Translator Agency in Turkey under Censorial Constraints: 
Institutional Pressure on Translation

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Translation is one of the spheres where the effects of an ideology are most visible because what is allowed and proscribed to exist in a culture is immediately reflected on the constraints surrounding the agents of translators, e.g., the translators, editors, publishers, and their resulting translational behavior. Rethinking the issue of translator agency within a framework of censorship can shed light on both the unusual and imperceptible constraints that impinge on translational activity. Through a review of a variety of scandalous translation cases that have generated much legal, academic, and public debate in Turkey, this talk explores the question of translator agency under an emerging authoritarian regime with a focus on the institutional forms of censorship in the production of translated literature. By casting light on the multifaceted power relations between the agents of translation and institutions of power, a study on censorship and translator agency also contributes to ongoing studies of how larger systems of culture and literature evolve.

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