

# La Traduction dans tous ses états / Translation Beside Itself

*Experimental/Experiential translation workshop and gathering*

13-16 mai 2026 à Montpellier

Organised by Ludivine Bouton-Kelly, Lily Robert-Foley and Ricarda Vidal

A group of between 10 and 20 translators, writers, researchers, teachers, and students gather to translate one untranslatable poem several times, each time differently, into different languages or sign systems, or experimentally/experientially, tampering with the procedures and embodied practice of translation. At the end of each residency, the results of the workshop and the translations will be presented in the form of a reading, performance and/or discussion (to be decided).

This year's poem will be revealed in due course.

The results of the translation work will then be printed on twelve individual squares of a poster that can be folded and distributed as an experimental/experiential translation zine. On one side of the poster will be the translations (including QR codes for recordings of visual or oral translations) and on the other, a short creative-critical commentary by each of the translators or translator teams. Each translation will refer back not only to the original, but to each of the other translations.

Participants in the workshop will be chosen through a selective process that entails translating the short text found below and providing a short commentary on your process. This translation can be done into any language, and can follow any methodology – experimental and experiential translations are beyond welcome of course! Show us something we've never seen before! Unusual (but ethically sound) collaborations with digital tools are likewise more than welcome.

The languages of the meeting will be English and French but the language of translation can be any and we will be looking for a diversity of linguistic resources in our selection process.

Participation is free. Bursaries are available on a needs-based basis.

Participants are required to attend all four days.

The project is funded by the Institut Universitaire de France, and by the Université Paul Valéry Montpellier's MIRANDA project, and is in collaboration with *Poetry Talks*, a reading series organised by Karim Daanoune, Fiona McMahon and Lily Robert-Foley, members of the EMMA EA741 research team.

**How to apply:** Translate the poem below<sup>1</sup>

## Wandrers Nachtlied I

J.W. Goethe

*Der du von dem Himmel bist,  
Alles Leid und Schmerzen stillest,  
Den, der doppelt elend ist,  
Doppelt mit Erquickung füllest,  
Ach, ich bin des Treibens müde!  
Was soll all der Schmerz und Lust?  
Süßer Friede,  
Komm, ach komm in meine Brust!*

Please provide a short commentary (100 words minimum) on your translation

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<sup>1</sup> The choice of text was inspired by Camille Bloomfield and Valentin Decoppet's recent translation of Georges Perec's *Die Maschine*, which, in 1967/1968 performed an experimental translation of Goethe's "Wandrers Nachtlied II" carried out by a computer, for the German [radio](#). *La Machine*, Le Nouvel Attila, 2025.

Please also include a short bio or CV that tells us a little about who you are. (Feel free to be creative here too).

Please send applications to

[ludivine.bouton-kelly@univ-angers.fr](mailto:ludivine.bouton-kelly@univ-angers.fr)

[lily.robert-foley@univ-montp3.fr](mailto:lily.robert-foley@univ-montp3.fr)

[ricarda.vidal@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:ricarda.vidal@kcl.ac.uk)

(please include all organisers)

**Deadline for applications: March 16, 2026**

Some ressources on experimental and experiential translation practices

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– *Being Human*, <https://www.bram.org/index3.htm>.

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Broqua, Vincent, *Gaiamen*, les presses du réel/Al Dante, 2025.

Campbell, Madeleine and Vidal, Ricarda. *Translating across Sensory and Linguistic Borders: Intersemiotic Journeys between Media*. Palgrave, 2019.

– *The Experience of Translation: Materiality and Play in Experiential Translation*. Routledge, 2024.

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Grass, Delphine. *Translation as Creative Critical Practice*. Cambridge University Press, 2023.

De Campos, Haroldo. “Translation as Creation and Criticism,” *Novas: Selected Writings*.

Northwestern University Press, 2007[1963].

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Gayraud, Irène. “Pour une traduction comme risque et désir : potentialisations de l’original.” *Itinéraires*, vol. 3, 2019.

Jöhnk, Marília (ed.), *Beyond the Original: Translation as Experiment*. TranscriptVerlag, 2025.

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– “The Errant Translator: Field Notes”, Words Without Borders

Outranspo. *Dossier Outranspo*. Remue.net, 2021, Remue.net

– “Classification of Translation Constraints & Procedures.” Outranspo.com, 2020,

– *Outranspo*, Drunken Boat 24, 2016.

Perec, Georges. *La Machine*, trans. Valentin Decoppet et Camille Bloomfield. Le nouvel Attila, 2025.

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Robinson, Douglas. *The Experimental Translator*, Palgrave, 2023.

Tong-King, Lee. *Translation as Experimentalism*, Cambridge University Press, 2022.

Vidal, Claramonte, Ma Carmen Africa and Tong-King, Lee. *Hypertranslation*. Cambridge University Press, 2024.

Vidal, Ricarda and Madeleine Campbell. *The Translation of Experience: Cultural Artefacts in Experiential Translation*. Routledge, 2025.