

Mapping the Global Translations of Simone de Beauvoir's *Le Deuxième Sexe* (1949)

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Abstract

Simone de Beauvoir's *Le Deuxième Sexe* (1949) is a fundamental source of philosophical feminist knowledge, providing concrete evidence of women's societal oppression and delineating the constructed nature of gender.

Its translation into more than forty languages to date has contributed to shaping knowledge in discourses on gender and sexuality, and the centrality of Beauvoir's text is testament to its continued relevancy for feminist thought and activism in a multitude of global contexts.

To date, important scholarship on the translation of this cornerstone text into specific locales exists, yet, in isolated pockets.

The aim of this study will be to map the transnational and trans-generational dissemination of Beauvoir's *Le Deuxième Sexe* by locating details of all existing translations. Collating details such as translation dates, translator profiles, publishers, front cover images and whether a full or partial translation exists, this project will seek to map how Beauvoir's text has travelled globally.

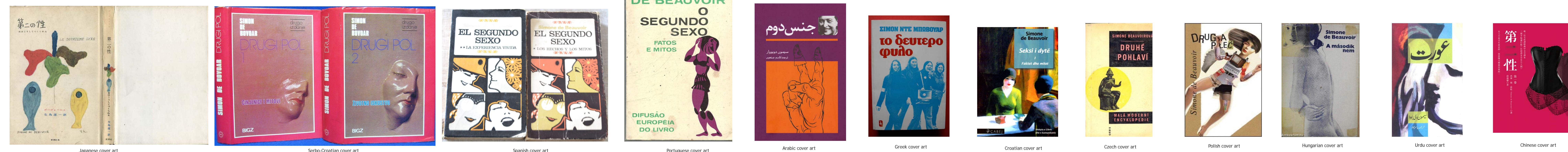
Aims

This project aims to:

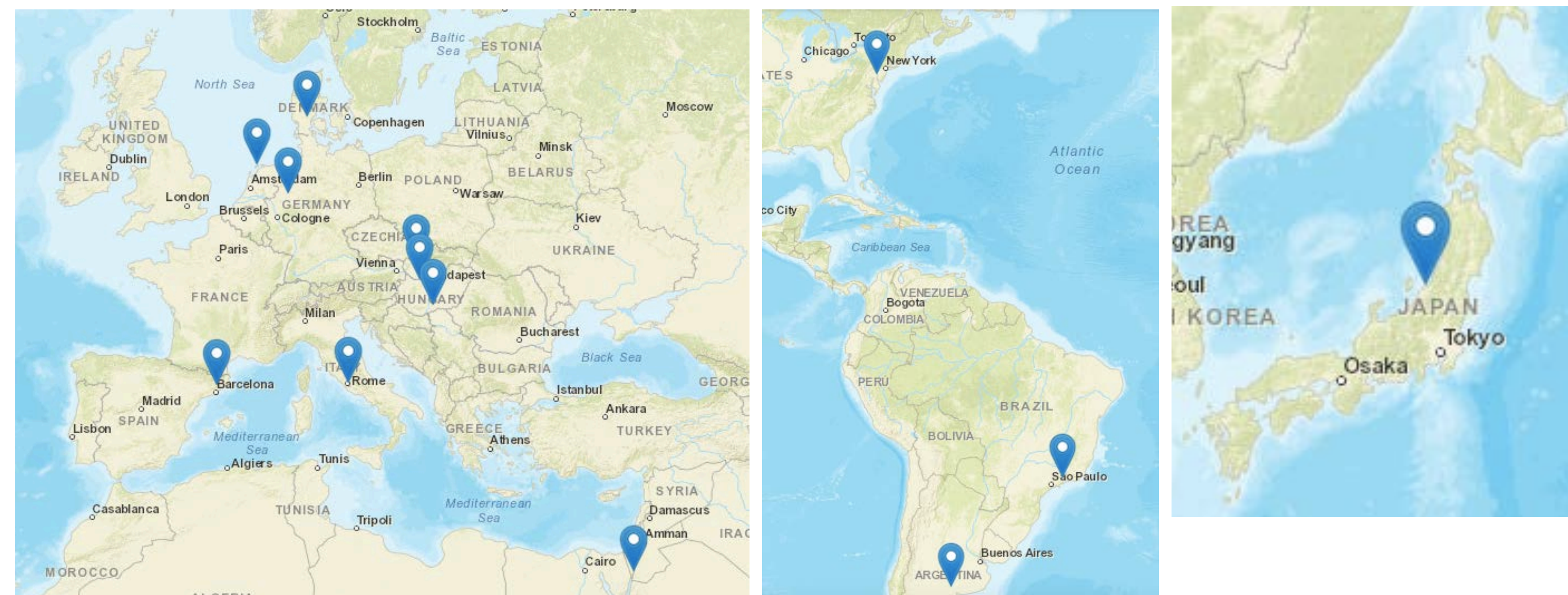
- To compile, into a spreadsheet, translation details for each of the known translations such as: publication dates, translator profiles, publishers, source text language, front cover images, whether a full or partial translation exists, and whether there have been retranslations into the same language.
- From this spreadsheet, it will be possible to garner further insight into why Beauvoir's text was translated at a particular socio-cultural moment and for what ends in each locale.
- Information relating to the translator's profile will allow for further investigation of conflicts or convergences in ideological positionings of author and translator and establishing a bank of front cover images (and other promotional materials) will be pivotal in understanding how Beauvoir's text was (and continues to be) marketed both inside and outside of France and how such para-textual framing works to re-author Beauvoir in different cultural contexts.

