

Spencer Hawkins

Faculty of Translation Studies, Linguistics and Cultural Studies
Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Department of Comparative Literature, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2014. Dissertation: “Foundational Ambiguities: Metaphor, Translation, and Intertextuality in Hans Blumenberg’s Metaphorology.” Directors: Andreas Gailus and Silke-Maria Weineck. Committee: Vassilios Lambropoulos, Benjamin Paloff, Yopie Prins. Certificates: Graduate Teaching and German.
- B.A. Honors, Department of German & Department of Comparative Literature (German, English, ancient Greek), University of California, Berkeley, 2007.

ACADEMIC POSTS

- 2019 Research Fellow/Assistant Professor (*wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter/Assistent*), Faculty of Translation Studies, Linguistics, and Cultural Studies (FTSK), Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz.
- 2019 Ernst Mach Fellow, Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science, and Research, University of Vienna.
- 2017-2018 Adjunct Assistant Professor, German and Russian Languages and Literatures & Program of Liberal Studies, University of Notre Dame.
- 2016, 2017 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- 2015-2017 Assistant Professor, Program in Cultures, Civilizations and Ideas, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey.
- 2014-2015 Instructor, Program in Cultures, Civilizations and Ideas, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey.

SELECTED GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2022 Funding for the translation of Frank Deppe’s *Niccolò Machiavelli: The Critique of Pure Politics*. Sponsor: German Translation Fund (March 15, 2022-May 15, 2022).
- 2020 Funding for Symposium, “Forced (Self)translation,” Sponsor: Center for Intercultural Studies (ZIS), Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz (November 20-21, 2020).

- 2018 Funding for Theater Excursion, “Homos, or Everyone in America”, Pride Arts Center, Chicago, Teaching Beyond the Classroom Grant, Sponsors: Earl and Darielle Linehan (September 23, 2018).
- 2018 Fellowship, Berlin Seminar in Transnational European Studies, Sponsors: Max Kade Foundation, among others (May 27-June 2).
- 2017 Research Grant, German Literature Archive in Marbach, Sponsor: Suhrkamp Verlag (July-August).
- 2013 Research Prize, Arthur and Mary Platsis Prize for Work on the Greek Legacy, Sponsor: Arthur and Mary Platsis.
- 2010 Sponsored Participant, Cornell School of Criticism and Theory, Sponsor: Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- ◇ Translation Studies (translation theory and history, practice of translation, English as academic *lingua franca*, linguistic approaches, especially to German-English translation)
- ◇ Philosophy and Rhetoric (hermeneutics, philosophical anthropology, Blumenberg, Heidegger, French reception of German thought, Kant’s legacy; classical, modern, and contemporary theories of rhetoric, especially metaphor)

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

- Literature, thought, and culture in Franco-German, transatlantic, Turkish, and ancient Greek contexts
- History of philosophy
- Classical reception
- Critical theory
- Political philosophy
- Gender and sexuality

LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE

English: Native speaker
German: near-native speaker
French: full proficiency
Turkish: working proficiency
Spanish: basic working proficiency
Attic Greek, Homeric Greek: reading
Classical Latin: basic reading
Bengali, Hebrew: elementary reading

PUBLICATIONS

Book

under contract *The Translation of German Philosophy and the Construction of the Anglophone Humanities*. Series: Routledge Advances in Translation and Interpreting Studies.

As editor

forthcoming Guest editor (with Lavinia Heller) Special Issue “The (Self)translation of Knowledge: Scholarship in Migration,” *Target: International Journal of Translation Studies*.

