



Università degli Studi di Firenze

Dipartimento di Lingue, Letterature e Studi Interculturali

## News, Pamphlets and Print in Early Modern Europe

Florence, 27 February 2015



Via Gino Capponi, 9, 1 piano, Aula 14\*

9.15	Greetings
9.30	Brendan Dooley (University College Cork): International News Flows in the Seventeenth Century
10.30	Andrew Pettegree (University of St. Andrews): Tabloid Values. Commerce, Innovation and Partisanship in the Seventeenth-Century book world.
11.30	Coffee Break
12.00	Sara Barker (University of Leeds): Form and Format in News Translation
13.00	Lunch
14.00	Nicholas Brownlees (University of Florence): "We have in some former bookes told you": The Significance of Metatext in Seventeenth-Century English News
14.45	Elisabetta Cecconi (University of Florence): Religious Lexis and Political Ideology in <i>Mercurius Aulicus</i> and <i>Mercurius Britannicus</i> (1643-44): Evidence from the <i>FEEN</i> Corpus
15.30	John Denton (University of Florence): From Translation Studies to "Cultural Translation": Researching Translation without Translations?
16.15	Round-up

\*Via Gino Capponi is a 15-20 minute walk from Florence's main railway station (Santa Maria Novella). By taxi it costs about €8-10 euros. If you come by train, exit Santa Maria Novella station close to platform 16, and cross the road into P.zza della Stazione. Next to Benetton there is the bus stop for nos. 1, 6, 11 buses. These take you to P.zza San Marco. Get off there and it's a 5-minute walk to Via Capponi. You can get bus tickets at Bar Tonarelli next to Benetton.



Università degli Studi di Firenze

Dipartimento di Lingue, Letterature e Studi Interculturali

## News, Pamphlets and Print in Early Modern Europe

Florence, 27 February 2015

In Early Modern Europe the dissemination of news, information and ideas relied on multiple channels of communication. In written communication the role of print became ever more important as both individuals and commercial enterprises turned to print to boost the readership and sales of their works. Many of these published works fell into the broad category of pamphlets, a genre that commanded interest, attention and popularity, if not respect.

The papers will examine issues regarding the conditioning role of the properties of print and the pamphlet genre on the dissemination of news and knowledge between 1500-1700. Areas for discussion will include the role of paratext, metatextual referencing, intertextuality, the materiality of print, news networks, as well as linguistic and rhetorical strategies (including those of translation) in the presentation of pamphlet news and information. It is envisaged that the day's papers will provide stimulating discussion and insight into a rich area of interdisciplinary research.

### Invited speakers:

Sara Barker (University of Leeds):

Recent Publications include: (with BM Hosington), *Renaissance Cultural Crossroads: Translation, Print and Culture in Britain, 1473-1640* (Brill, 2013); 'International News Pamphlets' in *The Elizabethan Top Ten: Defining Print Popularity in Early Modern England* (2013); *Protestantism, Poetry and Protest* (Ashgate, 2013)

Brendan Dooley (University College Cork):

Recent publications include: *The Dissemination of News and the Emergence of Contemporaneity in Early Modern Europe* (Ashgate, 2010); *A Companion to Astrology in the Renaissance* (Brill, 2014); *A Mattress Maker's Daughter: The Renaissance Romance of Don Giovanni de' Medici and Livia Vernazza* (Harvard University Press, 2014).

Andrew Pettegree (University of St. Andrews):

Recent publications include: *The Invention of News. How the world came to know about itself* (Yale University Press, 2014); *The Book in the Renaissance* (Yale University Press, 2010); Director of *The Universal Short Title Catalogue* project (on-line resource: <http://www.ustc.ac.uk/>);

Correspondence should be addressed to Prof. Nicholas Brownlees: [nicholas.brownlees@unifi.it](mailto:nicholas.brownlees@unifi.it)



*Università degli Studi di Firenze*

**Dipartimento di Lingue, Letterature e Studi Interculturali**

## **News, Pamphlets and Print in Early Modern Europe**

### **Abstracts**

**Sara Barker (University of Leeds)**

#### **Form and Format in News Translation**

When we think of early modern translation, we tend to focus on the idea of a text moving from one language to another. Whilst this in itself was a notoriously complicated process, it is in fact only one part of the transformation: genre, tone and format could also be subject to processes of translation, and nowhere was this more obvious and potentially problematic than in the genre of news. In a media world where oral and manuscript news exchange maintained a strong presence, printed news took a while to find its niche in the market, eventually doing so by playing on its potential geographical reach. In this evolution, editing decisions must be understood as a crucial part of the translation and publication process.

