

Roundtable:

The challenges of translating academic / scientific discourse

Academic translation is not just linguistic transfer. It is a knowledge-intensive, interpretive, and context-sensitive practice that requires expertise in both language and subject matter. The translation of scholarly works comes with a unique set of challenges which arise from the need to preserve meaning, but also disciplinary conventions, authorial voice, and epistemological nuance. How do translators achieve terminological precision, given that scholarly texts rely heavily on specialized jargon, which may have no direct equivalent in the target language? How do they translate discipline-specific meanings which may differ across epistemological traditions? How do they deal with conceptual and epistemological differences across different academic traditions, each of which may structure knowledge differently? Do translators have to act as mediators of knowledge systems, not just language? Participants will resort to their experience to discuss these and other challenges they face when they attempt to translate scholarly texts.