Peer reviewed journal articles

- 2022 "The Queerness of William James" (with Korey Garibaldi). *Henry James Review*. 43/1:41-65.
- 2022 "“Good translating is very hard work:’ Karl Popper, translation theorist in spite of himself.” *Target*. 34/1:3–36.
- 2020 "The English of Exile: The Cultural and Linguistic Self-Translations of German-speaking Philosophers During and After World War II" *Chronotopos*. 2/1&2:32-49.
- 2019 "Theory of a practice: a foundation for Blumenberg’s metaphorology in Ricoeur’s theory of metaphor." *Thesis Eleven*. 155/1: 91-108.
- 2019 "Undisciplinable: The Role of Translation Studies within Interdisciplinarity in the United States." *Transfer: revista electrónica sobre traducción e interculturalidad*. 14: 1-20.
- 2018 "Invisible Terminology, Visible Translations: The New Penguin Freud Translations and the Case against Standardized Terminology." *The Translator*. 24/3: 233-248.
- 2017 "Anecdote as intervention: Hans Blumenberg’s figure of the absentminded phenomenologist." *Monatshefte*. 109/3: 430-452.
- 2017 "Differential translation: a proposed strategy for translating polysemous language in German philosophy." *Translation and Interpreting Studies*. 12/1: 116-136.
- 2016 "Queerly Turkish: Queer masculinity and national belonging in the image of Zeki Müren." *Popular Music and Society*. 41/2: 99-118.
- 2016 "Rhetoric of Reputation: Protagoras’ statement, Snoop Doggy Dogg’s flow." *Arion: A Journal of Humanities and the Classics*, 24/1: 129-149.

Edited book sections

- forthcoming "Autobiography, biography, correspondence." ed. Lawrence Venuti, *Oxford History of Literary Translation in English*, Vol. 5, Oxford UP.
- forthcoming "Early modern philosophy." (with Katherine Harloe) ed. Lawrence Venuti, *Oxford History of Literary Translation in English*, Vol. 5, Oxford UP.
- 2021 "The Translation and Localization of the 2020 Pandemic Response A Transatlantic Lexicon" *andererseits: Yearbook of Transatlantic German Studies* Vol. 9/10: 167-181 (2020/21).

- 2021 “Transhumanism in Translation” Translator’s Introduction to *On Transhumanism* by Stefan Sorgner. Translation by Spencer Hawkins. Penn State University Press.
- 2018 “Figures for non-translation: a dialectical theory of the translation of German philosophy into French and English.” ed. Claire Wrobel, *Traduction et Philosophie*, Éditions Panthéon-Assas, February 2018.
- 2016 “An inductive approach to translating German philosophy.” *Übersetzungskritisches Handeln. Modelle und Fallstudien* ed. Beate Somerfeld, et al., Peter Lang, December 2016.
- 2015 “Reading into the Distance.” Afterword to *The Laughter of the Thracian Woman: A Protohistory of Theory*. Translation by Spencer Hawkins. Bloomsbury, Spring 2015.

Occasional writing

- 2021 “The Digital Translation Classroom: Another Day at the Computer for the Burgeoning Translator” Research letter in *New Voices in Translation Studies* 24: 72-81. Open access.
- 2020 “Beethoven: Decomposed” *The Decadent Review*. Open access.
- 2020 “Some *Sonderwege* of German-English Translation” *andererseits: Yearbook of Transatlantic German Studies* Vol. 7/8: 171-174 (2018/19).
- 2019 “Introduction to Special Issue on Translation Networks” (with Sandra Bermann) *Transfer: revista electrónica sobre traducción e interculturalidad* 14: 1-8. Open access.

Selected Academic Translations

- 2021 Heller, Lavinia. “The Philosophy is in the Details. The Glossary as a Space of Translational-Hermeneutic Creativity”, in: Bada, Valérie; Smette, Bernard; Viehöver, Vera (éds.): *Traduction et philosophie*. Liège: Presses Universitaires de Liège (*Truchements* 3).
- 2021 Sorgner, Stefan Lorenz. *Transhumanism: the most dangerous idea in the world!?* Penn State University Press. [180 standard pages]
- 2020 Heller, Lavinia. “Translaboration as legitimation of philosophical translation,” *Target*.
- 2020 Özdoğan, Selim. “Other people’s depression.” *andererseits: Yearbook of Transatlantic German Studies* Vol. 7/8 (2018/19). transcript Verlag, Bielefeld.
- 2017 Osten, Phillip. Exhibition texts for permanent exhibition, “Medical crime,” at the Medical History Museum of the Hamburg University Teaching Hospital [42 standard pages].

- 2017 Various authors. Essays, interviews, and short texts on the history of scientific visualizations [145 standard pages] in book *+ultra knowledge & gestaltung*. Image Knowledge Gestaltung: An Interdisciplinary Laboratory, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.
- 2015 Blumenberg, Hans. *The Laughter of the Thracian Woman: A Protohistory of Theory*. Translation [vii-132 pp.], critical afterword [133-172 pp.], and annotations [176-193 pp.]. Bloomsbury Academic Division.
Reviews: *ProtoView* 2/23 (2015), *Slate Book Review* (2016), *The Modern Language Review*. 113/2: 444-447 (2018).

