

Romanticism, Translation, Media

Acting on a dominant strain within the Romantic-era discourse on literature and translation, Romanticist criticism has long tended to regard translation as essentially ancillary. In recent years, however, critics have increasingly turned to a closer consideration of Romantic-period imaginations and negotiations of linguistic difference. This seminar will examine how and why Romantic (and particularly late-Romantic) writers performatively imagined themselves as translators, and how in so doing they transformed translation into a master figure for much deeper aesthetic, philosophical and disciplinary questions. We will especially discuss how the practice and theory of translation served to focus questions regarding the changing role of literature and authorship by fronting questions regarding mediation and the technologies that concretely organise mediation. Our discussions will take stock of work by Coleridge, De Quincey, and Carlyle, and will both activate and complicate concepts developed by key critics.