

Member, American Council of Learned Societies and National Humanities Alliance

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René Wellek Prize 2025, Edited Collection

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Honorable Mention:

Translating Home in the Global South: Migration, Belonging, and Language Justice, by Isabel C. Gómez and Marlene Hansen Esplin

It is with great joy that we give the Honorable Mention to *Translating Home in the Global South: Migration, Belonging, and Language Justice*, edited by Isabel C. Gómez and Marlene Hansen Esplin. The essays in this volume consider acts and contexts of translation that are crucial to reframe the study and the discourse of translation in the twenty-first century. The attention given to modalities of translation that go beyond the conventional one is important and wellargued for. Not only is self-translation given central stage but also collaborative and radical practices of translation are shown to be meaningful, generative, and pervasive once we step out of a mainly Western-centric approach to the field.

This volume is organized around two compelling arguments: it claims that translation has a crucial, albeit complicated, role in building inclusive and translingual publics; and that the Global South is a critical translation zone that must be included in current scholarship of translation, migration, and world literature. The translation zones explored by the essays include the Caribbean, Central America, South America, Bosnia, Syria, South Asia, and China, as well as detention centers, climate emergency response hubs, mental health providers, social media, literary and media texts.

The editors of this volume deserve praise for the focused selection of essays, case studies, and for their decision to show the importance of a non-Western approach in order to move the discourse of translation studies forward. "One of the major questions across all the essays in our collection, Isabel C. Gómez and Marlene Hansen Esplin write in the introduction, is how does the nexus of migration, belonging, and language justice (or the lackthereof) prompt a set of new interlingual practices?" In response to this question, the contributors offer an extremely sophisticated nomenclature that connects translation, migration, language justice, and belonging in a way that has not been done before. The importance of this vocabulary and of the models of analysis exemplified by the essays for translation studies, comparative and world literature, and environmental studies cannot be overstated as well as the clarity with which they show the centrality of translation to any discussion of migration, relocation, and (language) justice.

One final word of praise goes to celebrate this volume as a product of the inspiring work that the ICLA Translation Studies Research Committee has done within the association. This collection stands as a compelling example of what the Association of Comparative Literature as a hub for collective and collaborative research has to offer to the humanities in the twenty-first century.

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