Book reviews

- 2022 Review of Gabriele Münnix: *Das Bild Vom Bild: Bildsemiotik Und Bildphanomenologie in Interkultureller Perspektive* (The Image of the Image). Baden-Baden: Verlag Karl Alber. 2019. 680pp. *Society*.
- 2021 Review of David Morgan Spitzer (ed.) *Philosophy's Treason: Studies in Philosophy and Translation*. Wilmington and Magala: Vernon Press. 2020. 216pp. *Translation Studies*.
- 2020 Review of Alison Martin. *Nature Translated: Alexander von Humboldt's Works in Nineteenth Century Britain*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. 2018. 280pp. *Isis*.
- 2018 Review of Angus Nicholls. *Myth and the Human Sciences: Hans Blumenberg's Theory of Myth*. London, New York: Routledge. 2015. xvi + 259 pp. *Goethe Yearbook*.
- 2015 Review of Till Dembeck, Georg Mein (eds.) *Philologie und Mehrsprachigkeit*. Heidelberg, Universitätsverlag Winter. 2014. 420 pp. *German Studies Review*.
- 2009 Review of Aamir Mufti. *Enlightenment in the Colony: The Jewish Question and the Crisis of Postcolonial Culture*." Princeton and Oxford, Princeton University Press, 2007. xiii + 325 pp. *Intertexts*.

PUBLICATION PLANS

Book project

Our German Unconscious: Critical Theory and the Translation of German Philosophy. Proposal and draft available on request.

Essays

"I am Potiphar's wife: ancient myth and contemporary misogyny" for submission to *Cabinet*.

Translation projects

Selim Özdoğan, *Wo noch Licht brennt*, Haymon Verlag, 2017 (German novel, press is currently in pursuit of an English language publisher).

2011 interview with Manfred Sommer about Hans Blumenberg's legacy.

Translation of "Die Öffnung der Zeitschere" from Hans Blumenberg's *Lebenszeit und Weltzeit*.

REVIEW & EVALUATION COMMITTEES

Reviews for National Funding Agencies: German Research Foundation (DFG), National Science Centre (Poland); Reviews for journals: *Symposium: Canadian Journal of Continental Philosophy*

SERVICE

- 2021 Marketing Committee Member, FTSK, Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz.
- 2020 Faculty Library Liaison, FTSK, Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz.
- 2018-ongoing Notre Dame expert in ancient mythology, gender and sexuality, and modern Eurasian intellectual history, University of Notre Dame.
- 2018-ongoing Section editor for translation theory, *andererseits: Yearbook of Transatlantic German Studies*, University of Notre Dame & Universität Duisburg-Essen.
- 2014-2020 Secretary, Translation Studies Committee, International Comparative Literature Association.
- 2017 Steering Committee Member, Interdepartmental Comparative Literature Program Initiative, Bilkent University.
- 2016 Co-organizer, "Iconic Performances" Interdepartmental Film Series, Bilkent University.
- 2014-2015 Hiring committee and symposium organizing committee for the Program in Cultures, Civilizations, and Ideas, Bilkent University.
- 2011 Visiting Researcher, "Transformations of Antiquity" Research Cluster Humboldt University of Berlin.

TEACHING

I) Thesis Advising

Advising and evaluation of senior theses, Department of English Language and Literature, Bilkent University (2016), FTSK, Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz (2020-2022).

II) Instructor of Record

Doctoral

Critical Theory and Philosophy: Nietzsche and Freud, Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan (Fall 2017)

Graduate German Reading, Department of German and Russian Languages and Literatures, University of Notre Dame (Summer 2018)

Masters

FTSK, Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz:
Navigating Global Englishes (Summer 2022)

Inclusive language: sociolinguistics of cultural sensitivity in contemporary English (Winter 2021/2022)

Advanced Academic Spoken English (Summer 2021)

The Position of the German Language in the World (On sociolinguist Ulrich Ammon's work) (Winter 2020/2021)

Translation Practice: Economic Translation (Winter 2020/2021)

