**Translation and Transformation in the Age of Revolution (1750-1850)**

**Third Conference of the U4 Network *Reverberations of Revolution: Political Upheaval Seen from Afar* in cooperation with the Early Career Research Group *Multiple Modernities***

University of Göttingen, June 23-25, 2016

This symposium of the U4 network *Reverberations of Revolution: Political Upheaval Seen from Afar* will focus on the understudied translation processes in the Age of Revolution (1750-1850). The category of revolution is itself a product of translation: From Latin to French, to German, English and other languages and, in a more metaphorical sense, from astronomy to politics, from the history of nature to the history of mankind. What is more, without translations the reception of revolutionary events (and writings) would have been impossible in a transnational public sphere. Several professional revolutionaries were prolific translators themselves, for example Mary Wollestonecraft or Friedrich Engels. And several translators of revolutionary literature were engaged in radical movements or contexts – such as Georg Forster or Meta Forkel-Liebeskind, translator of Thomas Paine.

Within revolutionary exile communities, translation functioned as an instrument to escape censorship but also served the differentiation of various ethnic, national and ideological factions. At the same time, censors responsible for monitoring subversive propaganda were themselves involved in translation activities, and thus paradoxically worked as multiplicators of revolutionary ideology. In spite of this, the impact of translations and their complexity have been largely ignored in standard historical accounts of the Atlantic revolutions. The reception of revolutionary events from afar, based on the translation of eyewitness accounts, newspaper articles, revolutionary pamphlets and constitutions, inspired new upheavals on both sides of the Atlantic – and attempts to prevent them. The medial conditions involved transnational networks of translators and correspondents, many of them female. Hence a transatlantic, if not global public sphere, in which revolutionary narratives and ideas were constructed and disseminated, emerged to a high degree through practices of translation.

We invite contributions focusing on how translation proved a catalyst for the spread of revolutionary ideas and narratives but also how it modified, transformed and distorted those very ideas and narratives. Submissions may seek to investigate the following research areas:

* The migration of revolutionary ideas and narratives across national borders
* The role of censorship in containing and spreading revolutionary ideas
* Transnational translator networks
* The activities of international correspondents
* Revolutionary translator networks of women
* The emergence of a transatlantic / global revolutionary narrative through translation

Please submit your proposal (300-word abstract) for a 20-minute paper no later than February 15, 2016. Proposals should include your name, academic affiliation and brief biography and be sent to the conference organizers F.Kappeler@gmx.de and bschaff@uni-goettingen.de

You will find more information about the U4 network and the research group here:

http://www.u4network.eu/index.php/network/projects/172-reverberations-of-revolution

https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/multiple-modernities/493711.html