
The Global Novel Decentered: Poetic Challenges and Cross-border Literary Circulation

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Timeframe: September 2021 – August 2024



A Critical Unfolding of the Global Novel

A new, more integrated, and decentralized perspective in the study of the emergent genre of the “global novel”

A selected group of 17 post-1989 novels

A crossing of poetic and sociological approaches to the genre

The novels are selected according to the following markers. 1) global interconnectedness, 2) global violence, 3) cosmopolitanism, 4) affect, 5) translatability, and 6) planetarity.

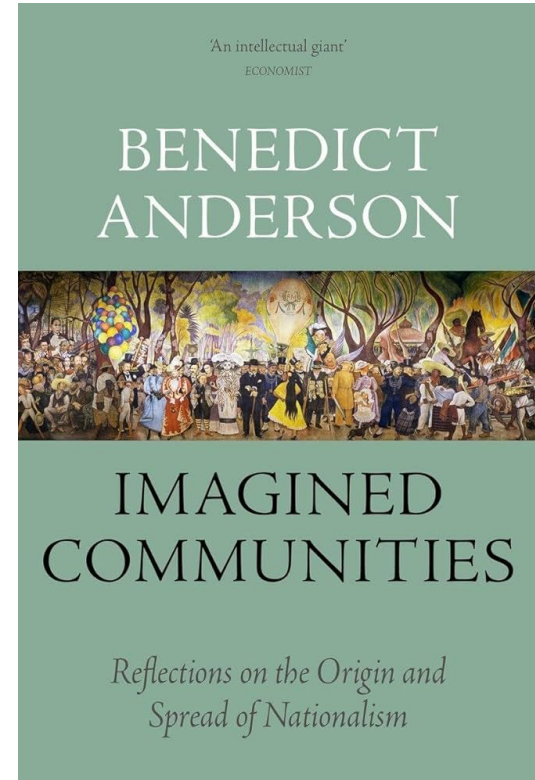
A critical unfolding of the global novel

“The novel no longer accounts for the nation, but rather for the world as an imagined community” (Anderson 2016)

Challenges of a post-1989 world: hyperconnectivity, planetary and environmental justice, and international human rights

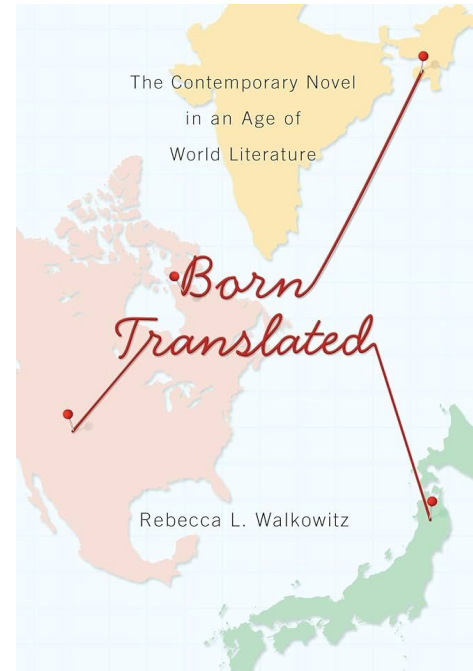
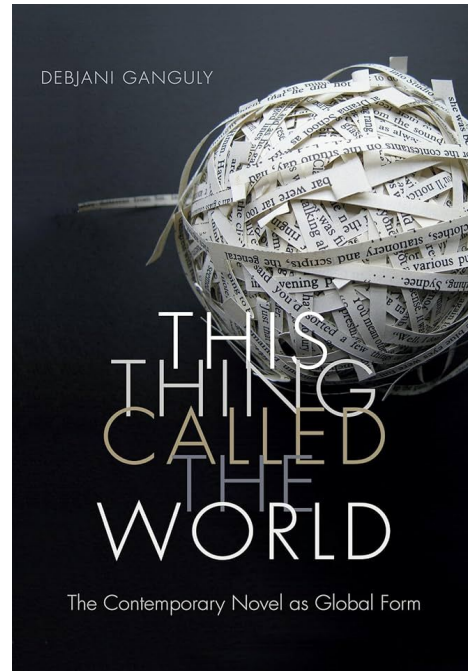
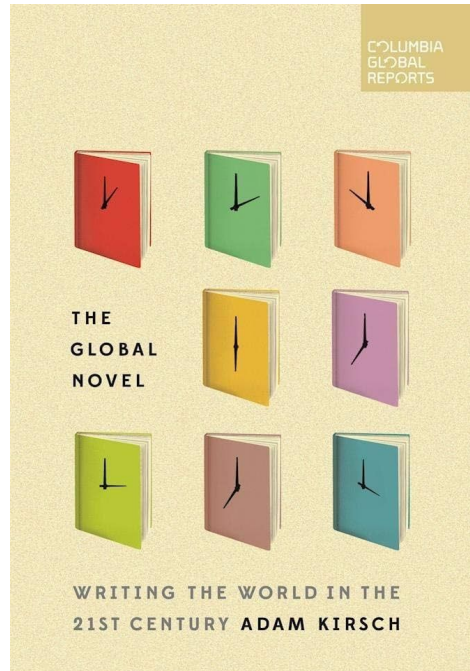


