

Kohl: a Journal of Body and Gender Research



“Transgressive Translations”

Vol. 8, No. 1, Winter 2022

Acknowledgements

This issue was inspired by the “Translation Lab” project Kohl called for in 2021. In this issue, the journal entrusted its translation team to take part in leading the processes of article selection and editorial assistance of both the Arabic and English texts. The construction of this critical collaboration allowed the translators time to write autobiographical texts and critiques dealing with the act of translation and the translation sector they have been operating in. Their contributions enlightened the dynamics of translation, communication, and editorial management of the journal. The translators/writers delved into the question of language, political struggle, the linguistic body and self, and the ever-lingering question of politicized translation, from its queer, Marxist, and feminist angles. They triggered the question of the “political economy of translation” through revisiting class, gender, culture, and other problematic features of language that shall be elaborated upon in the process of emancipating our practice from intellectual subjugation.

We are thus always indebted to the tireless and creative work done by our team of translators: **Amal Shaheen, Sylvana El Khoury, Adham Selim, Nidal Majeed, Bernadette Daou, Dima Hamadeh, Rola Alaedine, Rania El-Ghazal, Ayman Kaouq, Mona Bibi, Rifqa G., Layal A., and Doris Mattar**, for we would not have been able to publish the Arabic version of the magazine without them. We also thank them for their commitment to an overflowing collaboration, their struggle to accommodate tight deadlines, and their sincerity in transferring knowledge to the Arab reader.

The work of those dear translators transcended the process of direct linguistic transfers, hence transforming the translation process into a critical interaction that contributed to defining the parameters of the Translation Lab on the one hand, and expanded the paratexts of translated pieces with non-stereotypical linguistic approaches. Therefore, you will find names that worked in both writing and translating concomitantly, for and about one another. We will also find the names of translators who have dedicatedly contributed behind the scenes, through passionate peer reviews and constructive criticisms, but without producing their own independent pieces. You will also be able to discern that fervent collaboration as you read the footnotes, contemplate term selections, sentence restructurings, and artistic epi-texts that rebel against the *normative integrity* of neoliberal translation markets. For the first time, we will sense in the warm coloring of the issue’s paintings an interaction that is rare between those working in the fields of knowledge and those working in the lands of visual art. We are thankful for this interaction led by our **painter Mariam Mazraany and our designer Zeinab Ismael**.

The making of this issue featured huge ups and downs in the lives of most of our fellow workers, which included labor strikes (in universities and schools), displacements, migration, disease, and radical life changes affected by the unleaning economic crises and persisting patterns of militarism and discrimination. The crudeness of the lived reality reinforced the impact of the translator/writer’s political status and situation on his/her conscious collaborative and individualistic performance. However, we do not claim our ability to complete the translation approach we aspire to construct, and that which we fight to dismantle, but this issue

remains an experiment that we view as a modest prelude to the making of new literature that paves the way to a translation identity that is political and radical.

We reiterate our deepest gratitude and appreciation to our fellow translators and authors.

The Editorial Team,

Maya Zebdawi, Ghiwa Sayegh, Sabah Ayoub, and Zuhour Mahmoud