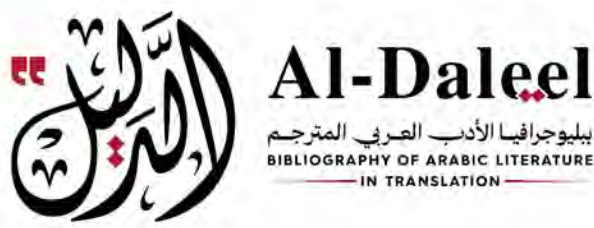


Covering Resistance: Paratexts and the Framing of Arabic Literature in Translation

An exhibition by Abdel-Wahab Khalifa

A book is judged before it is read. Titles, covers, typography, blurbs, endorsements and prefaces are not neutral wrapping. Gérard Genette called them *paratexts*: thresholds that shape how a book and its author are encountered before the text itself is read. In translation, these thresholds are rebuilt through decisions involving authors, translators, editors, publishers, designers, marketing teams and other agents in the target market.

The shifts can be striking. Bensalem Himmich's *Hādhā al-Andalusī!* (This Andalusian!) appeared in English as *A Muslim Suicide*, shifting the title from a geographical and cultural designation to the charged terms “Muslim” and “suicide”. Nawal El Saadawi's *al-Wajh al-‘ārī li-l-mar’a al-‘arabiyya* (The Naked Face of the Arab Woman) became *The Hidden Face of Eve*: exposure becomes concealment, “the Arab Woman” becomes the biblical “Eve” and a situated political critique acquires a different cultural frame. A Romanian edition of Rajaa Alsanea's *Banāt al-Riyāḍ* (Girls of Riyadh) announces itself on the cover as “chick-lit banned in Saudi Arabia”, turning prohibition into a selling point abroad. The novel's English translator, Marilyn Booth, later publicly contested revisions made without her involvement, arguing that they made the published version more accommodating to Anglophone expectations and weakened the force of its critique of gender relations.



Drawing on data from Al-Daleel, an open-access bibliography of Arabic literature in translation, this exhibition places source and target editions face to face and asks visitors to read the threshold rather than step over it. It traces how titles, images and typography can exoticise or depoliticise works, reshape genre expectations or redirect reception, while patterns of translator visibility show whose mediation is acknowledged. Such framing can also be contested. Noticing the frame is the first step towards resistance.

Workshop Conveners

Ahmad Ayyad, Binghamton University, USA
Abdel-Wahab Khalifa, Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland

Hosted by

Translation Research and Instruction Program (TRIP)

