

**BORDER CROSSINGS: RETHINKING “TRANS-” IN  
LITERATURE, LANGUAGE, AND MEDIA**

**CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS**

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LITERATURE, LANGUAGE, AND MEDIA**

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&  
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## Foreword

Few words have been as much in the centre of attention in recent years as the unassuming prefix ‘trans’: from translation to transnationalism to transsexuality, we seem to be living in the epoch of ‘trans’.

From a Latin term meaning ‘beyond’ or ‘on the other side’ – the equivalent of Greek ‘meta’ – ‘trans’ connotes any movement across a border, whether geographical (trans rhenum, ‘across the Rhine’), linguistic (‘translation’), political (‘transnational’), social or sexual (‘transsexual’), and not least in relation to diaspora, migration, and exile (refugees as transnationals).

These are just a few of the contexts in which we rely on ‘trans’ to describe phenomena that do not fit neatly into set borders or distinctions. Closely related are the dynamics of minority cultures, which question the logic of borders from within.

This volume responsibly tackles various aspects of ‘trans’ in literature, language, media, or culture and presents the readers with satisfactory answers to questions like: *Where and how do phenomena cross borders or mix domains? What forms of diversity do ‘trans-processes’ allow or foment? Do ‘trans-phenomena’ transcend [!] borders? Or establish new ones? And why is ‘trans’ so much in the public eye today?*

The authors endeavour to describe, analyze, or also critique discourses of ‘trans’ in quite a wide range of academic disciplines: literary studies, linguistics, cultural and media studies, international studies. By exploring the universal phenomenon of crossing borders, they strive to shed new light on the prevalence of ‘trans’ in today’s culture, and invite the readership to let itself engrossed in intriguing issues such as *Translation across languages, media, sign-systems; Multilingualism in literature, media, and communication; Cultures and processes of migration and exile; Crossing borders in film and other media; Hybridity in language, culture, media; Representations of transcendence; Metaphor (Latin: translatio) and metonymy in language, culture, media.*

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