What can we learn from the study of Renaissance self-translation? Presentation of the project "Writing Bilingually, 1465-1700"

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Early modern Europe was a multilingual world: while Latin was still the lingua franca of international scholarly exchanges, vernacular languages were increasingly being used for both literary and scientific endeavours. Many writers were actively bilingual, switching between languages depending on subject and intended audience. Some went so far as to translate their own works across different languages: usually Latin and a vernacular, sometimes different vernaculars, occasionally even Greek and Latin.

How did these "self-translators" operate, and what pushed them to undertake such a time-consuming task? What role did printers, patrons, and collaborators of various kinds play in the process? What did self-translators think about their practice, and how did they represent it to the outside world? And, crucially, how did self-translation contribute to reshaping language interactions and processes of cultural production in a time of deep change?