

Introduction

This issue of *Flusser Studies* contains three separate sections. The first section is dedicated to translingual writing, self-translation and translation, the second contains the proceedings of the international symposium “Transcoding Flusser: Synthetic Thinking” held in The Hague on April 15 and 16 2016 and the third section some new theoretical approaches to the work of Vilém Flusser.

Part I: Translingual Writing, Translation, Self-Translation

In “Travels through Russian in English: Dale Pesman, Maria Tumarkin, Maxim Shrayer and Gary Shteyngart” Mary Besemeres discusses the work of four authors: Pesman’s *Russia and Soul* (2000) Tumarkin’s memoir *Otherland* (2010), Shrayer’s *Leaving Russia: A Jewish Story* (2013) and Shteyngart’s *Little Failure* (2014). All four authors are Jewish, and write of Russian-Jewish experience. All four texts invoke ways of being – cultural, psychological – which are possible in Russian, that is, among Russian-speakers, and equally, ways of being that emerge between Russian and English. Their engagement with these lingua-cultural ways of being is the focus of the paper.

Eva Gentes focuses in her contribution – „Literarische Selbstübersetzung im Kontext weniger verbreiteter Sprachen – ein zweischneidiges Schwert?“ (Literary Self-Translation in the Context of Less Widespread Languages – a Double-Edged Sword?) – on the practice of self-translation among minority language writers. Although their work can be considered an active contribution to language maintenance, in contexts of lesser-translated languages self-translation proves to be a double-edged sword.

In “Literary translingualism in Switzerland. Pierre Lepori and Beat Christen” Rainer Guldin discusses literary translingualism in contemporary Switzerland analyzing the work and writing practice of two bilingual authors, Pierre Lepori and Beat Christen. The essay is followed by two interviews with the authors – Beat Christen “Selbst-Übersetzung und mehrsprachiges Schreiben” (Self-Translation and Multilingual Writing) and Pierre Lepori “Scrittura bilingue” (Bilingual Writing) – as well as a few examples of their bilingual work. *Flusser Studies* has aspired from its inception to be much more than an academic journal dedicated to Vilém Flusser and his work and is therefore particularly proud to publish a few bilingual poems and short prose pieces by Beat Christen and the beginning of a still unpublished bilingual novel by Pierre Lepori.

The last contribution of this section is Clemens van Loyen's "Translation as an Act of Freedom – Vilém Flusser's Philosophy of 'Translation'" dealing with Flusser's theory of translation. Van Loyen focusses on possible relations to Ernst Jünger's *Lob der Vokale* that Flusser mentions in the bibliography of *Língua e Realidade*. He also takes up Flusser's notion of *fragrância* which points in the same direction as Walter Benjamin's 'way of meaning' (*Art des Meinens*).

Part II: Transcoding Flusser: Synthetic Thinking. The Hague April 15 & 16 2016

Steffi Winkler and Baruch Gottlieb have edited the second part of this issue, which contains the proceedings of the international symposium "Transcoding Flusser: Synthetic Thinking" held in The Hague on April 15 and 16 2016 and organized by West Den Haag. We thank West Den Haag for the permission to republish the written material along with the video recordings of the single lectures. For more information, consult the separate introduction to this part.

Part III: From Sigmund Freud to Hubert Damisch and Wilhelm Reich

The last section of this issue of *Flusser Studies* assembles a series of essays dealing with new theoretical perspectives on Vilém Flusser's life and work ranging from Sigmund Freud and Wilhelm Reich to Hubert Damisch's theory of the cloud, the relation of reason and terror and the idea of a possible sixth stage in Flusser's theory of media evolution.

Pedro Heliodoro Tavares' "Übersetzung, Wissen und Kultur in der freudschen Psychoanalyse und im Werk Vilém Flussers" ("Translation, Knowledge and Culture in Freud's Psychoanalysis and Vilém Flusser's Work) presents Sigmund Freud and Vilém Flusser not only as two thinkers with biographical similarities, but also as two intellectuals with converging ideas.

In "The Sixth Rung", the team of authors Marcel Cadaval Pereira, Moura Duarte, Roberto Bartholo and George Barnett Johnston discusses the gains and losses of cognitive dimensions after the digital shift by relating it to Flusser's five-stage model of media evolution.

Tim O'Riley's "The unassimilable image" considers Flusser's thoughts concerning the relationship between image and language in light of Hubert Damisch's *Theory of /Cloud/* proposing a necessary openness to the image with regard to the multiple ways it can be approached or 'read'.

Gustavo Bernardo Krause explores in his paper "How to Face the Terror of Reason: From Philosophy to Literature" the relationship of philosophy and literature, and the role of irony in the search for a possible way out of the hell of the apparatus created by the terror of reason. He discusses Franz Kafka's Gregor Samsa from *The Metamorphosis* and Jaroslav Hašek's Švejk from *The*

Adventures of Brave Soldier Švejk as pre-figurations of the future and as ironical brothers of Vilém Flusser.

In „Der maskierte Mensch: Vom Subjekt zum Projekt in der Stimmung des Orgasmus“ (The Masked Human Being: From Subject to Project in an Orgiastic Mood) Pierre Link and Ramona Eck start from the assumption that Heidegger’s notion of *Geworfenheit* (Thrownness) can be overcome through alternative projection of human beings. Human re-invention is depicted in terms of sexual design, by assuming, in accordance with Flusser, a kind of sexuality, which is entirely independent of procreation or of any other biological consideration and exclusively directed towards orgasm as an intersubjective integration with the other person. The article also deals with Flusser’s theoretical proximity to Wilhelm Reich’s psychoanalysis.

The second essay by Ramona Eck and Pierre-C. Link, „Mit anderen unsterblich werden. Der Dialog bei Vilém Flusser“ (Becoming Immortal with Others. Dialogue in Vilém Flusser’s Thinking) deals with Flusser’s theory of inter-subjectivity and the utopia of a telematic society, which are both inspired by Martin Buber’s dialogic principle. The essay discusses the possibility of a responsible society in an age of massification through the media.

The last contribution of this issue is Undine Stabrey’s “Prognostik über Generalismus: Dingdenken. Dynamik und Wortort in Flussers Jetzt(2010er Jahre)antizipation(1980er Jahre)“ (Long-term Thinking and Prognostic structures of anticipation). The paper presents a very personal reading of Flusser’s *From Subject to Project*, highlighting three specific aspects: the time-horizon, the immediateness of Flusser’s word meanings and the dynamics of moving concepts.

The upcoming issue of Flusser Studies to be published in May 2017 is being organized by Eva Batličková and Rainer Guldin and will be dealing with Vilém Flusser’s relationship to Judaism and the influence of Jewish culture on his thinking and writing. There is a broad range of possible approaches to Flusser’s work with relation to Judaism: Flusser’s early Zionist leanings, the influence of Jewish culture on his thinking and writing, the presence of Jewish elements in his work (for instance the late discovery of the notion of *Pilpul*), the question of Auschwitz and its relation to *Bodenlosigkeit* and post-history, as well as the importance of Jewish writers and thinkers like his cousin David Flusser, Martin Buber, Agnon and Franz Kafka.

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