

4TH IBERTRANSLATIO SYMPOSIUM WOMEN TRANSLATORS AND CULTURAL MEDIATORS FROM AND INTO IBERIAN LANGUAGES

18 AND 19 MAY 2026
UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA

Confirmed keynote speakers

Olga Castro | Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Pilar Godayol | Universitat de Vic
Leslie Harkema | Baylor University



Ana Vieira, *Untitled (study)*, 1962.
Courtesy of MACAM – Museu de
Arte Contemporânea Armando Martins.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Women translators and cultural mediators have long played a key role in shaping cultural and literary exchanges in the Iberian Peninsula, yet their contributions have often been overlooked or forgotten. They have frequently suffered a double invisibility — not only because of their gender, but also because of the traditionally secondary status of translation itself. This dual marginalization has obscured their agency throughout history. By foregrounding the transformative power of their work, the 4th IberTranslatio symposium seeks to lend visibility to these often-marginalized figures and address the persistent gender gap in the field of Iberian Translation Studies. The symposium aims to foster an interdisciplinary dialogue, bringing together historical, theoretical and practical perspectives on women’s contributions to the Iberian translation zone, with a focus on translation and mediation practices that occur between Iberian languages and cultures.

Multilingualism in the Iberian Peninsula has made it a particularly fertile terrain for exploring self-translation, a phenomenon which cannot be discussed without considering the contribution of women writers. Figures such as Rosalía de Castro, along with contemporary authors like Carme Riera, Karmele Jaio, or Marilar Aleixandre, have enriched the Iberian literary landscape through their self-translating practices. Yet historically, woman authorship was often obscured, deliberately erased or attributed to a male counterpart as was the case of Sister Maria do Céu (1658-1753), one of the most outstanding Portuguese writers of the Baroque period, who left behind a voluminous Portuguese-Spanish bilingual oeuvre during the Iberian Union (1580-1640).

The presence and influence of women translators and cultural agents or mediators can also be observed in other key historical moments, such as the Republican exile of 1939, a particularly productive period in the relations between Iberian languages and literatures, or the post-dictatorship period in both Spain and Portugal. For example, during Portugal’s dictatorship and then during the revolutionary period, after the 25th of April 1974, Natália Correia

and Fíama Hasse Pais Brandão stood out as translators of Spanish poetry. Fíama’s Spanish translation repertoire, predominantly male and canonical, includes Federico García Lorca’s *Mariana Pineda*, significantly translated and staged in 1975. In Spain, the poet Clara Janés also contributed to increasing the visibility of female Catalan writers like Mercè Rodoreda and Montserrat Roig through her translations into Spanish.

The IberTranslatio symposium aims to examine women’s agency in cultural and literary transfer and the dissemination of knowledge. In this context, a “cultural mediator” is someone who is “active across linguistic, artistic and geographical borders”, serving “as the carrier of cultural transfers” (D’hulst et al. 2014: 1255). Our focus lies thus on translatorial agency challenging traditional, patriarchal conceptions of translation as a passive or derivative activity as discussed within Gender Translation Studies. Rather than viewing it as a mere reproduction, translation is understood as a transformative and creative act in which women have historically played crucial, though often invisible, roles.

We invite proposals for papers that explore the role of women translators and cultural mediators — including critics, journalists, editors, activists, censors, scholars, among others — in the Iberian Peninsula, with a specific interest in intra-Iberian literary translation and cultural mediation across all historical periods. Studies focusing on underexplored literary genres — such as essays, poetry and children’s and young-adult literature (CYL) — and modalities, including comics, graphic novels, and audiovisual media, are particularly welcome.

Proposals

Proposals are expected to address, but are not limited to, the following topics/areas:

- Methodological and theoretical approaches to gender in translation in the Iberian context
- Feminist translation practices and activism
- Women’s networks in the publishing industry (including editors, scholars, critics, consultants, activists)
- Collaborative translation among women, as well as between women and men, especially cases overshadowed by their male counterparts
- Translation and censorship: self-censored, unpublished, or altered translation by women writers and translators
- Translation across Iberian languages in exile contexts
- The dual role of women as writers and translators
- Self-translation between Iberian languages
- Indirect translation, involving the use of Iberian languages
- Representation of women translators and cultural mediators in fiction illustrating intra-Iberian relations or in Iberian fiction challenging gender power dynamics.

Abstracts should have between 250-300 words (excluding references) and must include five keywords and a short biographical note (maximum 100 words).

Proposals may be submitted in any Iberian language or in English at ibertranslatio@upf.edu.

- Submission deadline: 10th January 2026
- Notification of acceptance: 20th January 2026

Organisers

- Maria Dasca | Department of Humanities
- Luis Pegenaute, Esther Gimeno Ugalde | Department of Language Sciences and Translation. Universitat Pompeu Fabra
- Ângela Fernandes, Marta Pacheco Pinto | Center for Comparative Studies, School of Arts and Humanities Universidade de Lisboa

Scientific committee

- Jordi Cornellà-Detrell (University of Glasgow)
- Ana Teresa Marques dos Santos (Universidade de Aveiro)
- Reine Meylaerts (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)
- Mari Jose Olaziregi (Universidad del País Vasco/Euskal Herriko Unibertsitate)
- Isabelle Touton (Université Bordeaux Montaigne)
- Mario Santana (The University of Chicago)
- Estela Vieira (Indiana University, Bloomington)
- Laura Vilardell (Northern Illinois University)

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Universitat
Pompeu Fabra
Barcelona

Faculty
of Translation
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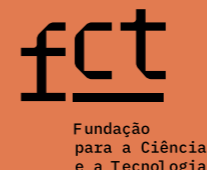
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