

**CALL FOR CHAPTERS**  
***Carnal Languages - Interdisciplinary Issues in Sexual Communication***

**Editors:** Dr Piero Toto (London Metropolitan University - UK) and Dr Mirco Costacurta (Università di Verona - Italy)

This edited volume aims to explore the multifaceted dimensions of sexuality and its expressions through a range of social contexts. Its purpose is to investigate language(s) and bodies as vessels for research as postulated by *carnal sociology* (Wacquant, 2005) by exploring the intricate relationship between language, sexuality and the mediatisation of the latter (De Ridder, 2017) and by focusing on how these elements intertwine to shape our understanding of sexual narratives, sexual health, sex work, and sexual identities.

In the context of Translation Studies, ethnographic approaches have also gained prominence as researchers delve into the practices, processes, and interactions of translation agents (Marin-Lacarta & Yu, 2023). Although language can be seen as 'a key resource through which human beings talk and write about, and hence understand, the world' (Milani, 2016), it should also be understood as 'a primary means by which the body enters the sociocultural realm as a sight of symbiosis' (Bucholtz and Hall, 2016), which implies that its application to expressing and understanding sexuality encompasses several realms through which humans try to convey the complexities of their lived experiences. Previous research on sexualities, language and desire has focused predominantly on foregrounding performances of masculinities/femininities by analysing linguistic varieties spoken by sexual minorities (Leap, 1996; Levon, 2010; Baker, 2014), whereas contemporary research around sexuality has diversified its topics and methodologies (Gagnon & Simon, 1973; Frost et al., 2014; DeLamater & Plante, 2015). Nevertheless, significant gaps persist in our understanding of sexual worlds and desires, for example when communication extends to sexual health and wellbeing (Lindlof & Taylor, 2002).

This web of interdependences has been recently investigated in novel approaches to translation, for example, where a sociosemiotic lens has been applied to multimodal expressions of meanings (Adami, 2023), thus further enriching this discipline by way of stratifying communication alongside traditional translation methods (Nord, 1997; Malmkjær, 2005; Baer, 2020). This layered approach is similar to current explorations into ethnographic studies (Irvine, 2014) which may arguably introduce ethical and moral complexities when delving into matters of sexuality.

We are therefore interested in exploring how sexuality and desire manifest, along with their potential biases and resulting knowledge gaps, through practical methods and lived-experience testimonies from diverse backgrounds, such as: the translation of sexual terms across several loci of expression (e.g. audiovisual translation, literature, digital sexual health); sex work (in queer/non-queer media); discriminatory uses of language and censorship; ethnographic experiences concerning sex, gender and intimacy.

The questions raised in this volume are, amongst others:

- What are contemporary forms of gatekeeping in translation practices/tools when dealing with sexual content?
- How are sexually non-normative identities (e.g. non-binary people, sex workers) of scholars and researchers negotiated in academia?
- How does censorship in media communication (including in translation) affect the representation of sexualities?
- How is sexuality presented in ethnographic studies?
- What are the most widely used and most widely neglected ethnographic methods when studying bodies and Others?

The intended readership of this edited volume is expected to be professionals and researchers in the fields of Translation/Literary Studies and Ethnography. The editors intend to use this volume to encourage researchers and practitioners to address the need for wider 'embodied approaches' in sexuality studies and their associated ramifications, and to share their experiences and practices in this interdisciplinary field.

Scholars are encouraged to propose chapters on aspects and themes such as:

- Translation (including queer translation, localization, audiovisual translation, literary translation, medical and technical translation, machine translation and AI-powered translation)

- Gender and LGBTQ+ Studies
- Gender in Translation
- Ethnography
- Social Psychology
- Sociology
- Anthropology
- Spaces/Performances connected to sexual expressions
- Scholarly Research and Sex Work

### **Deadline for Abstracts**

- 15 June 2024

### **Indicative Subsequent Timeline**

- notification of acceptance of abstracts: 1 month after deadline for abstracts
- deadline for fully written chapters: 7 months from notification of acceptance
- notification of acceptance of chapters: 2 months after deadline for full chapters
- expected publication date: 6 months from acceptance of chapters (to be confirmed)

Please send abstracts of 300-500 words in English to [p.toto@londonmet.ac.uk](mailto:p.toto@londonmet.ac.uk) and [mirco.costacurta@univr.it](mailto:mirco.costacurta@univr.it) in Word or PDF format, by the deadline indicated above.

Abstracts should include:

- Name(s) of author(s)
- Author affiliation(s) – university or institution, e-mail, phone number
- Title
- Abstract (300-500 words)
- A short bibliography, if applicable (max 300 characters)

**The proposed book project is under consideration with Palgrave Macmillan.**

### **About the Editors**

**Dr Piero Toto** is a Senior Lecturer in Translation at London Metropolitan University (UK). He is the author of *Queering Sexual Health Translation Pedagogy* (Cambridge University Press, 2023) and co-editor of *Gender Approaches in the Translation Classroom* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019); he is a member of London Metropolitan University's *Gender and Sexual Diversity Research Group*. He is an experienced English into Italian translator, bilingual poet and has written articles on masculinity, queer language and translation pedagogy, amongst other things.

**Dr Mirco Costacurta** is a Research Fellow in Social Psychology at the Department of Human Sciences at the University of Verona (Italy), where he currently works on explicit and implicit investigations of LGBTQ+ conspiracy beliefs from an intergroup and intragroup perspective. He has obtained a PhD in Social Sciences from the University of Padua relating to an ethnographic study on kinky rituals in men who have sex with men (MSM). Since 2012 he has also been involved in sex-positive activism and sex education for young people and adults with NGOs, such as Italian LGBT-rights advocacy network Arcigay.

### **Contact information**

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