

Translation is the  
interface between  
language and genes  
— Emily Apter

# TRANSLATION & MEDICAL HUMANITIES

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

| 5-6 SEPTEMBER 2023

### Keynote speakers

**Mona Baker**, University of Oslo  
**Charles Briggs**, UC Berkeley  
**Trish Greenhalgh**, University of Oxford

### In collaboration with

**Medical Humanities**, The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities,  
University of Oxford & **Pitt Rivers Museum**, University of Oxford

### Funded by

**Bodies in Translation: Science, Knowledge and Sustainability in Cultural Translation**, Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages,  
University of Oslo & The Research Council of Norway

### Organised by

**Marta Arnaldi**, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Oslo |  
Lecturer in Italian, University of Oxford  
**John Ødemark**, Professor of Cultural History, University of Oslo



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oxford comparative  
criticism + translation



This conference explores the interzone between translation studies and medical humanities by bringing together students, researchers, and professionals in these and adjacent areas. The idea for, and need of, this conference moves from the realisation that the visions and methods of translation studies and translation theory have up to now remained largely overlooked, if not altogether ignored, in critical medical humanities (Whitehead et. al. 2016) and health humanities alike (Crawford, Brown, and Charise 2020). Such an omission, or lack of attention, is particularly surprising given these fields' inclusive, activist, applied, and culturally diverse agendas. Similarly, an unrecognised yet implicit division between the medical—as in individual and/or societal health—and the ecological—as in planetary, non-human health—has facilitated the evolution of medical humanities and environmental humanities along parallel lines that have only rarely intersected (e.g., Bleakley 2019). Even though a translational understanding of health and disease has been evoked (e.g., Kristeva et al. 2018), a systematic appraisal of the contribution of translation studies and translation theory to the fields of medical and health humanities is overdue.

We welcome papers that creatively and differentially address and/or challenge this gap by exploring the interfaces between medical humanities and translation. In an attempt to mobilise ideas of health and disease across space and time, we invite different stakeholders to use translation, broadly construed, as a medium to explore the role of the arts, humanities and social sciences as 'essential services' for medicine and health care. Simultaneously, in the spirit of reciprocity in cross-disciplinary research, we aspire to reappraise the significance of biomedical advancements in the shaping of our linguistic, cultural, and societal ecosystems.

The two-day programme explores three bridge-concepts between, or key aspects of, translation and medical humanities: language, culture, and power. With the awareness that these dimensions are discrete as much as indivisible, we seek critical, policy, and professional responses that investigate, interlace, and/or challenge these notions while fundamentally (re)considering aspects of epistemology, sustainability, technology, history, politics, justice, decolonisation, embodiment, and affect that are inherent in both medicine and translation.

05

# SEPTEMBER

9.00-9.30

**Coffee & Registration**

9.30-9.40

**Welcome**

Marta Arnaldi, University of Oslo and University of Oxford  
John Ødemark, University of Oslo

9.40-10.30

**Keynote | 'Incommunicable: Toward Communicative Justice in Health and Medicine'**

Charles Briggs, University of California (Berkeley)  
Chaired by Marta Arnaldi, University of Oslo and University of Oxford

10.30-12.00

**Panel 1 | Translating Indigeneity and/as Medical Pluralism**

Chaired by Tony Sandset, University of Oslo

**'Medical Pluralism in Indian Literature: A Study of Short Stories Translated into English from Indian Languages'**

Prachi Sharma, Parliament and Archives, Parliament of India

**'Placebo, Additional Medicine and the Healing Power of Ritual'**

Daniel Mohseni Kabir Bäckström, University of Oslo

**'Lu Xun and the Deleuzian Small Health'**

Shijung Kim, Harvard University

**'The Challenges of Translating Self-Help Books from English into Arabic while Maintaining their Positive Effect on Mental Health'**

Amjad Alliheibi, University of Leicester and King Khalid University

12.00-13.00

**Lunch**

13.00-14.30

**Panel 2 | Translating (with) the Other-than-Human:  
From Nature to AI**

Chaired by Joseph Hankinson, University of Oxford

**'Translating Microbiomic Thinking across Time, Space and Genre'**  
Davina Höll, Mainz University

**'Virality and Translation in *Nights of Plague*'**  
Duygu Tekgül-Akın, Bahçeşehir University

**'Translating Medical Scenes in Fiction: From Scalpel to Paper in the  
Age of Artificial Intelligence'**

Nefise Kahraman, University of Toronto

**'Deeper Learning: Translating the Lived Experience of Dementia  
Using Semantic Frame Theory and Large Language Models'**