This paper will consider how language and layout both were subject to translation when stories moved between linguistic cultures in early modern Europe. It will pay particular attention to the tensions between local formats and international stories, and how local preferences for particular genres and formats potentially hindered information exchange in the period. Much as there were hard and soft linguistic boundaries for translation, so too we can see hard and soft formatting boundaries that must be acknowledged if we are to gain a representative understanding of how news travelled internationally in early modern Europe.

**Nicholas Brownlees (University of Florence)**

#### **"We have in some former bookes told you": the significance of metatext in seventeenth-century English news**

This paper examines metatextual comment in seventeenth-century periodical news publications. Periodical news publication was a new genre and those involved in its production had to determine the language they should use in the writing up of such news. I analyze the terminology seventeenth-century news writers themselves adopt in relation to their own publications and the news they are presenting. The analysis focuses both on the frequency and content of editorial metadiscourse between 1620 (the start of periodical news) and 1695 (the lapse of the Licensing Act). The diachronic analysis of frame and endophoric metatextual markers provides insight into editorial aspirations, anxieties, commercial concerns and general attitudes to news discourse.



*Università degli Studi di Firenze*

**Dipartimento di Lingue, Letterature e Studi Interculturali**

**Elisabetta Cecconi (University of Florence)**

**Religious lexis and political ideology in *Mercurius Aulicus* and *Mercurius Britanicus* (1643-44): Evidence from the *FEEN* corpus.**

In the turbulent years of the Civil War the English news market registered an exponential increase in the number of periodical pamphlets. From 1641 the proliferation of weekly publications gave rise to the “generation of Mercury’s” (Raymond 2003), which was characterized by a high level of experimentation in news rhetoric and political propaganda. In my paper I shall provide a corpus-assisted discourse analysis of two very popular English Civil War pamphlets: the royalist *Mercurius Aulicus* and the parliamentarian *Mercurius Britanicus*. Given the major role played by religion in the Civil War, I shall focus on a selection of frequently used religious words and I shall examine their collocational behaviour in concordances and larger stretches of discourse. The results will uncover some of the discourse strategies adopted by the editors in order to frame opposite versions of the news events and construe ideological consensus in their readership.

**John Denton (University of Florence)**

**From Translation Studies to “Cultural Translation”: Researching Translation without translations?**

In the Early Modern period, at least as far as England is concerned, translation has recently aroused new interest among historians, English literary and Renaissance scholars and this interest is not limited to literary texts (Barker and Hosington eds 2013, Braden, Cummings and Gillespie eds 2010, Hosington 2011, Rhodes ed. 2013 and Schurink ed. 2011). The volume edited by Schurink does, however, start off with the remark that translation studies has had “the unfortunate tendency to separate translation from the mainstream of literary and historical studies” (Schurink 2011: 1) and after a call for the placing of translation in the context of other areas of Tudor history and literature adds that “this does not mean that the essays collected in this volume are not also sensitive to the status of translations as translations”. Status maybe, but there is little attention to the manipulative process undergone by the transfer of a text from one language and culture to another. For example the detailed and highly stimulating and necessary study of the historical context in which the first English translation of Polybius was produced (Boutcher (2011) makes no comparisons with the source and target texts illustrating the translation strategies followed. In a recent bibliographical survey of the new literature in the field, including the studies mentioned above (Reid 2014) the author remarks: “This clear turn towards culture and towards the paratext includes an unfortunate turn away from an important aspect of translations: comparative analysis of the translation text itself with the source text.” Translation studies has from its outset foregrounded the role of context but this does not mean that we should study translation without translations (Denton forthcoming). In my paper I shall address this issue.



*Università degli Studi di Firenze*

**Dipartimento di Lingue, Letterature e Studi Interculturali**

**Brendan Dooley (University College Cork)**

**International News Flows in the Seventeenth Century**

Although much has been done regarding particular linguistic areas, a massive content analysis of periodical news sources across linguistic and geographical areas has not yet been done. So far the absence of large corpora for undertaking such a study has been a major impediment, but progress is being made. This paper reports on a projected study of the years 1618, 1623, 1648 and 1683 with a view to assessing the dynamics of diffusion and the shape of change.

**Andrew Pettegree (University of St. Andrews)**

**Tabloid Values. Commerce, Innovation and Partisanship in the Seventeenth-Century book world.**

In 1620 Abraham Verhoeven embarked on one of the most eye-catching ventures in the history of news publication. Published up to three times a week, his *Nieuwe Tijdinghen* [New Tidings] offered his Antwerp readership a varied diet of comment and advocacy in the early stages of the Thirty Years' War. To all appearances it was a roaring success, but Verhoeven still died destitute. This paper considers what it needed to build a commercially viable enterprise in the tough world of early newspaper publishing. It draws on archival evidence, as well as a comprehensive attempt to reconstruct the output of the Verhoeven press from holdings distributed around several of the world's major libraries in order to place this imaginative if ultimately doomed venture in the wider context of a developing news market.