

**“Language and Gender.  
Academic Research and  
Practical Implementation”**

# **Translation and inclusive language**

---

**Michela Baldo**  
University of Birmingham  
[M.baldo.1@bham.ac.uk](mailto:M.baldo.1@bham.ac.uk)

- **My research on language inclusivity in translation**

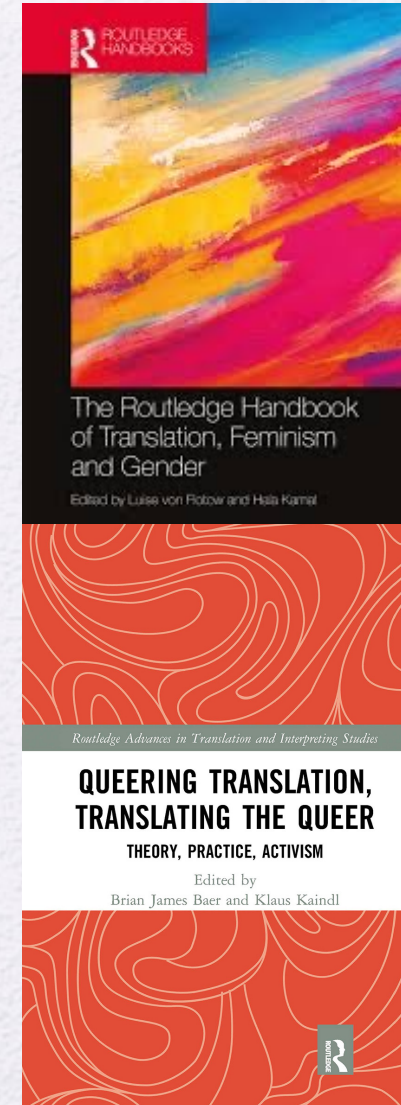
# Italian transfeminism

- Queer Transfeminism
- *Transfeminist Manifesto* by Emi Koyama (2001)
- Queer trans feminism is informed by queer and trans politics
  - Intersectionality
  - Embodiment
- Strong movement in Spain, Italy and France
  - (Espineira and Bourcier 2016)



# Translation and queer feminist activism

- Translation and activism (Baker 2006, 2013, 2016; Tymoczko 2007; Wolf 2012)
- **Queer feminist translation** (Castro and Ergun 2017; Von Flow and Kamal 2020; Baer and Kaindl 2018)



# Translation, performativity and affect

## Translation: **performativity scholarship**

- Performative turn (Bigliuzzi et. al 2013; Marinetti 2013; Wolf 2017; Baldo 2019, 2020):
- Translation **and affect** (Bermann 2014; Gregg and Seigworth 2010; Koskinen 2020) given the importance placed on the **body by transfeminism** (Baldo 2019, 2020, 2023)

# Queer linguistics

- **A branch of critical discourse studies: a reaction to** essentialist, hegemonic and naturalized notions of gender and sexuality
- Queer linguistics focuses on the linguistic construction of **non-heterosexual** but also **heterosexual identities**
- **Queer linguistics:** analyses instances of heteronormative discourse but also discourse that subverts hegemonic notions of gender and sexuality  
(Motschenbacher 2010: 180)



# Language inclusivity: English examples

- Gender based discrimination/misogyny/sexism

Domestic worker (no domestic servant); forced marriage (no child marriage); humankind (no mankind);

Sex worker (no prostitute); workforce (no manpower); anti-abortion (no pro life); survivor of rape (no victim of rape)

- LGBTQIA+ rights and inclusion

- Afab/Acab (no biological male/female); gender non conforming people (no gender minorities); LGBTQIA+ (no LGBT); transgender (no transgendered)

- Migration and refugee rights

- Asylum seeker (no illegal immigrant); biracial (no mixed race); First Nations (Indians); Indigenous (no Aboriginal - in Canada)

- Race and decolonization

- People of colour (no Bame, mixed race, coloured)

# Language inclusivity: Italian translated examples

- The use of a more inclusive language accounting for the multiple ranges of genders and sexualities
  - The asterisk-\*, @, -u, -Schwa (ə /ɜ)
  - Feminine plural as inclusive
    - *Of colour, Indigenous*
    - *Queer/queerness*
- *Queen, butch, bulldagger, two spirits, hijira*



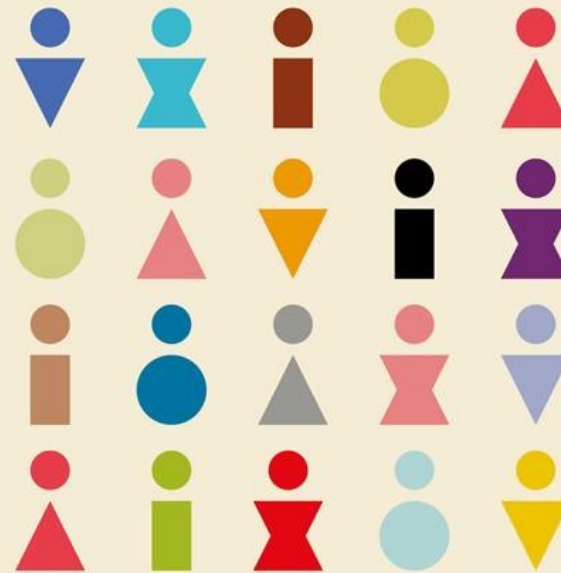
# Translation example (2023)

## Anthology of Sara Ahmed's thought

Introduction by Elia Arfini and Michela Baldo

Translation by Michela Baldo and feminoska

## Sara Ahmed UN'ALTRA CENA ROVINATA



Saggi scelti

DOCUMENTI

FANDANGO  
LIBRI

# Fandango 2023

## Paratextual and linguistic choices

Preface by the translators (Michela Baldo and feminoska)

*Diversity work*: lavoro sulla diversità

*Snap*: sbotto

Play on words: *butt* (scherzo) and *rebuttal* (confutazione)  
*wall* (muro) and *will* (ostinazione)

Feminine as gender inclusive and use of *schwa*

- Thank you