James Carney, London Interdisciplinary School

14.30-14.40

**Coffee Break**

14.40-16.00

**Panel 3 | Roundtable on Translation and Medical Humanities:  
Histories and Visions**

Marta Arnaldi, University of Oslo and University of Oxford

Eivind Engebretsen, University of Oslo

Charles Forsdick, University of Liverpool

John Ødemark, University of Oslo

16.00-16.30

**Transfer to the Pitt Rivers Museum**

16.30-17.00

**Visit to Pitt Rivers Museum** (for conference delegates)

16.30-18.30

**'Bodies in Translation' ECRs Workshop** (for registered ECRs)

Marenka Thomson-Odlum, Pitt Rivers Museum  
Marta Arnaldi, University of Oslo and University of Oxford  
John Ødemark, University of Oslo

with Cristian Torres-Gutierrez, University of Oslo; Zsolt Györegy,  
University of Oslo; Greta Karoline Heien, University of Oslo;  
Caroline Pilat, ARUP; Anna Grøgaard, University of Oslo; Jeremy  
Nigel Leslie-Spinks, University of Oxford; Frances (Fanny)  
Clemente, University of Oxford

# 06

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# SEPTEMBER

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9.00-09.45

**Keynote | 'Working Knowledge and the Duality of Uncertainty: Translating Heterogeneous Knowledge Networks in Long Covid Clinics'**

Trish Greenhalgh, University of Oxford  
Chaired by Eivind Engebretsen, University of Oslo

14.30-14.40

**Coffee Break**

10.00-11.30

**Panel 4 | Translating Medical Discourses across Genres and Media**

Chaired by Charles Forsdick, University of Liverpool

**'"I Am Not a Pituitary Endocrinologist, But...": A Translation Studies-Inspired Perspective on Online Knowledge Translation as Identity Work'**

Henry Jones, University of Manchester

**'Journalistic Translation and the International Circulation of Science News via the EurekaAlert! Platform'**

Jack McMartin and Elisa Nelissen, KU Leuven

**'Spatial Translations: Hospital Architecture and the Status of the Human in Architectural Epistemology'**

Julie Zook, University of Illinois

**'Community Translation in the Intersection Between Scientific Papers and Graphic Medicine'**

Ingrid Cobos López, University of Córdoba

11.30-13.00

**Panel 5 | Translating Mental Health and Disability from Psychedelics to Horticulture**

Chaired by Carolina Rau, University of Oslo

**'St Jerome's Pharmacy: Translation Studies and the Psychedelic Renaissance'**

Jan Buts, Boğaziçi University

**'From Indigeneity to Trips to Trials: Translating Psychedelics and Their Use'**

Tony Sandset, University of Oslo

**'The Green Clinic: Sohbet in St. Mary's Secret Garden'**

Ankhi Mukherjee, University of Oxford

**'Translating Non-Normative Mental Health in Hindi Literature'**

Adarsh Yadav, University of Exeter

13.00-14.00

**Lunch**

14.00-15.00

**Panel 6 | Translation as Transculturation: Exploring Disciplinary Crossings**

Chaired by Jan Buts, Boğaziçi University

**'Cultural Translations and Categorical Transmutations of the Pathographical Self: Towards a Trans-Cultural Medical Humanities'**

Sakshi Srivastava, Banaras Hindu University

**'Translation and Exclusion: Entanglements in Medical Humanities'**

Monika Class, Lund University

**'Cultural Mediation and Translation of *Intermittence* and *Temps perdu*'**

Larry Duffy, University of Kent

15.00-16.00

**Panel 7 | On (M)Otherhood**

Chaired by Henry Jones, University of Manchester

**'A Translational and Ethnonarrative Approach to Rehumanize Women's Birthing Experience'**

Julie Boéri, Hamad Bin Khalifa University

**'Bodies Within: Translating Abortion Into Legal Citizenship'**

Carolina Rau, University of Oslo

**'Decolonizing Maternal Healthcare Through Interpreting'**

Luciana Carvalho Fonseca, University of São Paulo

Şebnem Susam-Saraeva, University of Edinburgh

16.00-16.15

**Coffee Break**

16.15-17.30

**Panel 8 | Translating the Non-Verbal: Trauma, Screams and Gesture from the Classical Period to the Contemporary**

Chaired by Suzanne Jones, University of Oxford

**'Being Human in Graeco-Roman Treatments by Pretence'**

Brian Hurwitz, King's College London

**'Thanasis Veggos' Overappropriation of a Gesture, or the Re-emergence of Hysteria in Modern Greece'**

Orestis Tzirtzilakis, University of Oxford

**'Gesture as Physician's Silent Scream'**

Magdalena Szpilman, Medical Translator

**""Unspeakable Things Spoken"": Translating Trauma into Bodies and Images in the Works of Toni Morrison and Elsa Morante'**