An effort to move beyond national frontiers encourages a redrawing of disciplinary boundaries



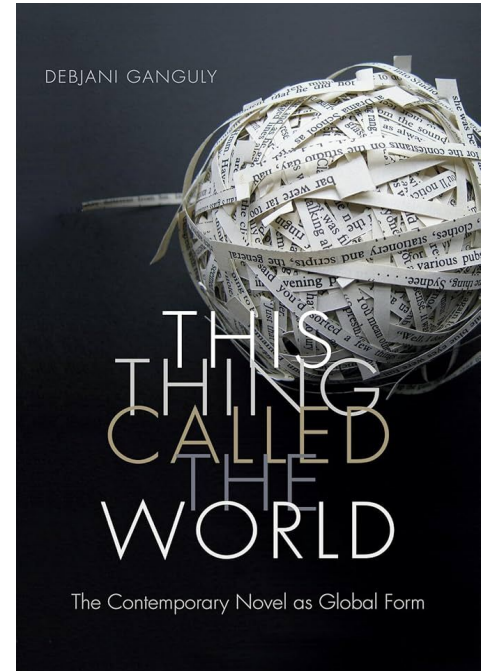
A critical unfolding of the global novel

“A global archive that newly engages with the world’s conflicting forces” (Rotger, Puxan-Oliva 2021)



A critical unfolding of the global novel

“Around the historically significant threshold of 1989, a new kind of novel as a global literary form emerged at the conjuncture of three critical phenomena: the geopolitics of war and violence since the end of the cold war; hyperconnectivity through advances in information technology; and the emergence of a new humanitarian sensibility in a context where suffering has a presence in everyday life through the immediacy of digital images” (Ganguly 2016).



A critical unfolding of the global novel

“The question of whether world literature can exist—in particular, whether the novel, the preeminent modern genre of exploration and explanation, can be “global”—is another way of asking whether a meaningfully global consciousness can exist” (Kirsch 2016).

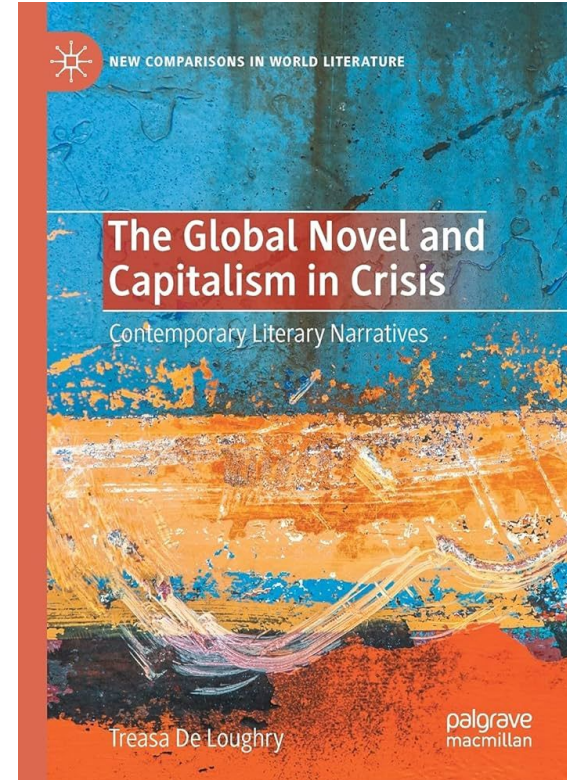
“(…) many novels do not appear in translation. They have been written for translation from the start. [...] Translation is not secondary or incidental to these works. It is a condition of their production.” (Walkowitz 2015:3).

A critical unfolding of the global novel

The Dull New Global Novel

Tim Parks

The growth of a world market for literature has tended to elevate novels that neglect linguistic virtuosity and political complexity.

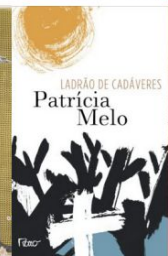
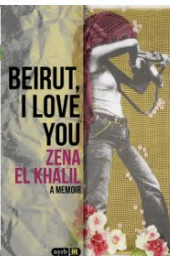
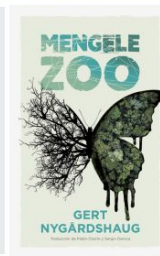
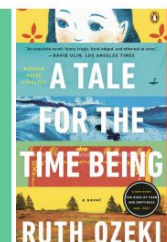
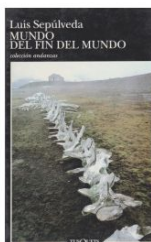
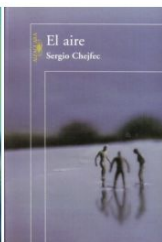


