



EST

c/o Sieglinde Pommer

Proposal to host the next EST Congress in 2013:

Dear Board Members

On behalf of the Faculty of Translation Studies, Linguistics and Cultural Studies of the University of Mainz, I would like to hereby present our proposal to host the 2013 EST Congress on our campus in Germersheim. The proposal includes suggestions for the conference theme and information about the Faculty's facilities and profile as well as some useful facts about transport, accommodation and possible locations for the social program. We believe that, due to its outstanding profile and unique diversity as well as the beautiful region where it is located, our Faculty will be an attractive and hospitable venue for the next EST congress. Besides this, I would like to foreground three aspects of our proposal: 1) We offer to play an active part in shaping the thematic focus of the conference, provide conceptual input and nominate a representative to head the scientific committee. 2) We would like to include a range of conference languages by integrating our excellent interpreting facilities and the advanced students of the interpreting section for those languages that are taught in Germersheim. 3) We would like to keep the conference participation fees at a relatively low level by applying for funding; and we have a special interest in offering special conditions and accommodation for young scholars and PhD students.

We look forward to your decision.

"Translation Studies: Centres and Peripheries"

As Holmes states in his seminal paper "The Name and Nature of Translation Studies" (1972), as a discipline forms, it establishes institutions and its discourses around which groups of researchers gather, exchange ideas and develop new theories and models. The growing number of training and research institutions for translation studies and of journals and book series focusing on translation research, the expanding territory of expert forums and blogs on the worldwide web as well as the numerous conference announcements from all over the world are clear indications of an ever increasing interest in the discipline. Whereas initially research, teaching and theory were mainly based in European contexts, promoted under European influence and shaped according to European theoretical perspectives and translation politics, nowadays approaches to translation from different geographies all over the world have been gaining more and more ground. Besides its own 'internal' impetus, translation studies has also been receiving growing attention from scholars in other disciplines. On the one hand this gives the impression of a very widespread and diverse disciplinary landscape. On the other hand, translation studies has constructed its own centres, and thereby also its peripheries.

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The Germersheim EST conference is to provide a framework for discussing centre-periphery relations within the discipline from a multifaceted angle:

- a. Centre-periphery relations concerning the objects of research: here, issues such as asymmetrical power relations between less translated and/or less translating languages, marginalized areas of research in translation and interpreting (types) and the conditions and reasons for such marginalization can be dealt with.
- b. Centre-periphery relations concerning the discourses in translation studies: here, topics such as the dominance of certain theories and models over others and the underlying reasons (publishing languages and media, editorial norms etc.) as well as the 'trends' in research methods and their contexts can be discussed. For this part, participants are encouraged to present papers with a metadiscursive focus.
- c. Centre-periphery relations concerning the links between translation studies and other disciplines: here, issues related to the position of translation studies within the humanities, its institutional power struggles and its (inter)disciplinary identity as related to other disciplines can be rethought, and new forms of exchange can be developed.

Venue

The most convenient way to travel to Germersheim by plane is via Frankfurt Airport which serves the most international destinations in the world. With its frequent flight schedules it offers many alternatives for connections from all international airports. There is a regional and a long-distance railway station at the airport (in walking distance from terminal 1). You need to change trains in Mannheim. Travel time depends on the connection and type of ticket and varies between 30 minutes (high-speed rail) and two hours (regional train) from Frankfurt Airport to Mannheim from where it takes 45 minutes to Germersheim. The airport also has a strong motorway connection and several car rental agencies. By car, the campus can be reached in around 75 minutes. The university has a car park directly adjacent to the main building which will be available to the conference participants. There is also a bus-shuttle which departs every three hours and takes one hour to Mannheim. From the Stuttgart and Karlsruhe Baden-Baden airports, Germersheim can be reached within two to three hours by train. Note that the location of Germersheim and its railway connections to cities like Mannheim or Karlsruhe provide a wide range of alternatives for those travelling from cities in Europe. From Paris, for example it takes four hours to travel to Germersheim.

Accommodation

The hotels in Germersheim can accommodate about 180 guests in 41 single rooms, 56 two-bed rooms and 10 apartments. All of these are situated within walking distance of the campus. The city of Speyer, which can be reached easily by regional rail (a twelve-minute drive), provides 664 additional rooms in hotels of different categories (ranging from international four-star hotels to modest but cosy guest houses). Participants who travel by car or decide to rent a car to discover the beautiful wine-growing region where Germersheim is located can stay in one of the small villages around the city (about 80 more rooms within 10-20 minutes by car). The prices for accommodation are reasonable, starting at around 30 Euros for a single room with breakfast. Students participating at the conference can be offered lodging in the dormitories on campus provided that the conference takes place in the break between semesters.

Rooms and equipment

Our faculty offers several types of lecture halls and workshop rooms. The largest lecture hall will hold up to 400 conference participants; two others have seating capacities for 200 people each. Finally, we have 13 rooms with 50 to 80 seats each, which can be used for parallel sessions. All rooms offer WLAN access (Wi-Fi), data projectors, overhead projectors and blackboards. The rooms will be equipped with notebooks; the largest rooms offer video equipment, microphones and speakers.