Translation Practice: Inter- and intralingual translation in (popular) science (Summer 2020)

Translation and (In)commensurability (Summer 2020)

Classics of Translation Studies (Winter 2019/2020)

International Translation Processes in the Humanities (Winter 2019/2020)

Upper-level undergraduate

Varieties of Love (Senior Seminar in Intellectual and Cultural History)
Program in Liberal Studies (PLS), University of Notre Dame (Fall 2018)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor:

Introduction to German Literature (taught in German) Germanic Languages and Literatures (Fall 2016)

Imagination (taught in English) Germanic Languages and Literatures (Fall 2016)

Isolations, Department of Comparative Literature (Winter 2014)

German language

First and Third Semester German, Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan (Fall 2011, 2013); Department of German and Russian Languages and Literatures, University of Notre Dame (Spring 2018)

Core Curriculum Courses

Seminar V (19th century European literature and philosophy; East Asian wisdom literature) Program in Liberal Studies, University of Notre Dame (Fall 2017)

Program in Cultures, Civilizations, and Ideas, Bilkent University:

Modern Philosophy, Aesthetics, and Literature (Al-Farabi, Shakespeare, Machiavelli, Kojève, Smith, Marx, Nietzsche, Ellison) (Winter 2015, Winter 2016)

Great Books of Greek antiquity (including *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, Homer, Sophocles, Plato, Gorgias, *Dissoi Logoi*) (Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Winter 2017)

First-year writing courses

University of Michigan:

Writing on Technology, Writing as Technology, Department of Comparative Literature (Fall 2011)

Writing after Prometheus, Department of Comparative Literature (Winter 2011)

Scribble and Spit: Writing about Talk, Talking about Your Writing, Department of English (Fall 2010)

III) Teaching Assistant

Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan:

German to English Translation (Fall 2014)

Love and Death in German Literature (Fall 2014)

Honors Program, Classical Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan:

Literature of Greek antiquity (Fall 2008, Fall 2009)

Literature from ancient Greece to the early Renaissance (Winter 2009, Winter 2010)

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Conferences organized

2021 “[Forced \(Self\)translation: The linguistic and translational work of exiled academics in the USA \(1933-1945\) and the development of English into an international research language.](#)” FTSK Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz. Paper delivered: “Translating Nationalsozialismus as ‘Socialism:’ Friedrich Hayek’s Liberalism in English” April.

Conference panels organized

2016 “Engaging Publics in and through Translation” co-sponsored panel with Sandra Bermann for the American Comparative Literature Association 2016 Conference, Cambridge, MA, March.

- 2015 “The Rights to Translation” co-sponsored panel with Sandra Bermann, and delivered paper, “The politics and poetics of retranslation: the case of Freud,” at the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Seattle, WA, March.
- 2012 “Hans Blumenberg and the Anthropology of Metaphor,” sponsored panel and delivered paper, “Hans Blumenberg’s metaphorology among other theories of metaphor,” at the annual meeting of the German Studies Association, Milwaukee, WI, October.

Invited talks

- 2020 “Zwischensprachliche Übersetzung als wissenschaftliche Leistung im Spätwerk Karl Poppers” Forschungskolloquium “Politik der Translation” FTSK, Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, February.
- 2019 “The Birth of American Monolingualism out of Conflicts with Germany” Department of Translation Studies, University of Graz, October.
- 2019 “The English of Exile: The Cultural and Linguistic Self-Translations of German-speaking Philosophers During and After World War II,” Institute of Culture Studies and Theatre History of the Academy of Sciences, Vienna. June.
- 2019 “Surprised by Familiarity: Literary Techniques for Intercultural Communication in Austrian Youth Travel Novels” Department of Comparative Literature, University of Vienna, May.
- 2019 “Literary Translation and Philosophy: Strategies for Conceptualizing Norm Deviation across Two Genres.” Department for Translation Studies, University of Vienna, March.
- 2018 “Between Image and Concept: Differential translation of repeated vocabulary in literature and philosophy,” Department of Comparative Literature, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, March.
- 2017 “Forschungsgeschichten: Drei Projekte, die auf einer Sammlung beruhen,” German Literature Archive, Marbach, Germany, July.
- 2016 “Freudian translation and the translation of Freud,” Program in Cultures, Civilizations, and Ideas at Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey, February.
- 2015 “Translation and metaphor in philosophy.” Department of Translation and Interpretation, Bosphorus University, Istanbul, Turkey, March.
- 2014 “Teaching strategies and learning goals for an introductory course on German to English translation.” Translation and Interpreting Studies Department. University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, March.