A critical unfolding of the global novel

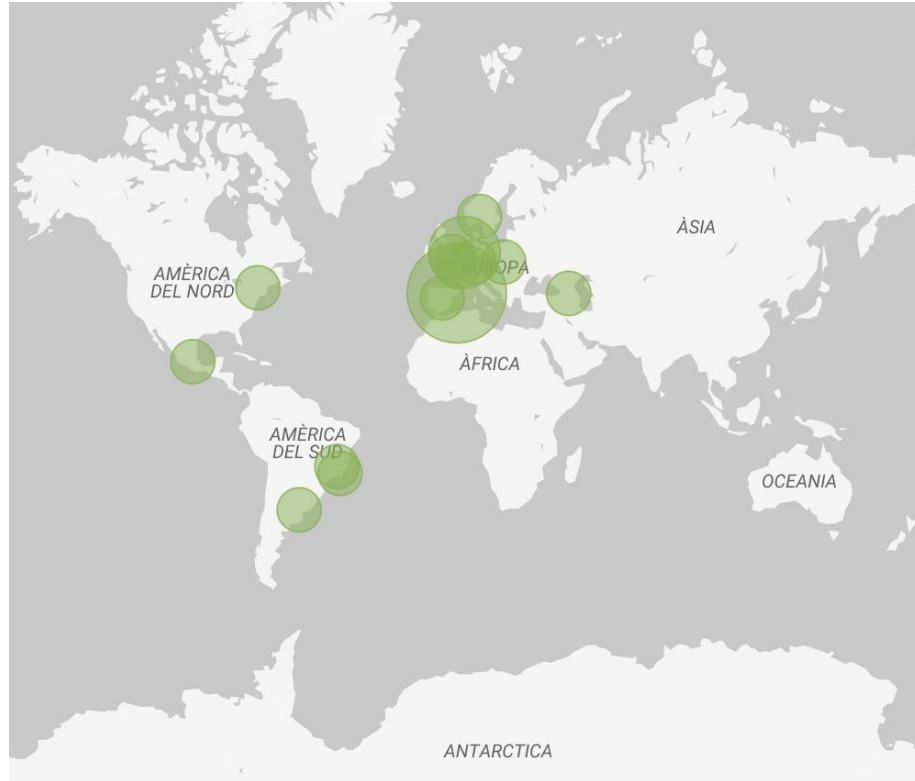
- How uniform is this archive?
- Can we really describe a world-consciousness, or even a shared sense of an ethical and political global community, without considering the material conditions of international circulation?

17 post-1989 novels

CORPUS



17 post-1989 novels



1500 data entries concerning the translation, circulation and consecration of our corpus novels

- Original and translated editions: 298
- Language of publication: 43
- Literary reviews: 610
- Interviews with the authors in different countries: 120
- Specialized academic works: 156
- Awarded or short-listed literary prizes: 55
- Film, TV, and theater adaptations
- Metadata from relevant literary agents involved in their international circulation—from translators to literary agents, foreign rights agents, and publishers.

Databases



goodreads

Three Percent a resource for international literature at the University of Rochester



TranslatorsHub

Directorio de Asociaciones
de Traductores

17 post-1989 novels



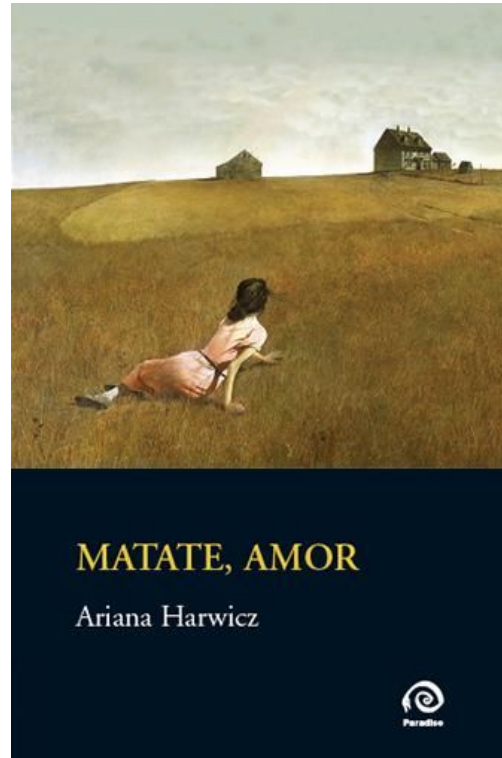
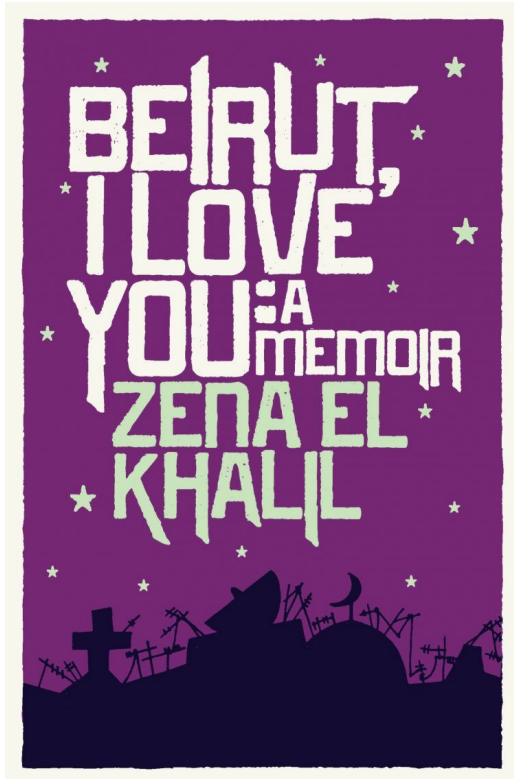
Coetzee: “No me gusta que el inglés se haya apoderado del mundo”

