



# Diasporic Translations of Greek Women's Poetry in Anthologies

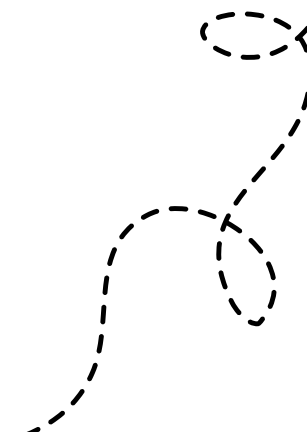

## The Role of the (Migrant) Translator-Anthologist


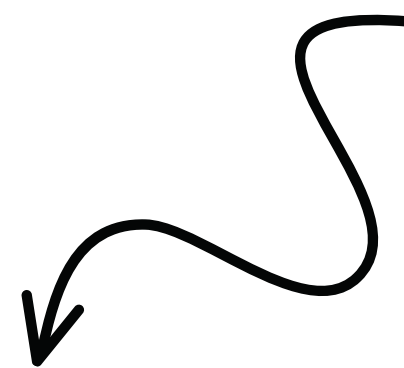
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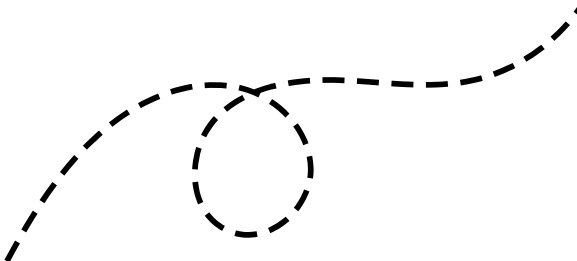


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- Growing “interest” in literature written by women → increasing popularity of anthologies of women’s writing (in translation)
  - Tools for recovering and foregrounding the historically silenced work of women writers (feminist translation)



Greek women poets, most of whom have been left out of both the national and the international canon, are considerably underrepresented in general anthologies of modern Greek poetry both in Greek and in translation.



# Degrees of marginality

(Georgiou, 2022)

- Extraliterary: gender + geopolitics and national identity, economic crisis
- Linguistic: minority language
- Intraliterary: poetry



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## **Diaspora + translation (+ gender)**

- Diasporic communities → intense translation activity
- Translators = displaced people, minority groups



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# Diasporic anthologies of Greek Women's poetry in English and Spanish translation

## *Daughters of Sappho. Contemporary Greek Women Poets*

Rae Dalven (Ed. & Trans.) (1994)  
Fairleigh Dickinson University Press



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## *Poetas griegas contemporáneas (1930-1990)*

Nina Anghelidis (Ed. & Trans.) (1992)  
CEBN Fotios Malleros / University of Chile



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- World War II → Greek Civil War (1946-1949)
- Military dictatorship (1967-1974) → feminist movement, foreign influence (literature, TV, radio)
- Greece's entry into the EU (1981)

Changes in Greece's migration flows and in the characteristics of its diaspora



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## **Motivation meets opportunity: agent-based feminist choices**

**(Vasallo, 2022; Georgiou, 2018)**

Την ανάγκη να μεταφράζω ποίηση την αισθάνθηκα σαν μια έλξη ακατανίκητη. Είτε λόγω της έντονης νοσταλγίας για την πατρίδα, και της μακρόχρονης παραμονής μου στο Μπουένος Άϊρες, -που ακόμα συνεχίζεται- είτε λόγω της επιθυμίας να συμμεριστώ με φίλους λογοτέχνες την απόλαυση ορισμένων έργων νεοελλήνων συγγραφέων.

I felt the need to translate poetry as an irresistible attraction. Whether due to my intense nostalgia for my homeland and my long stay in Buenos Aires—which is still ongoing—or because of my desire to share with my writer friends the enjoyment of certain works by modern Greek authors.

«Μερικές σκέψεις για τη μετάφραση» [Some thoughts on translation],  
Nina Anghelidis (1997)

# Status - agency

**sponsorship**

**publishers' support**

**authority endorsements**

grants

access to publication

readers' trust

(National Endowment for the Arts → Dalven, 1984)

**Financial stability**

# Selection criteria

- Widely recognized in Greece
- Higher education
- Ancient heritage

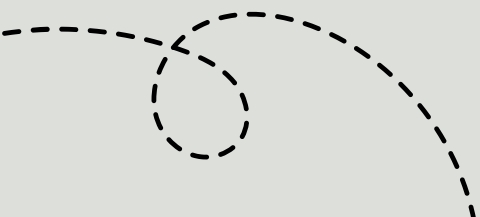

→ 1920-1990



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# Concluding remarks

- Anthologies of Greek women poets in translation => recovery and empowerment through translation
  - Liminal position + symbolic capital of migrant translator-anthologists → promotion of literature written in minor languages within dominant literary polysystems
  - Commitment of the Greek diasporic community to the dissemination of their culture abroad
  - Tension between innovation and canonization
  - Migration / gender / translation → visibility of marginalized literatures internationally
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**Thank you!!**

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