Katrin Wehling-Giorgi, Durham University

17.30-18.30

**Panel 9 | Round Table and Performance**

**Embodied Translations in the Creative Medical Humanities**

Chaired by Matthew Reynolds, University of Oxford

**'Health Rhymes with Death'**

Nicola Gardini, University of Oxford

**'A Vital Practice: Translating Narrative Prosthesis in Émile Zola's *L'Assommoir*'**

Magdala Lissa Jeudy, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

**'Translating Symbolism into Precision Medicine'**

Banafshé Larijani, University of Bath

**""I Shiver a Little, I Shudder a Little:"" Gist Translation and Uncanny Bodily Knowledges'**

Alison Phipps and Tawona Sithole, University of Glasgow and UNESCO

18.30-19.15

**Keynote | 'Health, Ecology, and Activism: The Dark Side of Translation'**

Mona Baker, University of Oslo

19.15-19.45

**Closing Remarks & Wine Reception**



# NOTES

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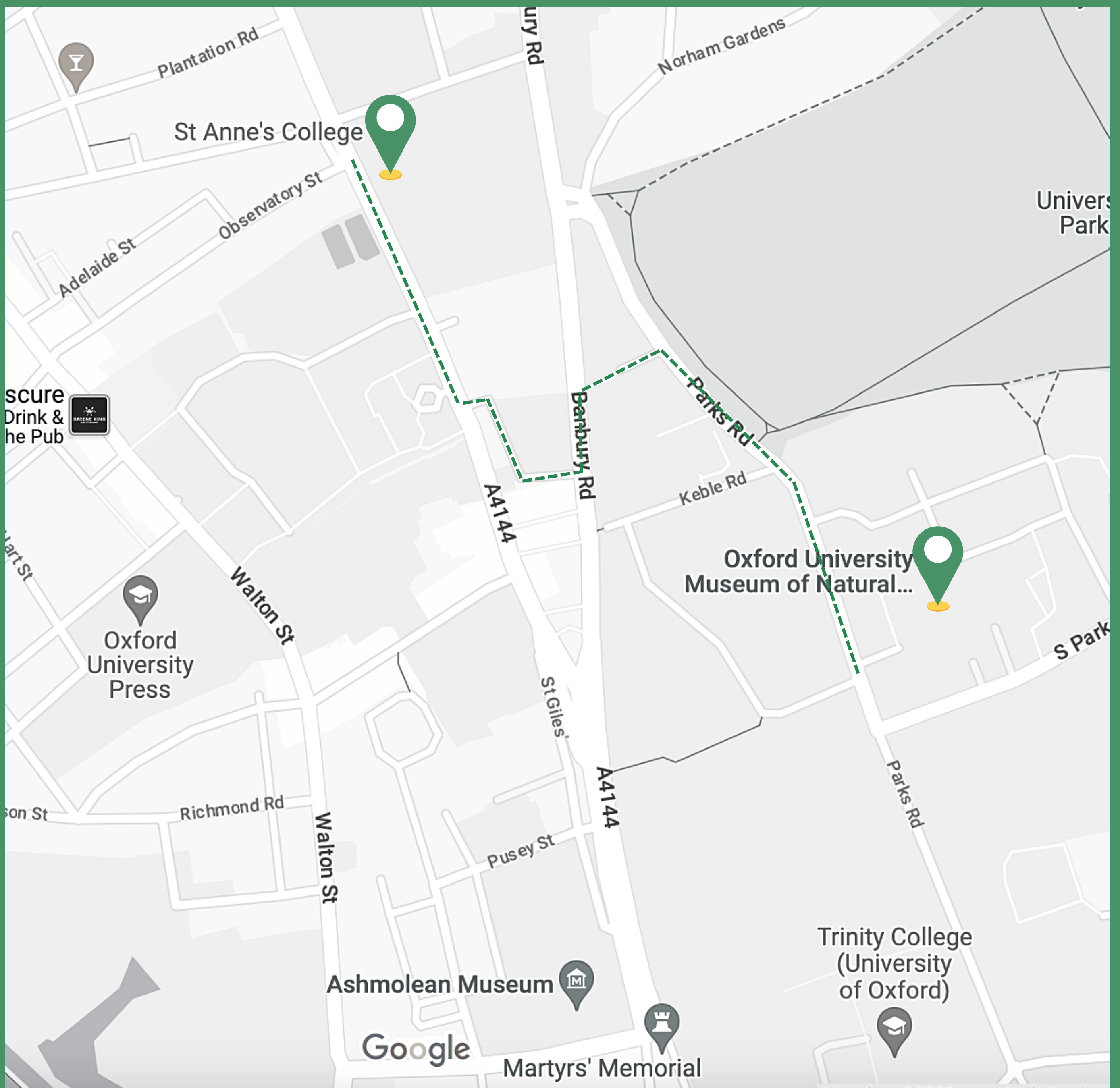
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# HOW TO

Please find a map below with instructions to get from St Anne's College to the Pitt Rivers Museum, where a museum visit (for conference delegates) and the 'Bodies in Translation' ECRs Workshop (for registered ECRs) will take place on Day 1, 5 September.

The recommended route, which takes 14 minutes, takes you from the entrance to St Anne's College via Woodstock Road across Banbury Road to Parks Road, where you will find the entrance to the Museum of Natural History. Entry to the Pitt Rivers Museum is via the Museum of Natural History.



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The **Translation & Medical Humanities** international conference is organised by **Marta Araldi**,  
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Oslo and Lecturer in Italian, University of Oxford and  
**John Ødemark**, Professor of Cultural History, University of Oslo.

The poster and programme are designed by **Georgia Nasseh**, Co-ordinator of the Oxford Comparative  
Criticism and Translation (OCCT) Research Centre.