PAGE-TURNER
**J. M. COETZEE'S WAR AGAINST
GLOBAL ENGLISH**

Coetzee continúa su idilio con el español

El Nobel de Literatura culmina una trilogía literaria con 'La muerte de Jesús' y, por segunda vez, publica en castellano antes que en inglés

17 post-1989 novels



Catalan Open Research Infraestructure



FAIR principles

2023: LOD

Catalan Open Research Infraestructure

<https://dataverse.csuc.cat/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.34810/data1806>

The Novel as Global Form Project: Critical Reception and Circulation Data

Version 1.0



Bellido, Aitana; Ikoff, Ventsislav; Sangrà Bruguera, Marta; Puxan-Oliva, Marta; Rotger, Neus, 2024, "The Novel as Global Form Project: Critical Reception and Circulation Data", <https://doi.org/10.34810/data1806>, CORA.Repositori de Dades de Recerca, V1

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since 2024-04-01

The Global Novel Decentered: Poetic Challenges and Cross-border Literary Circulation

English: 5
French: 1
Catalan: 1
German: 1



The novels have been **written originally in 10 languages**

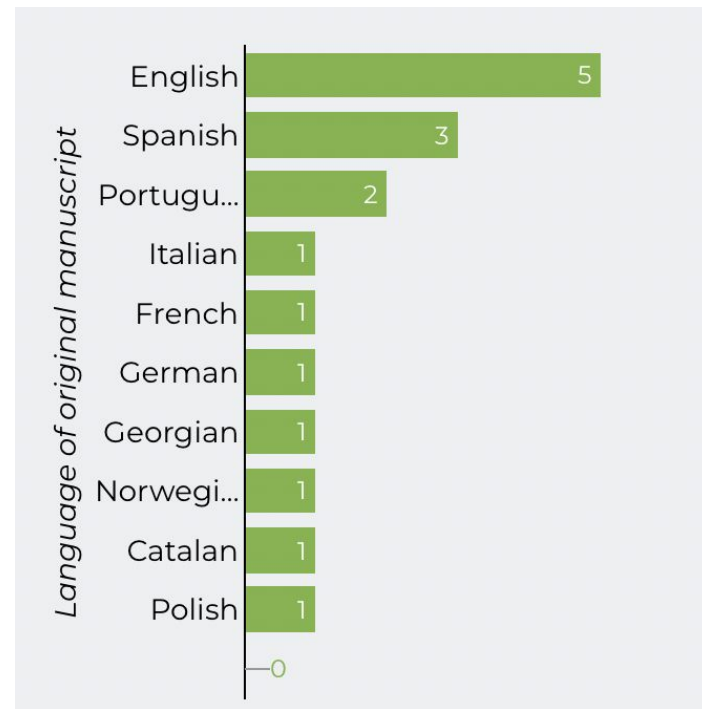
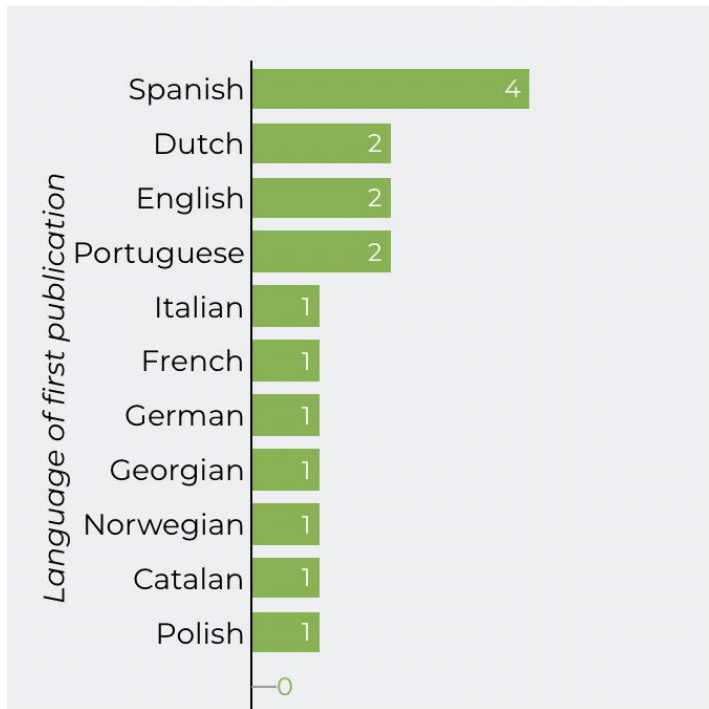
by authors who are originally from 