In addition, our faculty building also offers a conference room with 50 seats and 14 interpreting booths. This provides the opportunity to allow talks in languages different from the usual conference languages which can then be interpreted by our interpreters.

Budget and sources for funding

The budget for the conference is roughly estimated at EUR 30,000. This includes the following expenses: technical staff, secretarial staff, organizational staff, web pages, plenary speakers (including travel and hotel expenses as well as honorariums), printing costs (posters, programmes, book of abstracts, certificates, lists of participants, invitations, badges, etc.), conference map or bag, catering. We will not have to pay for rooms or technical equipment.

As main sources of funding, we will apply for EUR 10,000 from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and for EUR 10,000 from the Zentrum für Interkulturelle Studien (ZIS), Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz. Both organizations support international conferences as a matter of priority. A first informal request has shown that this kind of co-funding is highly recommended by both organizations and promising in terms of eligibility.

The remaining costs will be covered by the conference fees. However, the large amount of external funding that we plan to apply for will enable us to reduce the conference fees compared to those of previous EST conferences.

The conference dinner will be accounted for separately. For this event, we are confident that we will obtain sponsoring from our local and regional sponsors (e.g. the town of Germersheim, Freundeskreis des Fachbereichs Translations-, Sprach- und Kulturwissenschaft e.V., etc.).

Profile and availability

The variety of cultures and languages within our faculty is exceptional: with 2,300 students from more than 80 nations, Germersheim has become a cosmopolitan centre within the (geographical) periphery. Translation research and teaching at our Faculty had developed in this international, plurilinguistic atmosphere since 1947. This omnipresent interculturality ensures that translators and interpreters are on hand for a multiplicity of conference and non-conference languages. Besides the staff specialised in the 13 languages (Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish) included in our translation programme, we also have experts from the areas in which translators and interpreters operate: economics, information technology, law, literature, cultural studies, medicine and engineering.

Thanks to partnerships with over 100 universities abroad, the research focus of our faculty is similarly intercultural and interdisciplinary. Besides our student exchange programmes, we routinely invite visiting lecturers and professors (such as Lawrence Venuti, Rosemary Arrojo) from around the world and send our students, lecturers and professors abroad to maintain a close relationship with the scientific community. Our profile of translation studies is thus international and interdisciplinary and encompasses translation and interpreting studies, linguistics and cultural studies as well as literary studies and intercultural communication. Since the 1970s, Germersheim has always been one of the major centres for the promotion of translation studies as an independent discipline – starting with the development of the Skopos Theory by Vermeer and the work of subsequent generations. On the one hand, the education of translators and interpreters for the profession and thus questions of translation didactics and pedagogy, and on the other hand the conceptualisation of theoretical approaches to translation, have always been on the academic agenda in Germersheim. This (inter)disciplinary profile, which is reflected in our research projects and our educational programs makes us on the conceptual level a decentred centre, a centre consisting of interwoven (cultural,

linguistic and disciplinary) peripheries. With 150 highly qualified academic employees, we are confident that we have enough staff for the organization of such an important congress. We would also be very happy to propose a candidate for the chair of the scientific committee.

Social programme and tourism

Our faculty is located in one of the most famous wine-growing regions of Germany, which is also known for its fine cuisine. The surrounding area thus offers many entertainment options in picturesque villages embedded in lovely vineyards; the conference participants might enjoy rewarding themselves with some fine wine and delicious food.

- Weingut Heußler: http://www.heussler-wein.de/index.php?h_id=1
- Schloss Wachenheim: <http://www.schloss-wachenheim.de/>
- Weingut Marienhof: <http://www.weingut-marienhof.de/de/index.htm>
- Weingut Wilhelmshof Siebeldingen: <http://www.wilhelmshof.de/index.html>

Beyond the culinary entertainment, the area offers many possibilities for cultural distraction and for wonderful strolls or hiking tours through idyllic and historic landscapes:

- Rhodt Schloß „Villa Ludwigshöhe“: <http://www.uwendler.de/pfalz//ludwigshoehe/index.htm>
- Max Slevogt-Galerie: <http://www.max-slevogt-galerie.de>
- Rietburg: http://www.rhodt-unter-rietburg.de/ort/ger_seiten/ger_rietburg.html
- Hambacher Schloss: <http://www.hambacher-schloss.de/>
- Burg Fleckenstein: <http://burg-fleckenstein.de/>
- Burg Trifels: <http://www.annweiler.de/index.cfm?fuseaction=gaeste&rubrik=trifelsburg>
- Dahner Felsenland: http://www.dahner-felsenland.net/p/d1.asp?artikel_id=2051&liste=&tmpl_typ=Detail&lp=2934

Germersheim, 22 August 2010

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Michael Schreiber, Dean

on behalf of the provisional organising committee (Dörte Andres, Şebnem Bahadır, Dilek Dizdar, Don Kiraly, Silvia Hansen-Schirra, Andreas Kelletat, Lavinia Heller, Michael Schreiber)