Cover Art

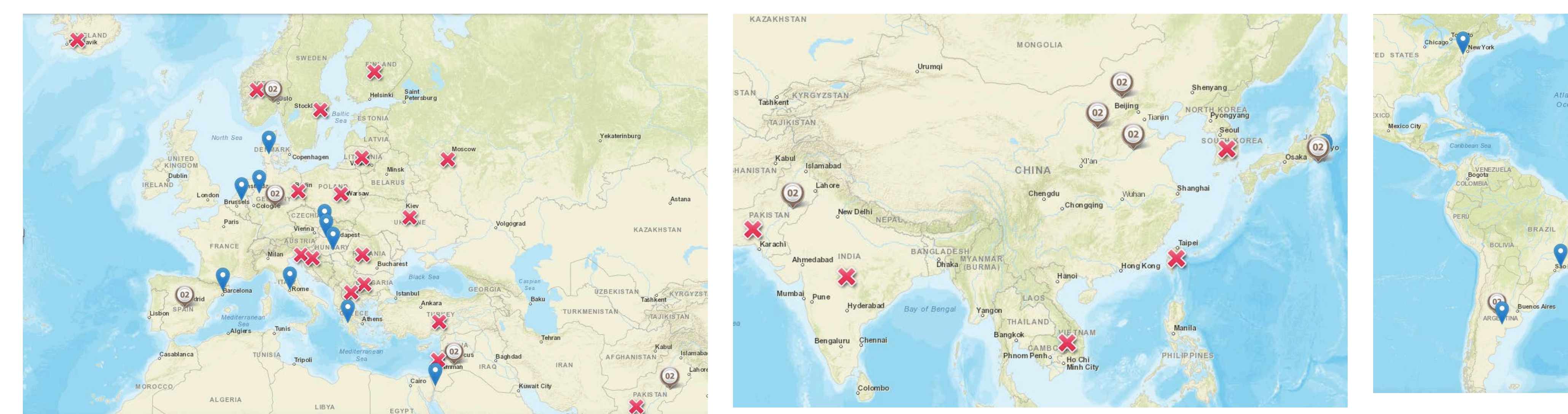
Although this is only a small selection of the cover art collected, the cover art can provide insight into how the book was marketed.



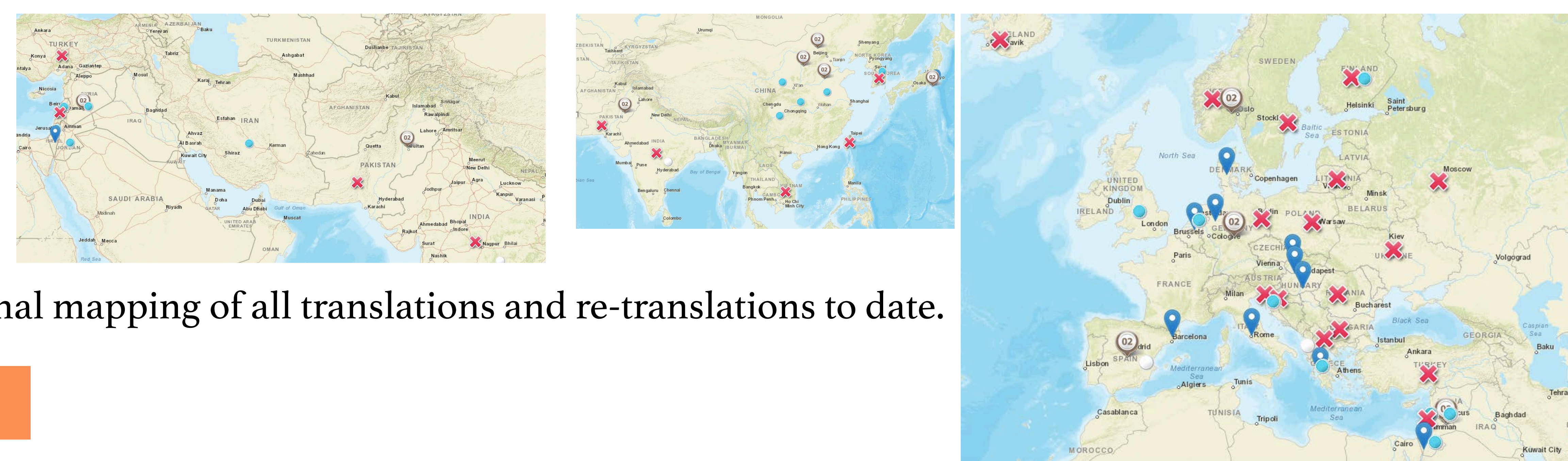
Visual Summary of Results



1. Mapping translations within the first 20 years of original publication: 1949- 1969



2. Translations and beginnings of retranslations between 1969-2000



3. Final mapping of all translations and re-translations to date.

Map and Key

Although there are numerous ways to present the data I have gathered, this poster will show the evolution and spread of the translations over time. Here, there are three time frames:

1. Translations within 20 years of the original publication of *Le Deuxième Sexe*,
2. Translations and re-translations (it is within this time frame that the re-translations start to emerge) between 1969-2000,
3. Translations and re-translations published after 2000 up to the present day.

- First translation in a particular language between 1949-1969.
- First translation in a particular language between 1969-2000.
- First translation in a particular language after 2000.
- Retranslation of a language already translated after 2000.
- Retranslation of a language already translated between 1969-2000.

Methodology

I carried out extensive research using online sources and cross-referenced these findings through contact with notable scholars in the field, and publishers. By doing this, I was able to extract key details from existing scholarship and compile it into one database.

Due to the sensitive nature of this work in different cultures, some information remains unknown, e.g the translation date of the first Iranian translation, which is difficult to track down following Iran's destruction of their book records.

Conclusion

As well as gathering translation and publication data for over 40 languages, I have also compiled a bank of cover art to be analysed for further research into the marketing of the translations, and translator profiles in order for ideological positionings to be studied further.