2014 “Preserving ambiguity when translating German philosophy into English,” Translation and Interpreting Studies Department. University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, March.

Other conference papers presented

- 2022 “The Task of the Cyborg Translator: Posthuman Postediting, Transhuman Translation” Kulturwissenschaftliche Gesellschaft “Posthumanismus. Transhumanismus. Jenseits des Menschen?” Graz, May.
- 2021 “Europe’s Linguistic Nomads: World War II as a Spur to Think in English” American Comparative Literature Association, April.
- 2021 “Persistence in Precarity: Academia’s Gendered Cost of Living” Roundtable Discussion of the Women’s Caucus for the Modern Languages, MLA 2021 Convention, January.
- 2020 “‘Good translating is very hard work’ –Karl Popper” *Namen und Orte*. D-A-CH- Forschungsprojekt Exil:Trans. Universitäten Wien, Lausanne und Mainz/Germersheim, November.
- 2019 “An innocent young Pole travels to Vienna: cultural contact in German-language youth travel novels” *Forms of Migration. Literature. Performance. World*. The American Studies Department, University of Graz, Austria, May.
- 2017 “Visible and invisible repetition in new translations of Freud and Lispector,” American Comparative Literature Association. Utrecht, Netherlands, July.
- 2016 “Differential translation: a proposed strategy for translating polysemous language in German philosophy.” *Translation and Philosophy*. Bentham Centre (Sciences Politiques Law School). Paris, France, April.
- 2016 “An inductive theory for translating German philosophy.” paper delivered at *Translatology between quality management and translation criticism*, a faculty conference held at Adam Mickiewicz University, Institute of German Studies. Posen, Poland, March.
- 2014 “The urgency of ambiguity: The case for metaphors in philosophy,” paper on Hans Blumenberg’s metaphorology delivered at the American Comparative Literature Association Conference. New York, NY, March.
- 2010 “Leaving Goethe’s stage: a secular farewell,” paper on the fusion of neo-pagan and Christian horizons in Goethe’s *Iphigenia in Tauris* delivered at the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association. New Orleans, LA, April.
- 2008 “Sophistry in port towns: The self-measurements of Protagoras and Snoop Dogg”
--American Comparative Literature Association, Long Beach, CA, April 2008.
--revised for: *Decision Time: Lifting Smokescreens, Dropping Knowledge*, 18th

Annual Students of Color of Rackham Conference, University of Michigan,
Ann Arbor, February.

- 2008 “Oriental animals: the productive fascination with animal difference”
--*The Literary Animal*, Entralagos Graduate Student Conference, Department
of Romance Studies. Cornell University, February.
--revised for: *Giving Voice to Other Beings*, An Interdisciplinary Conference,
a faculty-graduate conference held at Vanderbilt University, May.

References

Recent Employers:

William Donahue (Recent Department Chair)
Department of German and Russian Languages and Literatures
318 O'Shaughnessy Hall
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN 46556-5639
Tel: +1 (574) 631-5572
E-mail: william.c.donahue.36@nd.edu

Johannes von Moltke (Department Chair)
Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
812 E Washington St, Ann Arbor, MI 48109
Tel: +1 (734) 764-8018
E-mail: moltke@umich.edu

German Language Teaching:

Steffen Kaupp (Teaching Specialist, Assistant Teaching Professor)
Department of German and Russian Languages and Literatures
317 Decio Faculty Hall
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN 46556-5639
Tel: +1 (574) 631-0422
E-mail: skaupp@nd.edu

Hartmut Rastalsky (Lecturer IV, Language Program Director)
Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
812 E Washington St, Ann Arbor, MI 48109
E-mail: hmr@umich.edu

Translation:

Literary:
Anne Carson
Classicist, poet, and translator of Greek poetry and tragedy
decreation53@gmail.com

Academic:

Nikola Doll
Former director of publications for the research group "Image, Knowledge, Gestaltung" at Humboldt University, Berlin.
nikola.doll@kunstmuseumbern.ch