Co-Sponsors

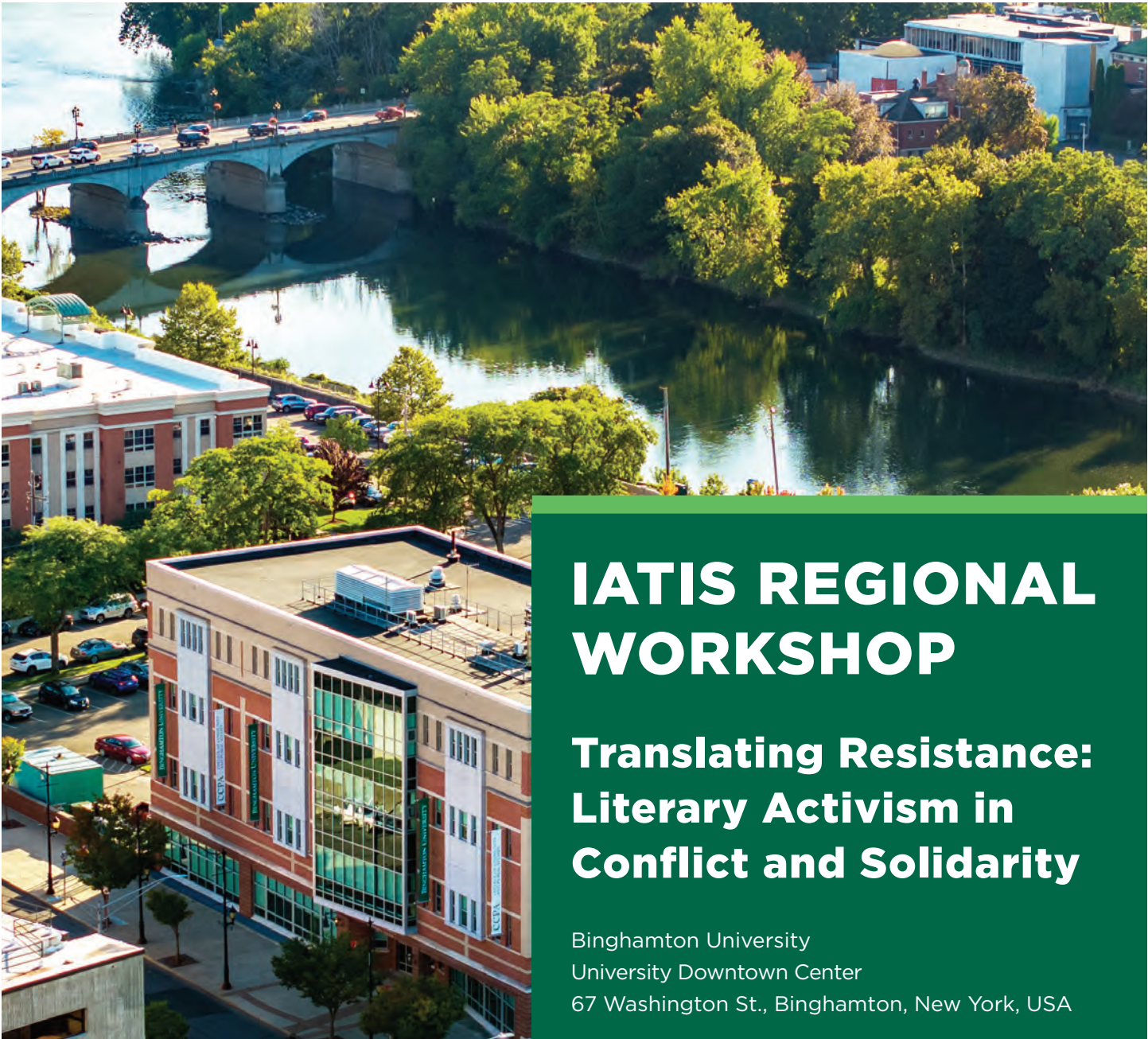
Harpur College of Arts and Sciences
Asian and Asian American Studies (AAAS)
Comparative Literature
Middle Eastern and Ancient Mediterranean Studies (MEAMS)
Romance Languages and Literatures
Human Rights Institute (HRI)
Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH)
Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention (I-GMAP)



binghamton.edu/comparative-literature/trip

Translation Research and Instruction Program (TRIP)
Binghamton University, PO Box 6000, Binghamton, NY 13902-6000
On-Campus Office: Library Tower 1410 — Phone: 607-777-6556

BINGHAMTON
UNIVERSITY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



IATIS REGIONAL WORKSHOP

Translating Resistance: Literary Activism in Conflict and Solidarity

Binghamton University
University Downtown Center
67 Washington St., Binghamton, New York, USA

OCTOBER 3-4, 2026



International Association for
Translation and Intercultural Studies

BINGHAMTON | TRANSLATION RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY | AND INSTRUCTION PROGRAM



binghamton.edu/comparative-literature/trip

Pre-IATIS Regional Workshop Day

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026

3:00–3:30 p.m.	Coffee & Registration
3:30–4:45 p.m.	Pre-conference Workshop (registration required) Publishing in International Journals: A Workshop for Early Career Researchers Facilitator: Abdel-Wahab Khalifa (Queen’s University Belfast, Northern Ireland)
4:45–5:00 p.m.	Coffee Break (catered)
5:00–5:45 p.m.	Emerging Voices: A Mentoring Session for PhD Students Moderator: Erin Riddle (Binghamton University, USA) - Translators as Mediators: Transnational Exchange and Chinese Science Fiction in the 1980s (Yijun Liu, Binghamton University, USA) - From Literary Restraint to Verbal Violence: Register Shift and Asymmetrical Intensification in the Chinese Retranslations of Saint Joan (Hongyu Lu, Binghamton University, USA)
5:45–6:00 p.m.	Break
6:00–8:00 p.m.	Translation Research and Instruction Program (TRIP) Alumni Event & Dinner (catered)

IATIS REGIONAL WORKSHOP

Translating Resistance: Literary Activism in Conflict and Solidarity

Binghamton University
University Downtown Center
67 Washington St., Binghamton, New York, USA

