Heribert Tommek (Universität Regensburg): Literary Import and Export. (Ex)changing Literary Values in the Early Stages of the Literarische Colloquium Berlin's Programme to Promote Literary Translation Projects

Heribert Tommek's lecture argues that global networks of literary translation produce nodes that enable us to study long-term changes in the literary field such as modernisation, professionalisation and internationalisation. The lecture focusses on the beginnings of the Literarische Colloquium Berlin's (LCB) programme to promote literary translation. Under the direction of Walter Höllerer, the LCB evolved into a novel type of network, going beyond the Group 47 to become a new venue that uniquely facilitated the negotiation of literary values. The lecture illustrates this history through two case studies: the first translators' meeting in 1966 and the resumption of the translator talks in the run-up to the 'Wende' in 1988/89. The lecture draws from Tommek's research in the LCB's archive and from sociological approaches to translation studies, as developed in particular by Pascale Casanova through her concept of a République mondiale des lettres. First, the case studies show that the self-confidence of the translators as authors was bolstered at the first workshop of 1966; this can be seen as a continuation of the modernisation of German literature initiated by Höllerer, Enzensberger and other actors of the literary field, such as the Suhrkamp Verlag. Second, the case studies reveal how, at the end of the 1980s, these translators devoted themselves to the 'fashions of translation' and had already imported a notion of literature which decisively shaped the successful, internationally integrated 'new storytelling' in the second half of the 1990s.