



Université
de Limoges



Study Day and Workshop

University of Limoges (France), Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences

“Translating Flamenco Songs”

Thursday 24 September 2020 and Friday 25 September 2020¹

Organisers: Anne-Sophie Riegler and Vinciane Trancart (EHIC)

Call for contributions

The EHIC laboratory (Human Spaces and Cultural Interaction, EA 1087) of the University of Limoges in France is organizing a study day and a workshop on the translation of flamenco song. This event is the extension of the distance workshop of flamenco translation, which has been translating from 2019 *An Anthology Of Cante Flamenco* (Perico el del Lunar, 1958 [1954]).

This research takes its starting point from the observation of a lack and a need: translating flamenco through a combination of scientific rigor, poetic character and singability. It is indeed paradoxical that translations up until today have been exclusively written, whereas flamenco is fundamentally oral. Thus, existing translations most often give priority to the literal aspect or to a certain poeticity. Moreover, even if free translations are infrequent (Bois: 2016), the search for singability is even more rare: only Vicente Pradal openly aspires to aim for the “*cantabile*” (2014). These translations are generally designed to be read apart from performances (except concert programs: 1995, 1996 and 2002). However, for both researchers and flamenco *aficionados*, and even for music lovers interested in this internationally-renowned aesthetic genre, an understand of texts as sung is a real need, because singers themselves attach great importance to them. The planned study day and workshop aim to meet some of this need.

The event will revolve around two complementary approaches: one scientific, the other artistic. It will involve both exposing and commenting on translations, and trying to put them into song and / or music.

- The study day (24 September) will be dedicated to the presentation of research.
- The workshop (25 September) will be dedicated to collective translation and will provide space for vocal interpretations.

These days are therefore open to researchers (from various disciplines, such as languages, literatures, linguistics, history, philosophy, arts, etc.), to specialists of translation and to artists (flamenco or not). The framework for collective thinking will be multidisciplinary and theoretical-practical.

¹ Scheduled dates, but the event may be postponed if sanitary conditions require it.

The proposed lines of work are as follows:

- Translation and commentary of *cantes*

During the study day, the aim will be to present one or more translations of *cantes* and provide commentaries including the history of the *coplas* and their interpretations, an inventory of variants, a justification of translation choices, or even a comparison with earlier versions. The organizers will examine all proposals for translations and comments from transcribed or oral flamenco sources, although priority will be given to works focusing on *An Anthology Of Cante Flamenco* (Perico el del Lunar, 1958 [1954]).

During the workshop, we will translate more *coplas* from this anthology. Sung interpretations of these translations may then be offered.

- History and analysis of sources

We will approach the history and analysis of oral sources, in particular those of *An Anthology Of Cante Flamenco* (Perico el del Lunar, 1958 [1954]), in order to shed light on the recording and its oral or written origins.

- Transcription

The translation of oral literature would be much more difficult without a prior transcription process. This process makes it possible to fix a form and to leave a trail but supposes the making of choices, which betray the original song and its variants. It will be necessary to study this point in a concrete way.

- Traductology

Song translation raises specific questions that affect meaning and form. We will ask ourselves which choices to make and priorities to establish with regard to the translation of language registers, gypsy and Andalusian manners of speech, prosody, metric aspects, singability parameters, etc.

- Reflection on previous translations

We will be interested in translations into French, English or other languages. These reflections can be incorporated into the various papers or be the subject of specific proposals.

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Performative approach

This line of work applies to artists. Singers (flamenco or not) may interpret translated *coplas*. These interpretations may be presented during the workshop (25 September). Musical genre is open, as well as instrumental group (possibility of *a capella* or with accompaniment).

Nota Bene: 1) Artists can ask for translations in advance.

2) Two professional artists will participate in the workshop: Andrés de Jerez (*cantaor*) y Santiago Lara Puerto (*tocaor*).

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Languages

French, English, Spanish

Event venue

Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences, University of Limoges
Campus Vanteaux
39E Rue Camille Guérin
87036 Limoges
France

Important dates

- Submission Date: August 23, 2020
- Response to the authors: August 27, 2020
- Program notification: September 8, 2020

Proposals with a title, an abstract (250 words maximum) and an academic biography (250 words maximum) are to be sent in a single PDF file called Name_Flamenco_Limoges to the two scientific organisers, no later than August 23.

- Anne-Sophie Riegler: annesophie.riegler@gmail.com
- Vinciane Trancart: vinciane.trancart@unilim.fr

Reference url: <https://www.unilim.fr/ehic/>

Nota Bene: Given the uncertainties regarding the reopening of borders, the presentation of communications by videoconference may be considered if necessary.

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Other flamenco events planned in Limoges:

- An evening show by the flamenco artists of Limoges (Triana Flamenca association)
- *Cante* and *baile* courses during the weekend (from 25 to 27 September) by Andrés de Jerez (*cante*), Mercedes Ruiz (*baile*) and Santiago Lara Puerto (*toque*).

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Indicative bibliography (selection)

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- ALCALÁ, M. & A. E. PÉREZ OROZCO (1987), *Le flamenco et les Gitans*, Paris, Filipacchi.
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Anthologies of coplas in Spanish

BALMASEDA Y GONZÁLEZ, M. (2019), *Primer cancionero de coplas flamencas populares*, Australia, Wentworth Press.

FERNÁNDEZ BAÑULS, J. A. & PÉREZ OROZCO, J. M. (eds.) (1983) *La poesía flamenca lírica en andaluz*, Sevilla, Servicio de Publicaciones del Ayuntamiento.

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Sitography

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