

European Society for Translation Studies

Summer School Scholarship 2023

Report on Experience at the Summer School Conceptualizing Histories of Translation: From your Story to History University of Graz

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I received the EST Summer School Scholarship to attend the summer school in Translation History *Conceptualizing Histories of Translation: From your Story to History* organized by the Department of Translation Studies of the University of Graz, Austria from 18th to 23rd September 2023. This summer school continued the tradition of the one previously organized by the Center for Translation Studies at the University of Vienna between 2017 and 2021 with the name *Translation in History – History in Translation*.

Having a project anchored in Translation History, I felt that the summer school organized in Vienna would be the perfect forum to discuss my research with peers and experienced scholars. However, when I enquired about it last year, I was sad to hear that the current conditions did not allow the Viennese team to organize it further. For this reason, I was extremely happy to find out that the Department of Translation Studies in Graz decided to take over the organization of the summer school for 2023 with support from Vienna. I did not hesitate to apply, and I am very grateful for the opportunity of traveling to the beautiful city of Graz for an enriching and stimulating week.

The summer school brought together a diverse group of 17 PhD candidates from all over the world with a variety of topics concerned with Translation History. The organizing team composed by Hanna Blum, Pekka Kujamäki, and Rafael Schögler was very welcoming and available throughout the whole week for research-related and practical questions. The aim of the summer school was to broaden our horizons by looking at the bigger picture of history, beyond the specificity of our single projects.

The first day was dedicated to getting to know each other with poster presentations followed by short discussions. The organizing team was very generous with the time and attention they dedicated to every research project. In particular, I appreciated that we were asked about our expectations and an open mind was kept towards our suggestions for the coming days. As a result, the organizers succeeded in creating a collegial, relaxed atmosphere where everyone felt part of the same research community.

The following days, we had lectures, workshops and individual tutorials not only with the organizing team but also Anthony Pym (University of Melbourne), Nadja Grbic (University of Graz), Hephzibah Israel (University of Edinburgh), Larisa Schippel, Julia Richter, and Stefanie Kremmel (University of Vienna). The topics covered by the lectures varied from "Reflexive Empiricism" by Anthony Pym to "Why are we doing Translation History?" by Pekka Kujamäki, through "History as a 'prop' vs History as 'active agent'" by Hephzibah Israel, to "Breaking the Habitus" by Larisa Schippel. All sessions aimed at stimulating our independent, critical thinking, reflexivity, and engagement by questioning our beliefs, and opening up our minds to new ideas.

We were given the opportunity to choose freely between workshops and tutorials. Personally, I decided to participate in all the workshops since they all had different and fascinating topics – from "Sources and Triangulation" with Pekka Kujamäki to "Knowledge Exchange: Talking about your PhD to others" with Hephzibah Israel, through "Interpreting and deconstructing translation flows" with Rafael Schögler, "Oral History and Subjective Material" with Hanna Blum, finishing with biographic and bibliographic approaches with Larisa Schippel, Julia Richter and Stefanie Kremmel. However, I also signed up for as many tutorial sessions as I could to make the most out of this experience. As a result, I was able to exchange thoughts on my research project with five scholars of the six available ones. Coming to the summer school, I expected to get different perspectives on my subject as well as gain new insights. This is exactly what I am taking home with me. My ideas have been challenged while the foundation of my project has been validated through valuable, constructive feedback and comments. I believe that I could not have wished for a better outcome.

It was extremely inspiring to be able to listen to the personal experience of so many scholars, share my thoughts, doubts, and uncertainties with them and other PhD students. The organizing team did a great job in structuring the last day of the summer school with group work to look back on what we learned throughout the week and by listening to our feedback. It was a pleasure to participate in this summer school, and I really hope that it will be organized again in the coming years so that more PhD students can profit from it.

Furthermore, I appreciated the opportunity to meet, and engage in discussions with renowned personalities within Translation Studies and get to know other motivated and talented PhD candidates with whom I hope to stay in touch and develop future collaborations. The summer school was a great forum to come in contact with different types of research within Translation History and with students from other academic backgrounds and levels.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the organizing team, the speakers and all the participants in the summer school *Conceptualizing Histories of Translation: From your Story to History* for a thought-provoking week which has helped me see my research project in a different light. But most of all my thanks go to the European Society of Translation Studies for supporting me as a young researcher with their Summer School Scholarship.