On June 14th and 15th, St Anne’s College will be running Oxford Translation Day. This celebration of literary translation consisting of workshops and talks will culminate in the award of the Oxford-Weidenfeld Translation Prize.

Oxford Translation Day is a joint venture of the Oxford-Weidenfeld Translation Prize and Oxford Comparative Criticism and Translation (the research centre housed in St Anne’s and the Oxford Research Centre for the Humanities).

All events are free and open to anyone, but registration is required. To register go to Eventbrite or see here: www.occt.ox.ac.uk.

14 June 2019
5.15–7.15 p.m. Prismatic Jane Eyre

15 June 2019
11.00 a.m. Coffee/Tea
11.30–1 p.m. Crossing Borders, Reaching Home: A Multilingual Translation Workshop
11.30–1 p.m. Creative Translation in the Classroom
1.00–2.00 p.m. Lunch
2.00–3.15 p.m. Romancing the Romantics
3.30–4.30 p.m. Modern Poetry in Translation: André Naffis-Sahely on the Poetry of Exile
3:30–4:30 p.m. The Land Drenched in Tears: Translating the Uyghur Memoir
4.30–5.00 p.m. Coffee/Tea
5.00–6.15 p.m. "This is Why": Translators on Translating
6.15–7.00 p.m. Wine Reception
7.00–8.00 p.m. Oxford Weidenfeld Prize
8.00 p.m. Dinner (by invitation only)

Winning poems from the Creative Multilingualism’s Babel competition for schools will be on display in the Ruth Deech building throughout both days.

Oxford Translation Day is organised by Eleni Philippou.
14 June 2019

Prismatic Jane Eyre
St Anne’s College, Seminar Room 11
5.15–7.15 p.m.

Charlotte Bronte’s Jane Eyre is not only an English book: it exists in over fifty languages, in over five-hundred translations. How can we make sense of this multilingual cloud of writing? What can we do with it? Join Matthew Reynolds, Eleni Philippou, Kasia Szymanska, and Yousif Qasmiyeh to explore the possibilities. You will follow many linguistic pathways and encounter several different Janes, all strangely different yet somehow the same.

The speakers are all attached to Creative Multilingualism’s Prismatic Translation project based at the University of Oxford.

15 June 2019

Crossing Borders, Reaching Home: A Multilingual Translation Workshop
St Anne’s College, Seminar Room 7
11.30–1.00 p.m.

In response to Brexit, worrying political nationalism, and the tightening of borders, this workshop celebrates the fluidity and movement of language and identities! We will take poems drawn from the *Wretched Strangers* literary anthology (2018) and translate them into multiple different languages, before translating our translations back into English. Native-speaker graduate students and early-career academics will assist and offer guidance on the translations. We will close the workshop by comparing the source poems and their retranslations into English to see what’s been both gained and lost in the process.

Participants should have at least GCSE level knowledge of any one of the following languages: French, Italian, Arabic, Polish, German, or Chinese.

Creative Translation in the Classroom
Radcliffe Humanities Building, Colin Matthew Room
11.30–1.00 pm

A workshop for teachers of MFL at primary and secondary level, exploring the use of ‘creative translation’.

As well as being a stimulating way of expanding pupils’ vocabulary and developing their linguistic flexibility, creative translation develops pupils’ critical awareness of other languages and cultures; highlights the value of knowing other languages; raises the profile, confidence and self-esteem of multilingual children; develops broad-spectrum literacy and decoding skills; promotes collaborative learning; and provides a springboard for creative writing and story-telling. This hands-on workshop will introduce participants to the principles of creative translation through a series of interactive exercises that can be used in the classroom from KS2 onwards. The workshop will be run by the co-directors of the new ‘Translation Exchange’ at Queen’s College Oxford, Charlotte Ryland and Jennifer Higgins.

https://www.queens.ox.ac.uk/translation-exchange
Romancing the Romantics
St Anne’s College, Seminar Room 7
2.00-3.15 pm

When the English reader thinks of Romanticism, evocative and soulful poems by Lord Byron, Wordsworth, and Coleridge all spring to mind. However, Romanticism, with its glorification of nature, emotion, the individual, spanned Europe and produced truly magnificent literary works. This event hopes to introduce an English-speaking audience to Continental Romanticism, but also asks two key questions. Firstly, what does it mean to translate European Romantics for English-language readers of the twenty-first century? And secondly, what are the pleasures and challenges of bringing more central and lesser-known Romantic traditions into English? In this event, two translators will discuss their recent renderings of Romantic works from German and Polish. Howard Gaskill will present his translation of Friedrich Hölderlin’s only novel Hyperion, or the Hermit in Greece (Open Book Publishers 2019) and Bill Johnson will discuss his Guggenheim-funded translation of Adam Mickiewicz’s Pan Tadeusz, considered the last great epic poem in European literature (Archipelago 2018). The event will be chaired by Nick Halmi.

