain which coincided with the reign of Carlos III (1759-1788). The
reforming intention of *El Pensador* is undeniable and the social problem of women took up a considerable amount of space in the essays. I propose to analyse two essays taken from the journal and consider the subject of the quality of her mind, her education and her role in society in eighteenth-century Spain. The emphasis on women in *El Pensador* has been misinterpreted as conservative. I shall consider that although the views expressed in the journal do not advocate a radical reforming program, the ideas expressed were written in the spirit of rationalism and considered the subject of women to be important to the welfare of society and humanity.

**Cristina Rios (Leeds): Crossing Narrative Boundaries: Framing, Embedding and Metalepsis in Boccaccio’s *Filocolo***

The 14th-century Italian author Giovanni Boccaccio is primarily known for the *Decameron* (1348-52), a collection of one hundred tales recounted by ten young Florentines, who have fled to the Tuscan countryside to avoid the Black Death in Florence. The *Decameron* is renowned for its ‘tales within a tale’ structure. But as a young writer living in Naples, Boccaccio composed a text that displays an even more complex and interesting form of narrative embedding than the *Decameron*. The *Filocolo* (1336-39) is a prose narrative in 5 books, which tells of the trials and tribulations of the famous medieval lovers Florio and Biancifiore. Like the *Decameron*, the *Filocolo* is framed by a tale, in this case, a proem and conclusion in which the Author and his muse appear. However, the main story of the lovers Florio and Biancifiore presents a dizzying array of narrating instances spread over four narrative levels: apart from the Author as narrator, some of the *Filocolo*’s characters also tell stories, several of which exhibit a Russian doll tale structure, i.e., the characters’ tales contain further stories. The *Filocolo* also displays an instance of narrative level transgression (metalepsis as defined by Genette) in which the flesh-and-blood author Boccaccio is referred to by fictional characters within the tale. The presentation will give an overview of the *Filocolo*’s narrative levels and contextualise the text in its medieval setting to show how self-reflexive structures, such as framing and embedding, are a key to understanding the first extended Italian narratives.


As banal objects, cookery books enact a dialogue in which domestic and political elements of everyday lives converge. This paper investigates the urge to document locality and temporality in discourses of nationalism and cookery literature through examining the rhetoric and cultural life of several pre- and briefly post-Federation Australian cookery books. Questions of inclusion and exclusion of recipes, format and tone of the text reveals much about how the author and readers sought to position themselves as a nation in comparison to other established nations. Australia’s first cookery book, Edward Abbott’s *The English and Australian Cookery Book* (1864), desperately seeks to find a way of coalescing prominent European notions of taste and elegance and celebrations of distinctively Australian bush culture. An investigation of Abbott’s recipes reveals the author’s struggle to unite his desire to illustrate his own social knowledge and culinary experience as well as knowledge of surviving in Australia’s bush without either knowledge area undermining the legitimacy or completeness of the other. Later cookery books similarly struggle to bring together varied knowledge areas. In Australia, the birth of the nation as enacted through cookery literature is a struggle to subjugate geographical distances, ecological boundaries, and social distinctions between the ‘old’ country and the present country as an image of a united and strong Australia with a bright future among the great nations of the world is professed.
Nicole Sparwasser (Leeds): The Image of the GDR: Perception of the Berlin Wall

The image of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) in the UK was dynamic and changed over time. The British press was an active participant in shaping this image, but this important image source has been widely ignored so far by researchers. As international action is based on perception of reality the investigation of the British image of the GDR is highly significant.

The Berlin Wall was one of the most important symbols of the East German state and was regularly presented in various British newspapers. Using the example of three British citizens who came into conflict with the East German authorities during the 1970s, I will demonstrate the importance of the press in attracting interest in a topic such as the border between both German states and consequently shaping the image of the GDR. The press used an individual case to determine an image change and reintroduce a negative image of the GDR. Furthermore, the involvement of the Britons transformed a complex foreign issue into a clear and easy intelligible case that the British reader was able to relate to.

Analysing and comparing the coverage in British newspapers will establish the impact of media coverage on the perception of the GDR. To complement the investigation a close textual analysis of different types of newspapers and interviews with journalists who were mainly responsible for the news coverage of the GDR are presented. They will highlight how different personal opinions determine the image and can also identify further aspects in the media process, which influence the final representation.

Pascale Baker (Sheffield): Multinational Visions of a Bandit named Joaquin: A Comparative Literary Study

