

Call for Papers  
**NORMATIVITY AND RESILIENCE**  
**in Translation and Culture**  
27 – 29 May 2019

Norms can be broadly defined as some kind of protection from change, a prescribed standard whose violation involves distortion and deformation, a transformation into something which the normal thing is not. Though derived from carpentry, the art of construction of rigid objects (*norma* is the Latin word for carpenter's square), normativity has become a measure of things more evanescent than furniture – of ethical, social, aesthetic or political judgements, of certain cultural norms which may seem to be universal only given that they survive the test of being transferred, or translated, to other cultures. If, as Yuri Lotman noted in his *Universe of the Mind* (1990), “the elementary act of thinking is translation” (143), then translation can be viewed as a crucial activity involved in the formation of cultures along with their concepts, conceptualizations and norms. However, since translation, as a kind of dialogue, is inevitably asymmetrical and assumes only “a degree invariancy” (143), this degree seems to be an effect of culture’s resilience to the inadequacy and change involved in any kind of translation. Paradoxically, it is the change, the rupturing of the norm in and through translation which is a constitutive element of normativity. This “rupturing of the norm,” wrote Lotman, “is what builds up the image of the truly essential but unrealized norm” (90). Thus normativity is both a matter of representation and something which may be called a feature of the world, the latter possibility figuring as an unrealizable effect of broadly understood translation which simultaneously protects and disrupts it. Looking at the ideas of norm and normativity in culture in the context of translation we would like to think about various locations of what may be called normative ‘ought’ statements, sometimes implicitly dictating our choices of words and ideas; the quiet demands of discourse to retain norms despite various perturbations. The ‘ought’ statements of normativity, of retaining the norm, seem to be an important aspect of management of resistance whose significant function is, as Judith Butler claims in *Vulnerability in Resistance*, concealment of destitution (8). The ‘ought’ of resilience has become not only the desired good of neoliberalism, but also, as she puts it, “a force to be reckoned within the realm of hegemonic ethics of and truths about the self” (53). One of the tasks of the conference is to attempt, at least provisionally, to locate the whereabouts of such ‘ought’ statements, the teachings of imaginary security and certainty consisting in the ability of jumping into prior shape.

We invite papers and presentations approaching the issues of translation, normativity and resilience from possibly broadest theoretical and methodological perspectives such as Translation Studies, Linguistics, Literary Criticism, Critical Theory, Cultural Studies, Feminist and Gender Studies, Queer Theory, Philosophy, Sociology, History of Ideas, Colonial and Postcolonial Studies ..., realizing that a strictly single-disciplinary approach is nowadays hardly thinkable. We suggest the following, broad, thematic suggestions as a map showing a few orientation points of the conference:

resilience as adaptation	normative modification
norm and nature	resilience and standardization
normativity and originality	resilience and empowerment
normativity and creativity	resilience and retaliation
normalcy and creativity	norm as domination
normative translation	resilience and change
normativity and ethics	prescriptive vs. normative
norm and its others	normality and monstrosity
language of the norm	resilience and adaptability
normativity and meaning	resilience and plasticity
limits of normativity	resilience as vulnerability
normal / accepted	uncertainty and norm
rules / norms / idiosyncrasy	control and resilience
rules / norms / transgressions	translation and adaptation
adherence / infringement / violation	translation and change
resilience / conformity	cultures in translation
resilience / immunity	resilience as recovery
resilience vs. resistance	normativity, resilience, survival

**Keynote speakers:**

**Professor Tomasz Basiuk, University of Warsaw**

**Professor Luise von Flotow, University of Ottawa**

**Professor David Malcolm, University of Gdansk**

Proposals for 20-minute papers (ca 250 words) should be sent to [normativity@swps.edu.pl](mailto:normativity@swps.edu.pl) **by 10 March 2019**. We also encourage panel proposals comprised of 3 to 4 papers, and an additional 100-150 words explaining how they are interlinked in addressing the panel theme.

Notification of acceptance will be sent by **15 March 2019**.

The deadline for registration and payment of the conference fee: **15 April 2019**.

Participants will be invited to submit extended versions of their presentations to be published in an edited volume.

The conference fee is **590 PLN | 140 EUR | 160 USD** for all participants.

Conference organizers: Dr. Agnieszka Pantuchowicz, Dr. Anna Warso, Dr. Paulina Grzęda

Conference website: [www.swps.edu.pl/normativity](http://www.swps.edu.pl/normativity)