

MITTEL-EUROPA? SOME AFTERTHOUGHTS ON PRAGUE JEWS, "HYBRIDITY," AND TRANSLATION

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It is well known that primarily German-speaking Jewish Prague writers of Franz Kafka's generation took on the translation of the key works of Czech modernism and their mediation to a broader European public. This group included Max Brod, Franz Werfel, Rudolf Fuchs, and Otto Pick, among others. Earlier study has explored how this extraordinary cultural contribution could be seen within the context of other exceptional literary production of this generation, as well as the context of ethnic cultural politics in Bohemia in the early twentieth century. This piece seeks to reframe those explorations within the theoretical frame suggested by the term "hybridity," specifically as it has been used by post-colonial literary theorists. Turning then to specific examples of Prague Jewish translators, the focus will be on the specificity of the cultural meanings of translation at this particular historical moment.