Georgian: 1
Italian: 1
Norwegian: 1
Polish: 1
Portuguese: 1
Spanish: 3

Argentina: 2
Brazil: 2
Colombia: 1
France: 1

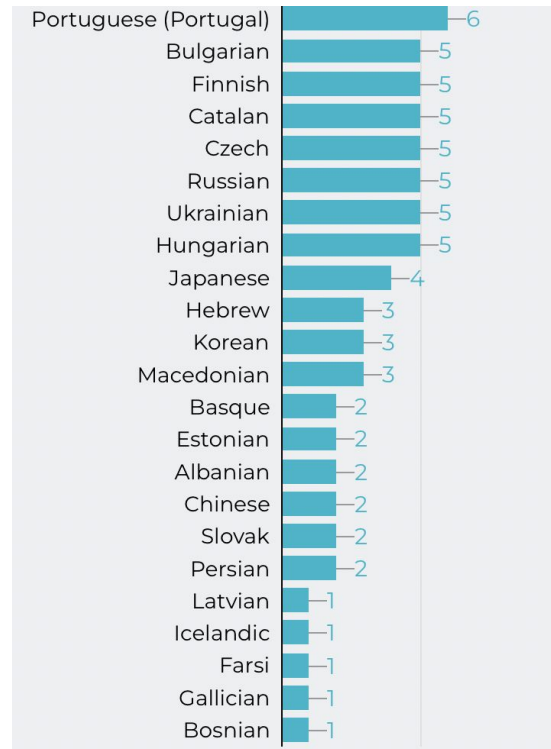
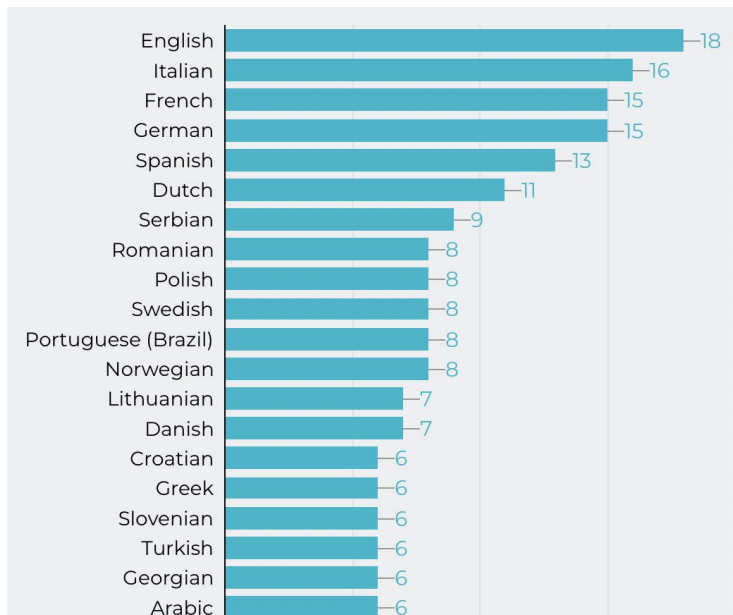
Georgia: 2
Italy: 1
Lebanon: 1
Norway: 1
Poland: 1
South Africa: 1
Spain: 1
Turkey: 1

The Global Novel Decentered: Poetic Challenges and Cross-border Literary Circulation



The Global Novel Decentered: Poetic Challenges and Cross-border Literary Circulation

The novels have been translated
into 43 different languages



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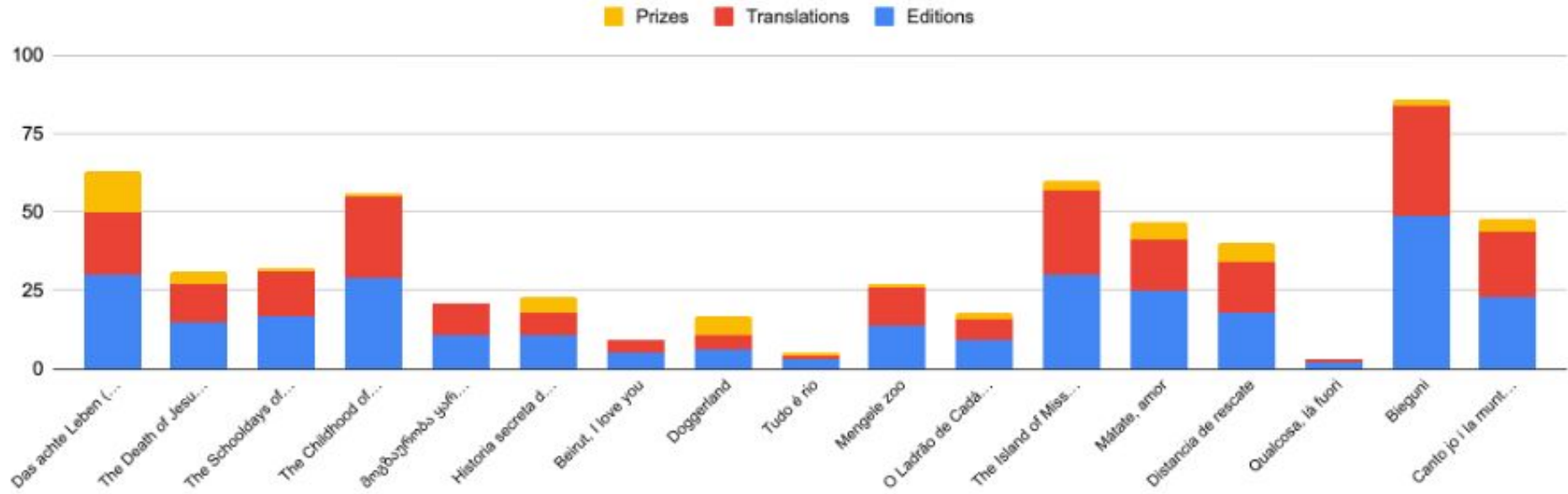
Our corpus targeted languages	Index Translationum targeted languages
English	German
French	French
Italian	Spanish
German	English
Spanish	Japanese
Dutch	Dutch
Serbian	Russian
Swedish	Swedish
Norwegian	Danish
Polish	Italian