Joaquin Murrieta, an outlaw who operated in 19th-century Gold-Rush California, is one of the most (in)famous Hispanic bandits of all time. His origins remain disputed with Chilean, Mexican and American authors laying claim to the nationality of the outlaw, whose actual historical existence is often questioned. The impact of Murrieta has, like that of Robin Hood, clearly gone beyond the barriers of historical fact and crossed into myth, where he occupies an important space in the discourse of Hispanic resistance to U.S. domination and oppression in an era of aggressive ‘Yankee’ expansionism. This paper examines some of the many literary versions of Joaquín Murrieta to cross-compare what he has meant to authors from different countries and in different eras. There is the Cherokee John Rollin Ridge’s highly influential and sympathetic tale, The Life and Adventures of Joaquín Murrieta, The Celebrated California Bandit, published in 1854, just a year after the bandit was supposedly caught and killed. This novel depicts Joaquin as a fully justified avenging bandit, with whom the author perhaps identifies, considering the injustices meted out to his own tribe. This contrasts with Mexican author Ireneo Paz’s novel, Vida y aventuras del más celebre bandido sonorense, Joaquín Murrieta: Sus grandes proezas en California (1904), which also glorifies Joaquin but this time imagines the bandit as a Mexican nationalist hero. Finally, there is the novel by the American Walter Noble Burns, The Robin Hood of El Dorado (1932), which romanticises Joaquin and the California of the Gold Rush eighty years after his demise, amid the backdrop of the Depression and prejudice towards Hispanics. These shifting perspectives reflect Murrieta’s continuing importance as a pan-Hispanic symbol of resistance to multiethnic authors with their own nationalist agendas. Murrieta’s legacy has always been contested, but the multinational element of this bandit has allowed him to be recast, reinvented and subsumed into other legends, such as that of Zorro, making his legend one of the most persistent in bandit studies.

Rhiannon McGlade (Sheffield): Tísner in exile: crossing the ultimate boundary
Famed primarily for his short stories, Aveŀli Artís Gener or ‘Tísner’ (1912-2000), was also one of Catalonia’s most prolific cartoonists. His career spanned generations of the rich Catalan tradition of political satire, including a twenty-five year period spent in exile. In 1939, at a time when political satire was forbidden and the use of the Catalan language was outlawed, Tísner fled to Mexico, in order to continue his career. In exile he collaborated in various satirical publications with many Catalan contemporaries. Unlike many of his peers, Tísner embraced the culture of his new home, whilst always remaining true to his Catalan roots in various works of literature. He remained proud of his Catalan heritage and, choosing to draw, rather than have to write in Castilian (a language which represented the oppression of Spain), he worked as a cartoonist for many of the Catalan publications produced in exile. In 1965, after being awarded the highly prestigious Mexican El Cuento prize, he returned to Catalonia in the midst of the Franco dictatorship. Once there, Tísner continued his work as a writer and caricaturist until his death in 2000 at the age of 88. This paper will examine the role of Tísner’s work in exile and his ability to tackle the linguistic, cultural and spatial boundaries that faced him as a result of the Franco dictatorship. It will consider this within the framework of Charles Knight’s (2004) theory, which draws particularly on the physical and psychological barriers constructed by exile.

Suzie Holdsworth (Sheffield): Conceptual Representations of European Citizenship: A Commission Narrative at the Multilingual Interface

The notion of European citizenship, first introduced by the Maastricht Treaty on European Union of 1992, has become an increasingly important element in key institutional discourses. The narrative ‘positioning’ of the European citizen should therefore be considered within the wider process of forming a coherent notion of citizenship, a crucial next step in EU integration.

However, the EU’s key institutional discourses are produced in 23 parallel language versions, each carrying ‘multiple authenticity’ (Koskinen 2008: 63). It is at this multilingual interface that narratives of European citizenship demonstrate linguistic variance or non-equivalence as translational phenomena. A cognitive linguistic consideration of conceptualization (Croft and Cruse 2004) throws light on the discursive influence of specific linguistic features which are (1) embedded lexically and/or syntactically in individual language grammars or (2) the result of linguistic choices not directly related to grammatical constraints or advantages.

This paper presents a cross-lingual analysis of parallel extracts from Commission Communication An Area of Freedom, Security and Justice serving the citizen of June 2009. The analysis isolates an eclectic set of conceptual construal mechanisms in the English, French, German and Dutch narratives and suggests that differences in cross-lingual conceptualization may generate subjectivity of discourse stance (Berman 2004: 111) in key semiotic areas.

Daniel Williams (Sheffield): Cross-language phonetic similarity of vowel quality: influence of native accent

Monolingual listeners, i.e. individuals with no or little exposure to a foreign language, have often been recruited for studies that aim to predict second-language (L2) learners’ initial state of learning a new phonological system. One goal of these studies is to determine perceived phonetic similarity of the sounds in the foreign language to the sounds in the listeners’ native language. According to several leading theories on speech perception, perceptual similarity is thought to be a significant contributor to the relative difficulties learners face in the perception of L2 speech sounds. In many cross-language speech perception studies, little attention has been paid to the influence of
monolingual listeners' specific native accent in the perception of foreign speech sounds. This is surprising given that different accents not only diverge from one another in the phonetic qualities of individual speech sounds, but the phonological systems of different accents may also vary. As a result, monolingual listeners with different native accents may perceive some (but not all) foreign speech sounds to be similar to different native sounds. The implication is that individuals with different native accent backgrounds may have somewhat different initial states when they begin to learn the same L2 phonological system. In this paper, I present and discuss the results of two experiments on the perception of vowel quality with 20 monolingual listeners from a single Northern British English accent and 20 monolingual listeners from a single Southern British English accent listening to synthetic vowels and nine vowels from Northern Standard Dutch.