Translation analysis with TEI: Robert Southey’s *Amadis of Gaul*

The late fifteenth-century Iberian romance *Amadís de Gaula* offers an attractive opportunity for translators because it is unmoored in time, space, and authorship. Medieval versions of the story have been lost, and sixteenth-century editions of the text often stripped out the name and personality of Garci-Rodríguez de Montalvo, whose edited *Amadís* dates to 1508 and forms the basis for modern critical editions. Though twentieth-century discoveries reveal a Castilian origin for the work, in the sixteenth through nineteenth centuries it was often thought to descend from a French or Portuguese original. Southey, translating the work into English in 1803, sustained the Portuguese thesis, and his *Amadis* compresses and alters the original text according to the aesthetic criteria of the Romantic era and the nascent British Empire while purporting to restore the simplicity of an idealized Portuguese ur-text.

Our digital project uses TEI to align Southey’s text with the Spanish “original” he used, a 1547 Sevilla printing. This presentation shows how the TEI markup language can reveal translation choices by allowing us to track and quantify omissions, additions, and rewritings of the Spanish text. Our project reveals the correspondences and contrasts between Southey’s translation theory, articulated in his Preface to *Amadis*, and his practice, allowing us to form new hypotheses about how translation works at the level of the clause and the sentence. Our project deploys the TEI in some unusual ways to help us align parallel passages and consider what was reduced and superadded in the translation process. We will discuss our markup, data extraction, and some experimental outputs in charts and SVG graphs, and our efforts to test and formalize a methodology for fine-grained analysis of translations. We will share our digital methods for interdisciplinary collaborative research on translation as a work in progress.