English, French, German, and Spanish occupy the first five positions, but in different order, even though we have included novels with no English translation

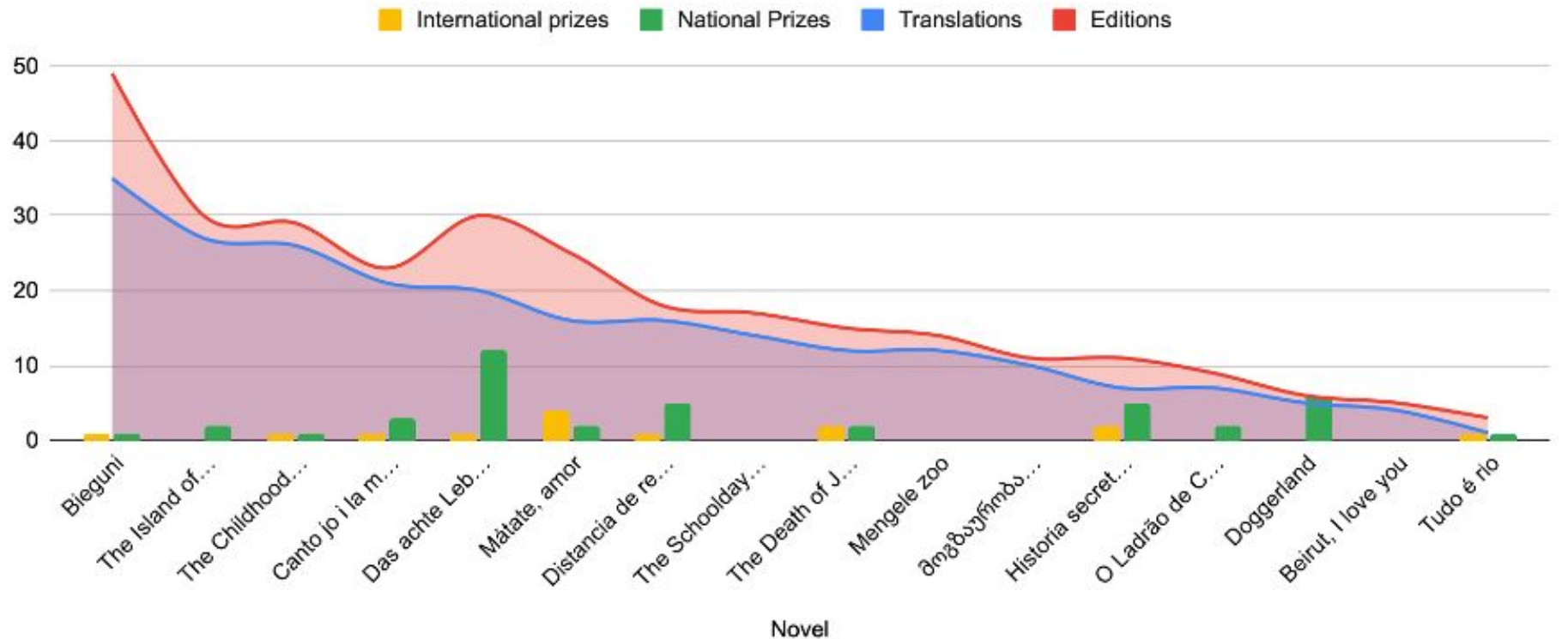
English has not been the first language of translation in either of the 17 novels, excluding the ones written originally in English.

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Editions, Translations and Prizes



The Global Novel Decentered: Poetic Challenges and Cross-border Literary Circulation



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Relevant cultural agents

259 relevant cultural agents :

