

Social Justice Watch 0112

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[返回目录](#)

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"A translator always makes choices."

Classicist Dr Emily Wilson is the first woman to translate The Odyssey into English - and she found that many men before her added sexist or misogynist terms that never existed in the original Greek.

286 13.6K 25.3K ↑

 Shawn Barker @Shawny_B_good · 1d ▾
So, translating with a different ad hoc agenda is better? It seems that in order to make a proper translation, it takes a linguist/historian/literary scholar to make it work properly as artful, and truthful to the time it was written.

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What do you think a classicist is Shawn



What do you think a classicist is Shawn

2



87



and what is “translate truthful to the time it was written” even supposed to mean like there’s no way a translation now in the US could be read the same way it was a couple thousand years ago in Greece when english didn’t even exist yet

Yep, in the original Odyssey, in the scene where Telemachus murders the slaves who were “sullied by” Penelope’s suitors, he refers to them with a word that roughly just means “the female ones”, however most translations will use words like “whores”, “sluts” and “creatures”, these were all choices of the translators. The original text did not refer to them that way. Dr. Wilson refers to them instead as “girls”, to highlight their age and the brutality of the action.

She also fixed all the times the previous male translators dodged around the existence of slaves in the text. Where they call slaves anything but slaves (housemaid, nurse, cook, ect.) Dr. Wilson’s translation correctly calls them slaves as in the original texts. It’s really a great translation, it doesn’t soften anything, and lays bare the reality of the story.

reality of the story.

One thing she did too, was she refused to make the descriptions of the women in the story more palatable to modern western beauty standards. The original text, for example, describes Penelope's hands as "thick". Most male translators change this to "steady" but Dr. Wilson's translation calls them "firm, muscular hands" to correctly portray the original intent, that Penelope, as a character who weaves every day and every night undoes her weavings, has strong hands, as weaving does make one's hands more muscular, and that was clearly what was originally intended to be said given the context of her character and the weavings.

Of Odysseus himself, the original epic calls him "polytropos" poly, meaning many, and tropos, meaning turn. Some male translators used this to say the story itself had twists and turns, others ignored the word completely to write in a way that made Odysseus seem as though a straight up hero, a man "skilled in all ways of contending", but Dr. Wilson uses it to mean "complicated", because Odysseus isn't a straight up hero, he does some really shitty things.

So her translation got a lot of men very very mad, because they said that her being a woman has caused her to translate with bias since her translation is so different to others. She pointed out that perhaps people should have suggested that bias in the inaccurate men's translations.

Anyway, go read Dr. Wilson's version of The Odyssey. It's very good.

Classical Dr Emily Wilson is the first woman to translate The Odyssey into English - and she found that many men before her added sexist or misogynist terms that never existed in the original Greek.

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jules rylan ☠
@radianbutch

...

here's to the people who's trauma did not give them thick skin. the ones who became more sensitive and insecure, who cry more easily, who get overwhelmed at small things. i'm so tired of the narrative that trauma makes you tough and untouchable. we're survivors, not superheroes.

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sammy

@sammylynn_

Let's stop romanticizing the bodies we had when we were 16. We were literally children. We are adults now. We have hips, our boobs have been around for longer than 4 years, we are meant to have more fat on our bodies, cellulite is inevitable. Your peak is now, love yourself ✨

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WHY NOT
ALL LIVES
MATTER?!

DO THE
REST OF
US NOT
MATTER?



OF COURSE THEY DO.

BUT BLACK PEOPLE
ARE THE ONES WHO ARE
SYSTEMICALLY OPPRESSED
AND KILLED BY POLICE.

BLACK LIVES MATTER BECAUSE
THEY ARE TREATED LIKE
THEY DON'T MATTER.

GET IT?

...





<https://www.facebook.com/transarmy/posts/242728427222343>



Chief orwelliANDYstopia
@andyRoidO

"Equal" doesn't mean "identical".
Saying women and men are equal
doesn't mean one is saying men and
women have no differences.
It simply means those differences
should not translate to different levels
of access to benefits and
opportunities in society.

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THESE WOMEN HAVE CHANGED THE WORLD WITH SCIENCE

- TOO BAD A MAN WAS GIVEN ALL CREDIT -



CECILIA PAYNE

Discovered what the sun is made of. Was told not to publish her work by reviewer Henry Norris Russel. Four years later he repeated her work, published it and was given all the credit



JOCELYN BELL BURNELL



LISE MEITNER

Co-discovered Nuclear Fission, her colleagues intentionally published the paper without her name. They went on to win the Nobel Prize, she went on to be forgotten.



NETTIE STEVENS

"AN ERROR THAT ASKRIBES TO A MAN WHAT WAS ACTUALLY THE WORK OF A WOMAN HAS MORE LIVES THAN A CAT"
- HERTHA AYRTON -

WomenRockScience.tumblr.com



<https://www.facebook.com/amightygirl/photos/a.360833590619627/6237580576>



notmadeofgold

We were arguing about dress code in a meeting at work. And while my department knows I'm queer the other departments did not. As people (men) were saying that women showing skin and wearing tight clothes was distracting. I spoke up finally and said.

"I'm attracted to women."

Everyone turned and looked at me and I was like "uhhh" so I finished.

"I'm attracted to women and I can still do my job. Regardless of what someone in my class is wearing. I can still teach. So why can't you?"

The men all stayed silent.

<https://www.facebook.com/BeautyIsInside/photos/a.645632458803223/3896636/>



Kristen Hanley Cardozo
@KHandozo

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One thing I can't stop thinking about lately is how heterosexual marriage benefits men and tends to harm women but it's culturally framed as something women want and men resist.

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Nathan H. Rubin
@NathanHRubin
U.S. Democratic Socialists

Millennials don't hear socialism & think about the USSR or the Cold War.

We hear socialism & think about Canada, Switzerland, healthcare, social security, affordable college, & affordable housing.

Big generational difference.

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[返回目录](#)

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[返回目录](#)

Protests continue in Belarus. It's freezing cold, police forces are ruthless in arresting people, but protests emerge spontaneously and decentralized. [source](#)

https://www.ted.com/talks/hans_block_and_moritz_riesewieck_the_price_of_a_clean_internet?utm_source=tedcomtalks&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=talks

Ted

The price of a "clean" internet

Millions of images and videos are uploaded to the internet each day, yet we rarely see shocking and disturbing content in our social media feeds. Who's keeping the internet "clean" for us? In this eye-opening talk, documentarians Hans Block and Moritz Riesewieck...

How do you guys feel about taking your husbands last name at marriage? I'm very against it for myself, but of course support women who decide to do it. My boyfriend and I have talked about it and he's very against taking my last name and if we have kids, having them take my last name. I'm not into hyphenating our last names either or combining them. I feel as if i'm carrying and birthing a child and providing them the nurturing a man can't do, shouldn't it be no question they take on my last name and my legacy? Any thoughts? This has been something that really bothers me lately.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/globalfeministperspectives/permalink/2677661111111111/>

<https://youtu.be/3dvkOhVXzR0>

YouTube

Transphobes Claim "Lesbians are Going Extinct"

Transphobia is mostly recycled homophobia, and now an anti-trans group are claiming that trans people are leading to lesbians becoming extinct.

Please check out the petition in the pinned comment!

[返回目录](#)