

**Forum "Wege des Wissens"**  
**November 19, 2008, 9:00 a.m – 1:00 p.m**  
**Villa Jaffé, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, Wallotstr. 10, 14193 Berlin**

**Workshop: "Translating Gender, Translating Culture"**

(in englischer Sprache)

**Program**

**9:15 – 9:30 Welcoming address, Irmela Hijiya-Kirschner (Freie Universität Berlin)**

**9:30 – 10:15 "Revisiting the Snow Country: The Effects of Translation upon Canonization," Jeffrey Angles (Western Michigan University)**

This presentation examines the effects that modes of translation can have on the eventual canonization of a work of literature. Translation uproots a work from the system of literature in its home country and transplants into another cultural system, which may be not necessarily familiar with the literary movements that gave birth to the work. In this way, translation obscures the origins of a work and conversely opens up modes of interpretation that might not necessarily be possible at home. The mode of translation that a particular translator employs may intensify this process of dislocation. Using the example of Kawabata Yasunari's famous novel *Snow Country* as an example, this presentation examines the ways that Edward Seidensticker's English translation shaped the American perception of *Snow Country* as a "traditional" Japanese novel and the subsequent effects on the novel's canonization in the Anglophone world.

**10:15 – 10:45 Commentary, Till Weingärtner (Freie Universität Berlin)**

**10:45 – 11:15 Coffeebreak**

**11:15 – 12:00 "On Translating 'Iro' and 'Love'," Indra Levy (Stanford University)**

Indra Levy will speak about the problematic use of the term "love" as a global standard from which to view intimate relations between men and women in the Japanese context. She exemplifies her thesis through the work of Saeki Junko. Levy introduces Saeki's argument about how the translation of the Western concept of "love" into Japanese as "ai" reduced the rich native vocabulary of "iro" to the singular, de-based meaning of "lust." She considers strategies for translating Japanese vocabulary into English in ways that are more productive than reductive.

**12:00 – 12:30 Commentary, Elena Giannoulis (Freie Universität Berlin)**

**12:30 – 12:45 Coffeebreak**

**12:45 – 1:00 Final Discussion**