224 translators

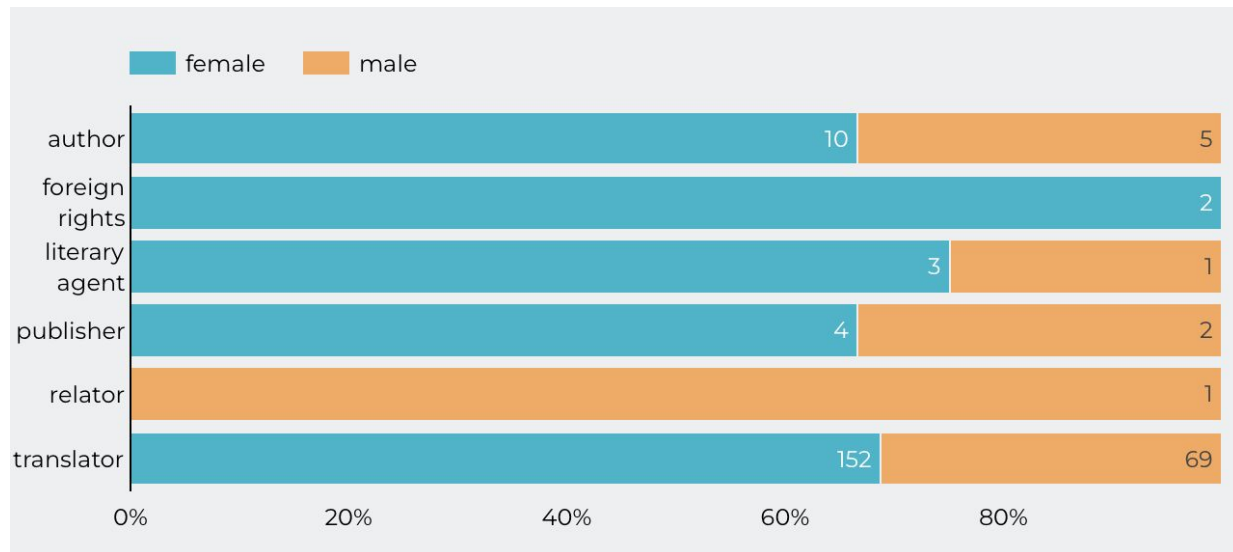
8 publishers

4 literary agents

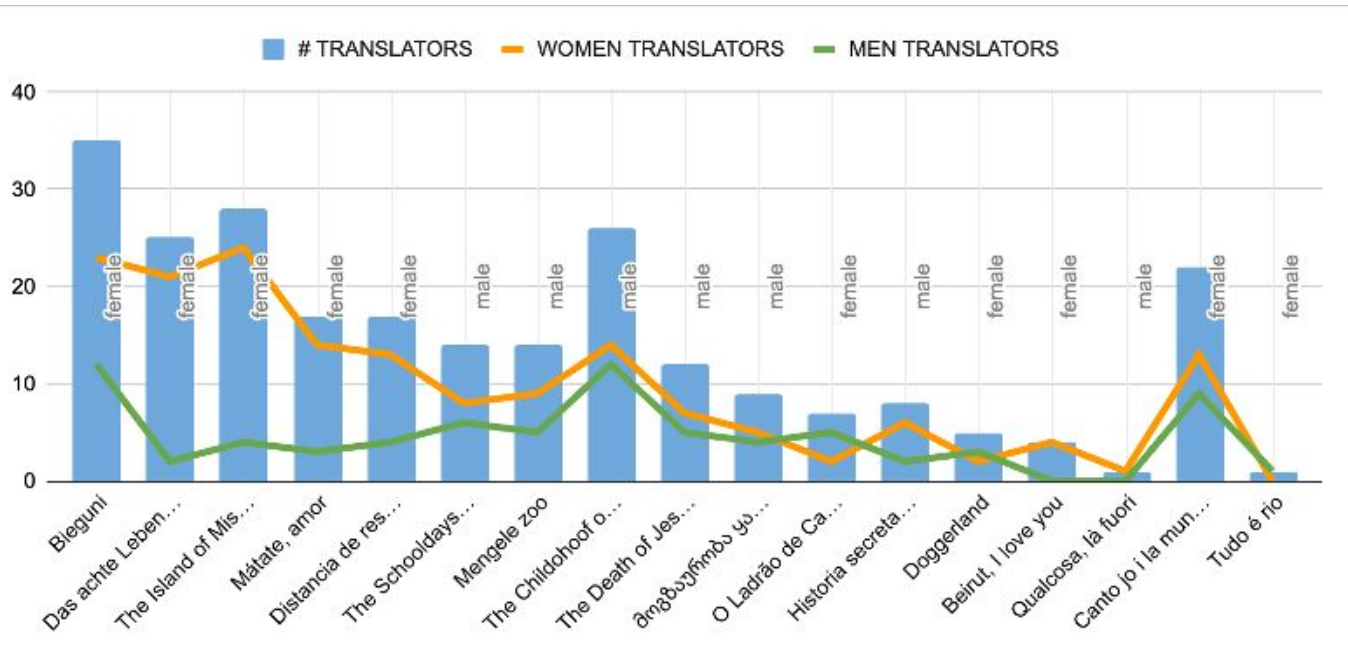
3 relators

2 foreign rights agents

the 14 novel's authors



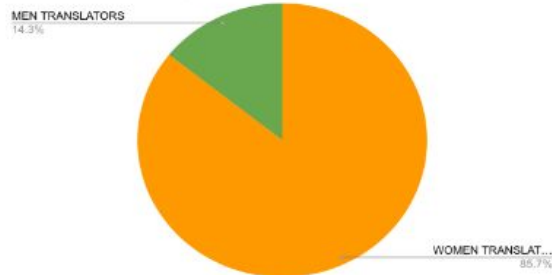
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Interestingly, as the number of translations of a novel increases, the disparity between the author's and the translator's gender diminishes

