

AWP23 Outline

Event Title: What Presses and Journals Need to Know About Publishing Literary Translations, Sponsored by ALTA

Event Description: Literary translation may be “having a moment.” More and more presses and journals in the US are eager to publish translations. But this can be an overwhelming new world for publishers unfamiliar with translation. This informative panel will answer questions about rights, locating work, evaluating translations, contracts, and more. Our aim is to contribute to a healthy ecosystem of translators and publishers and ultimately create more publishing opportunities for literary translators.

Event Category: Translation

Event Organizer and Moderator: Kelsi Vanada, Program Manager of ALTA
Kelsi Vanada holds MFAs in Poetry and Literary Translation from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and the University of Iowa. She has published four full-length translations from Spanish and Swedish, as well as a chapbook of original poems, *Rare Earth*. She is the Program Manager of ALTA in Tucson, AZ.

Event Participants:

Laura Cesarco Eglin: Laura Cesarco Eglin’s latest poetry collections are *Time/Tempo* and *Life, One Not Attached to Conditionals*. She’s the translator of *Claus and the Scorpion* by Dopazo Ruibal and of *Of Death. Minimal Odes* by Hilst. She’s the publisher of Veliz Books and teaches at the U. of Houston-Downtown.

Sacha Idell: Sacha Idell is coeditor and prose editor of *The Southern Review*. His short stories appear in *Ploughshares*, *Gulf Coast*, and *Narrative*, while his translations from the Japanese include work by Kyūsaku Yumeno and Toshirō Sasaki. He lives in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Jared Daniel Fagen: Jared Daniel Fagen is the author of *The Animal of Existence* (Black Square Editions, 2022). His prose poems and essays have appeared in *The Brooklyn Rail*, *Fence*, *Lana Turner*, and *Asymptote*, among other publications. He is the editor/publisher of Black Sun Lit.

Jisu Kim: Jisu Kim oversees marketing, sales, and publicity at the Feminist Press. She also acquires and edits books, mostly relating to Asian and Asian diasporic experiences.

Opening Remarks and Housekeeping Announcements (5 minutes)

Hello everyone and welcome to What Presses and Journals Need to Know About Publishing Literary Translations, Sponsored by ALTA. I'm Kelsi Vanada, the Program Manager of ALTA, the American Literary Translators Association. I'm excited for today's session and I'm lucky to be joined by (share panelist names). You'll see that we've had to make a few changes from the originally planned lineup unfortunately. I'm going to ask them each to introduce themselves in a moment, but first I'll share some housekeeping announcements and then tell you a bit about the impetus for and goals of this session.

- For those needing or wishing to follow along to a written text, please let the moderator of the panel, (identify moderator), know, and a printed copy will be delivered to you.
- Please make sure that spaces marked for wheelchairs remain clear of chairs or other barriers.
- Treat service animals as working animals and do not attempt to distract or pet them.
- Be aware of those with chemical sensitivities and refrain from wearing scented products.
- Please be aware that your fellow attendees may have invisible disabilities. Do not question anyone's use of an accommodation while at the conference, including for chairs reserved for those with disabilities.

The idea for this session has been germinating for a few years. At ALTA we support a membership of around 800 translators, publishers, educators, and readers of translation, we have an annual conference where translators gather, a mentorship

program for emerging translators, AND...once a year we have a table in AWP's bookfair as a Literary Partner. I love working at AWP because it's one of the few times I interact with folks who are just encountering literary translation. One question I've noticed that I get every year at our booth are questions about how to get started publishing literary translations. Not only the practical part, which we'll talk about, but the theoretical and ethical aspects too. My favorite question ever was "How do you know if a translation is good?" And I invited that editor to our conference where we talk about questions such as this for four whole days. But this year I thought it would be useful to put a panel together where you can hear DIRECTLY from book publishers and journal editors about their experience publishing translations. As we state in the description, Our aim is to contribute to a healthy ecosystem of translators and publishers and ultimately create more publishing opportunities for literary translators. So, let me turn it over to our panelists.

Moderator Questions (50-55 minutes)

1. Could we have each panelist tell us first a bit about your press or journal, and your/your press' relationship to literary translation? (Go around to each panelist)
2. Thank you all. So let's get started. And I encourage you all to respond to each other and ask each other questions too. The first question I want to ask is, do your presses/journals also publish non-translated work, and what are the main differences that editors who would like to start publishing non-translated work should know about?
3. Let's talk about a few of the main topics related to publishing translations:
 - a. Finding the work
 - i. What if you don't speak the original language?
 - ii. What if you want to publish work from a specific country/language?
 - b. Acquiring Rights
 - c. Finding a translator
 - i. Are translators agented?
 - ii. Tell about a few examples of the ways you have worked together with the translator of the work, using examples of some of these relationships.

- d. Contracts
 - i. What's the difference between an author contract and a translator contract?
 - e. Funding
 - i. Are there funding opportunities to help publish translations?
 - f. Publicity
 - i. Is it harder to sell translations, or is that a myth?
4. I'd like to ask our two journal editors to talk a bit about the differences, if any, between print and online publication of literary translation.
 5. Could you each share a recent translation that has been a favorite for you to publish?
 6. What do you observe in the literary translation publishing landscape right now? And can you share with us some dreams for the future?
 7. Was there anything any of you wanted to talk about that I didn't ask?

Audience Q&A (Final 15-20 minutes of session)