OCTOBER 3–4, 2026

Workshop Program

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026	
8:00–8:45 p.m.	Coffee & Registration
8:45–9:00 a.m	Welcome & Opening Remarks Workshop Conveners, University, and TRIP Representatives
9:00–9:45 a.m.	Keynote 1 Samah Selim (Rutgers University, USA) Translating Archives: ‘Radical Remembering’ and the Politics of Solidarity
10:00–10:15 a.m.	Q&A
10:15 a.m.– 12:15 p.m.	Panel 1: Solidarity and Literary Activism Chair: Brian J. Baer (Kent State University, USA) - Activist Literary Translation as Political Solidarity in Wartime (Ahmad Ayyad, Binghamton University, USA) - Translating the Iraqi Uprising: Literary Documentation of the Tishreen Uprising through Poetry and Interviews (Ban Mohamed-Saleh, Independent Researcher, USA) - Translating Away Violence: Experiential Distance and the Ethics of Translating Migration Narratives across Cultures (Xueshuo Ma, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain) - Translating Modern Womanhood: Selection, Omission, and Ideological Gatekeeping in Women’s Periodicals, 1915–1920 (Yang Yang, Binghamton University, USA)
12:15–1:15 p.m.	Lunch (catered)
1:15–2:00 p.m.	Guided tour of the Harriet Tubman statue and selected stops along the Downtown Binghamton Freedom Trail

2:00–4:00 p.m.	Panel 2: Translation, Memory and Conflict Chair: Jeanette Patterson (Binghamton University, USA) - Living Translation in Postcolonial Sudanese Novels: Building Intimacy with Arabic’s Others (Mary Youssef, Binghamton University, USA) - Translating Hassani Literature of Resistance: Voices of Memory, Identity, and Anti-Spanish Colonialism (Sidati Maalaynine, Ibn Zohr University, Morocco) - The Gaza Voice: Empowering Translation, Editorial Authority, and Literary Resistance (Layla Azmi Goushey, St. Louis Community College, USA and Taqwa Ahmed Alwawi, Baladi Magazine, Palestine) - Silent Translation as Strategy in the Grassroots Circulation of Iran-Related Conflict Narratives (Azadeh Eriss, Binghamton University, USA)
4:00–4:15 p.m.	Coffee Break (catered)
4:15–5:45 p.m.	Panel 3: Translation as Ideological Intervention Chair: Tarek Shamma (Binghamton University, USA) - Fortress Europe as a Mass Translation Device: Epistemic Violence, Communicative Injustice, and Pathways for Resistance (Juliana Schaum, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland) - Pseudotranslation, Protest, and Afterlives: Nazim Hikmet’s Letters to Taranta-Babu (Özlem Berk Albachten, University of Reading, UK) - Translating Against Exclusivity: Bahá’u’lláh and the Democratization of Scripture (Omid Ghaemmaghami, Binghamton University, USA)
5:45–6:00 p.m.	Break & Group Photo
6:00–8:00 p.m.	Conference Dinner (catered)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026

8:30–9:00 a.m.	Coffee & Registration
9:00–9:45 a.m.	Keynote 2 Ruth Abou Rached (University of Manchester, UK) Intersecting Palimpsests: Aka the Realities of Solidarity and Resistance Discourses Moving Across Lan- guages
9:45–10:00 a.m.	Q&A
10:00–10:15 a.m.	Coffee Break (catered)
10:15–11:45 a.m.	Panel 4: Digital Circulation, Representation, and Activist Networks Chair: Abdel-Wahab Khalifa (Queen’s University Belfast, Northern Ireland) - Solidarity in Translation: The Collective Agency of Literary Translation of Refugee Narratives (Marija Todorova, The Education University of Hong Kong, China) - Translating Sumud: Digital Storytelling, Testimony, and Literary Activism in Gaza (Ahmed Kamal Junina, Al-Aqsa University, Gaza, Palestine, and Harvard University, USA) - Translating Palestine Through Podcasts: Activist Mediation, Oral Testimony, and Digital Solidarity (Smriti Asha, University of Hyderabad, India)
11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.	Lunch (catered)
12:45–2:00 p.m.	Roundtable Researching and Publishing Translation in Contexts of Conflict, Activism, and Solidarity: Challenges, Opportunities, and Future Directions Moderators: Ahmad Ayyad (Binghamton University, USA) and Abdel-Wahab Khalifa (Queen’s University Belfast, Northern Ireland) - Ruth Abou Rached (University of Manchester, UK) - Layla Azmi Goushey (St. Louis Community College, USA) - Brian Baer (Kent State University, USA) - Samah Selim (Rutgers University, USA) - Marija Todorova (The Education University of Hong Kong, China)
2:00–2:15 p.m.	Wrap-up and Closing Remarks Translating Solidarity: Challenges and Futures (with Workshop Conveners and Keynote Speakers)
2:15–4:15 p.m.	Binghamton University Nature Preserve Walk (optional)