

### **The Border-Crossings of *Utopia*: Translations and Paratexts**

This paper understands the border-crossings of *Utopia* on three fronts: conceptually, linguistically, and textually. Conceptually *Utopia* is an open narrative that travels from fiction to reality and back, inviting multiple interpretations; linguistically it has been translated into a manifold of languages in which the earliest English and Mandarin editions will be the focus of this paper. Textually *Utopia* needs to be understood with its paratextual apparatus, all of which is printed on the borders of the page. Responding to the local milieu and editorial preferences, the first two English editions by Ralph Robynson (1551 and 1556) demonstrated a telling difference in the end product as a book, primarily because of the ancillary items printed in each edition. Modelling on Robynson's translation, the first Mandarin edition (1935) by Liu Linsheng is an abridged rendition, with parenthetical notes interspersed in the main text. In many ways identical to the first Mandarin translation, Liu Chengshao's 1957 edition exhibits yet another level of crossing frontiers, that of readerly creativity, claiming its authorship through the excessive annotations and the translator's words forging as the original text. All this reflects the dynamics of *Utopia* and how its border-crossings contribute to the levels of meaning-making.