The Global Novel Decentered: Poetic Challenges and Cross-border Literary Circulation

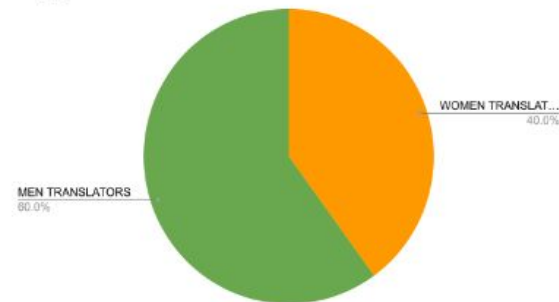
The Island of Missing Trees



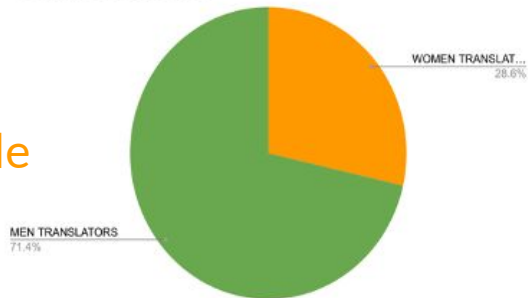
Das achte Leben (für Brilka)



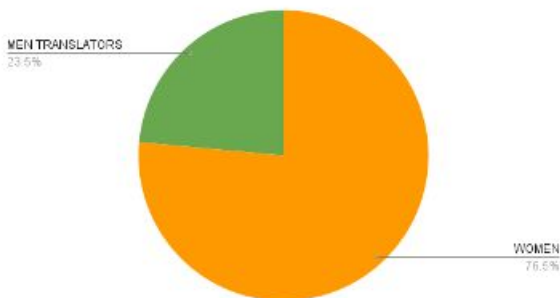
Doggerland



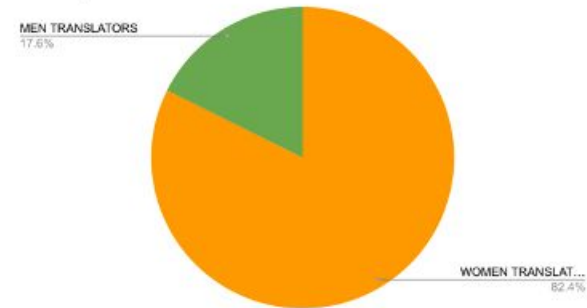
O Ladrão de Cadáveres



Distancia de rescate



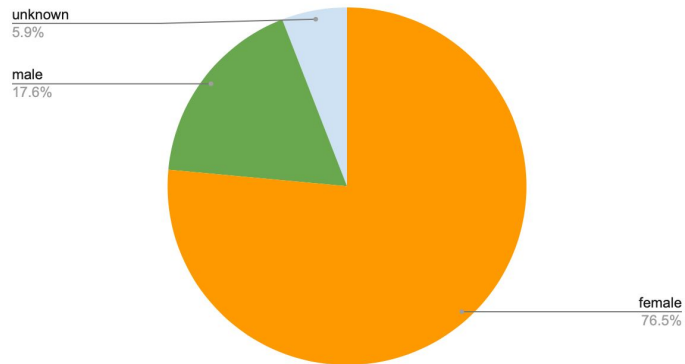
Mátate, amor



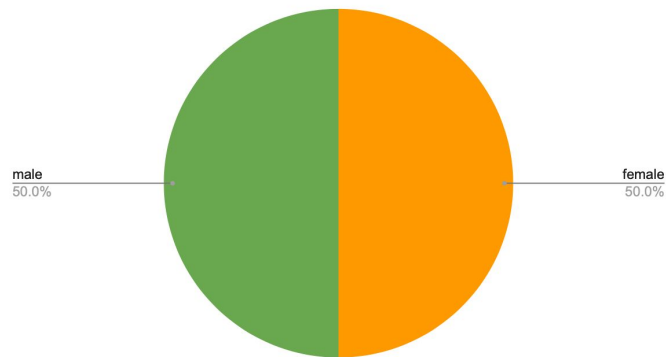
male
female

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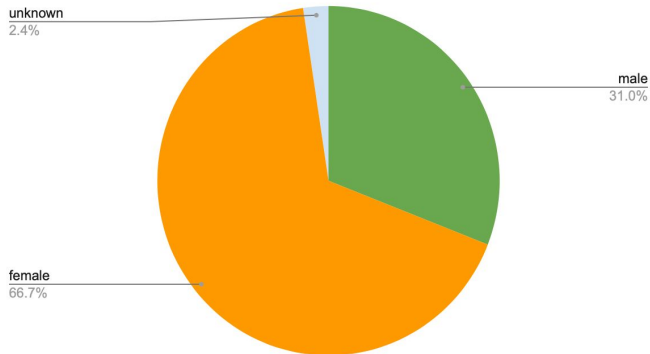
Bieguni before Booker



Bieguni after Booker



Bieguni overall



male
female
unknown

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Poetic Challenges and Cross-border Literary Circulation**

THANK YOU