

Session 1. *Translating Cosmovisions: Knowledges in Transformation*

The epistemic dimension of translation: Identifying cosmovision factors

Rafael Schögler (University of Graz)

Starting from the premise that any translation is a form of knowledge-making and knowledge is power in the sense that it is “a capacity for action” (Stehr, 1994), we will reflect upon the connection of epistemic power and translation in general terms, before taking this reflection into the context of translation for/by indigenous peoples. Our input will draw on findings from the research project *Towards a Cosmvision Turn – Challenging Basic Translation Theory* to identify the “cosmovision factor” in translation. Starting from the definition of cosmovision by the Consejo Regional del Cauca (2004, 83) that describes cosmovisions as “diverging ways of perceiving world(s) and acting in them”, we will connect dimensions of knowledge-making and knowledge-transformation with forms of acting and agency. Identifying “cosmovision factors” in translation thus means to acknowledge difference in meaning-making, but also in forms of acting in world(s).

Rafael Schögler is Associate Professor of Translation Studies at the University of Graz, Austria. He studied translation studies and sociology and has spent time as a visiting researcher at both CenTras, London and CTIS, Manchester. His research deals with divergent aspects of knowledge translation ranging from questions of internationalization to the politics of book translation. In this context he published the edited volume *Circulation of Academic Thought. Rethinking Translation in the Academic Field* (2019) as well as the open access monograph *Die Politik der Buchübersetzung. Entwicklungslinien in den Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften nach 1945* (2023). Currently, he is involved in the project *Towards a Cosmvision Turn. Challenging Basic Translation Theories* that deals with translation in indigenous communities and its links to the development of translation theories in the context of missionary work.



Interpreting the jaguar: Transgressing boundaries of knowledge through translation

Christina Korak (University of Graz)

Our analysis of an interpreting scene comprising the important Amazonian figure of the jaguar and the *meñera* (jaguar shaman of Ecuador's Waorani people) provides a case in point for such an acknowledging of indigenous ontologies through translation. We base our contribution on perspectivist notions on translation as brought forward by Viveiros de Castro (1998) but link these to indigenous peoples' current struggles for the respect for their collective rights. Thus, our analysis of how the Waorani people of Ecuador proceed to interpret a message of the jaguar, who had possessed the body of the meñera, from the indigenous language Waoterero into Spanish shows that identifying cosmovision factors in translation also bears important political ramifications. We argue that the effects of the jaguar's message have to be contextualized within the Waorani's struggle for an intact territory free from oil exploitation for both the contacted family groups and even more urgently for the groups who still remain in isolation. Shapeshifting in and through translation thus turns also into a political quest of acknowledging indigenous ontologies for translation theory-building as well as translation practices.

Christina Korak works as interpreter for migrants and is PostDoc researcher at the Department of Translation Studies, University of Graz. In the project *Towards a Cosmvision Turn - Challenging Basic Translation Theory*, she explores to which extent study programmes and diplomas for interpreting and translating in indigenous languages in Peru, Mexico and Ecuador contribute to a decolonisation of translation theories. In-between worlds of capitalism, indigenous knowledge and cosmovisions were also the focus of her large field study on interpreting and translating between the Waorani hunters and gatherers of the Ecuadorian Amazon, oil companies, missionaries and NGO workers. In 2024, Promedia will publish her book *Den Jaguar dolmetschen. Sprachgebrauch und Rechte der Waorani Ecuadors* (Interpreting the Jaguar. Language use and Rights of Ecuador's Waorani people).

