

Zukunftsphilologie: Revisiting the Canons of Textual Practice

Lecture cum Seminar

Thursday, May 19 , 2011, 16.00 – 19.00

Freie Universität Berlin, Raum JK 24/122d, Habelschwerdter Allee 45

Alastair Hamilton

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European Translations of the Qur'an: Christian Interpretations of Islamic Terminology from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment

Chair: Islam Dayeh (Freie Universität Berlin)

In the early modern period the Qur'an was widely prohibited and condemned, but at the same time it inspired immense curiosity and was in great demand. In order to circumvent the censors and get into print the translators had to make a series of compromises often reflected in the terminology used. These features are particularly evident in the translations by André Du Ryer (1647) and Ludovico Marracci (1698), which will be discussed at length. But there are numerous other translations of the whole, or parts, of the Qur'an which show a gradual change in attitude to the sacred text of Islam. They also testify to a sometimes curious approach to sources which increased the gulf between the western treatment of the Qur'an in the past and the modern approach which can be said to start in the mid-nineteenth century.

Alastair Hamilton, former Dr C. Louise Thijssen-Schoute Professor of the History of Ideas at the University of Leiden and Emeritus Professor of the History of the Radical Reformation at the University of Amsterdam, has been attached to the Warburg Institute, London University, as Arcadian Visiting Research Professor since 2003.

His main interests lie in two fields: the history of Arabic studies and, more generally, of orientalism in Europe in the early modern period, with a special emphasis on the Arabic-speaking Christians; and religious non-conformism in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Europe (especially in Spain, Italy and the Low Countries).

His most recent publications on the Arab world include *The Copts and the West 1439-1822. The European Discovery of the Egyptian Church*, Oxford University Press 2006; *An Arabian Utopia: The Western Discovery of Oman*, The Arcadian Library/ Oxford University Press 2010; *Bridge of Knowledge: Western Appreciation of Arab and Islamic Civilization in the Arcadian Library*, The Arcadian Library/ Oxford University Press 2011, and, [with Francis Richard] *André Du Ryer and Oriental Studies in Seventeenth-Century France*, The Arcadian Library/ Oxford University Press 2004.

Lecture-cum-Seminar

The Lecture-cum-Seminar series is a central element of the scholarly program of the Zukunftsphilologie project. It is conceived as a working seminar of 3 to 5 hours. The lecture (ca. 45-60 minutes) is meant to introduce the audience to the research problem and provide the general analytical and theoretical framework for the topic. This is followed by a practical seminar, wherein the speaker demonstrates his or her case by reference to texts in the original language and in English translation. It is hoped that this Lecture-cum-Seminar series, a combination of theory and a direct engagement with texts, will enable scholars to examine the comparative aspect of the problematic without neglect of the local and singular nature of the texts examined.

Zukunftsphilologie: Revisiting the Canons of Textual Scholarship

The project Zukunftsphilologie endeavours to promote and emphasize primary textual scholarship beyond the classical humanistic canon. In an age of advanced communication, intellectual specialization, and unprecedented migration of knowledge and people, the discipline of philology assumes new relevance. Zukunftsphilologie aspires to support research in neglected varieties of philology with the explicit aim to integrate texts and scholarly traditions from Asia, Africa, the Middle East as well as from Europe itself.

Zukunftsphilologie refers to the polemic between the classicist Ulrich von Wilamowitz and Friedrich Nietzsche around the method and meaning of classical studies. As a project it sees itself as part of a growing trend towards a more global intellectual history. It is inspired in particular by the work of Edward Said and Sheldon Pollock.

In order to promote historically-conscious philology, Zukunftsphilologie will foster research in the following areas: genealogies and transformations of philological practice, philology's place in the system of knowledge (e.g. its relation to science, theology and jurisprudence), and philology and the university. Furthermore, Zukunftsphilologie aims to support critical reviews of historical and philological practice. In revisiting important „philological wars“, the goal is not to merely evaluate the argumentative worth of these debates, but to reflect on the wider cultural and political context in which these „philological wars“ emerged and how they have shaped our knowledge of the past.

The project Zukunftsphilologie is co-directed by Angelika Neuwirth, Manan Ahmed and Islam Dayeh (all Freie Universität Berlin) and is associated with and located at the Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School for Literary Studies at Freie Universität Berlin. Zukunftsphilologie is a project at the Forum Transregionale Studien.

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For more information please see:

www.forum-transregionale-studien.de

<http://www.geisteswissenschaften.fu-berlin.de/friedrichschlegel/promotionsprogramm/kooperationen/Zukunftsphilologie/index.html>