Howard Gaskill is Honorary Fellow in German (Reader until 2001) at the University of Edinburgh. His work concentrates in German Romanticism (in particular Friedrich Hölderlin) and Scottish-German literary relations (in particular German Ossianism). He is a member of the editorial boards of Comparative Critical Studies and Translation & Literature.

Bill Johnson is Professor of Comparative Literature at Indiana University, Bloomington. He has received fellowships and awards for his translations from Found in Translation, the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the PEN America Center, and Three Percent. He was awarded the PEN Translation Prize and Three Percent’s Best Translated Book Award in 2012.

Nick Halmi is Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Oxford and Margaret Candelfield Fellow of University College, Oxford. He is the author of The Genealogy of the Romantic Symbol (OUP, 2007) and the editor of the Norton Critical Edition of Wordsworth’s Poetry and Prose (2013).

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The Land Drenched in Tears: Translating the Uyghur Memoir
Book Launch and Conversation with Rahima Mahmut
St Anne’s College, Seminar Room 7
3.30-4.30 pm

The Land Drenched in Tears by Söyüngül Chanishef is the first Uyghur language book to be published in English. It is a poignant memoir that provides a rare glimpse into the tumultuous history of Xinjiang (East Turkestan) during the Mao era from the perspective of an ethnic Tartar woman. The memoir follows Chanishef from her student years to her nearly two decades of imprisonment for her political activism, offering us a previously untold story of China’s Cultural Revolution and casting stark relief on the current situation in Xinjiang today.

This timely conversation with the book’s translator, Rahima Mahmut, will foreground the difficult reality in Xinjiang today, reflecting on the book’s translation and publication in English against the backdrop of state censorship and cultural erasure. We will speak to the politics of translating from a minoritized language into English, as well as the highly complex linguistic and cultural reality that informs Mahmut’s translation practice and her own journey as a translator (Mahmut had to learn to read Cyrillic script in order to read the book in the first place, as this Turkic language is written in different scripts inside and outside of China).

Rahima Mahmut is a London-based Uyghur singer, translator and human rights activist. Her translation of The Land Drenched in Tears received an English Pen grant.
Modern Poetry in Translation: André Naffis-Sahely on the Poetry of Exile
Queen’s College, The Shulman Auditorium
3.30-4.30 pm

Join Modern Poetry in Translation for a reading and conversation with André Naffis-Sahely, whose translations include over twenty titles of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction from French and Italian. From Abu Dhabi, but born in Venice to an Iranian father and an Italian mother, André’s own book of poetry is entitled The Promised Land: Poems from Itinerant Life (Penguin UK, 2017). André will be reading translations from his forthcoming landmark anthology The Heart of a Stranger: An Anthology of Exile Literature (Pushkin Press, 2019), as well as from some of the poets he has translated for Modern Poetry in Translation, who include Frankétienne, Abdellatif Laâbi and Michèle Lalonde. After his reading, André will discuss his itinerant life as a translator with MPT editor Clare Pollard.

“This is Why”: Translators on Translating
St Anne’s College, Seminar Room 9
5.00-6.15 pm

Join acclaimed literary translators who have featured on prestigious shortlists and longlists, including the Man Booker and Oxford-Weidenfeld Prize, to hear more about their translation practices and choices. They will discuss a short poem or passage that they recently translated, and give the audience insight into the “hows” and “whys” of their translatory approach! Check our website closer to Oxford Translation Day for more info on the individual translators.

Oxford-Weidenfeld Translation Prize Shortlist Readings and Prize-Giving
St Anne’s College, Tsuzuki Lecture Theatre
19.00-20.00 p.m.

The Oxford–Weidenfeld Prize is for book-length literary translations into English from any living European language. It aims to honour the craft of translation, and to recognise its cultural importance. The prize will be presented to the winner. This year’s judges are Charlotte Ryland, James Partridge, Emma Claussen, and Simon Park (Chair).
For enquiries and information:
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