LIVING IN LANGUAGES: COLLOQUIUM ON TRANSLATION
March 13, 2019 – HU 354 – 2:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Introduction: Charles Shepherdson, Chair of English
Harvey Charles, Dean for International Education and Vice Provost for Global Strategy

Panel I: Nationalism and Linguistic Identity – 2:45 - 3:35
Moderator: Fan Pen Li Chen – Associate Professor of Chinese Studies

Sarah Zahed (PhD Program, UAlbany): “Language as Camouflage.” One geographical and legal space, two languages. A study of two poets-- Yehuda Amichai and Mahmoud Darwish—whose choice of language as the face of political identity masks the liminal space that their writing inhabits.

Jian (Jane) Guo (Zhongyuan University of Technology Zhengzhou, Henan Province, China): “The City on a Hill—America’s National Myth in Literature.” This text considers mythmaking and the problems of a national cultural identity.

Rumi Coller-Takahashi (PhD Program, UAlbany): “Translation and Native Language: The Case of Haruki Murakami.” Starting from Benjamin’s comment that translation should let the foreignness of the foreign language shine through, this essay explores the effect that translating American writers into Japanese has on the writings of this well-known writer and highlights the problematic nature of cultural and linguistic identity.

Panel II: Art, Literature, and the Law - 3:35 - 4:25
Moderator: Timothy Sergay – Associate Professor, Languages Literatures and Cultures

Rong (Gloria) Hu (Institute of Literary Studies, Shanghai International Studies University): “Chinese Writing of Western Art History.” Her project studies translations of Western art history into Chinese and as a consequence the rewriting of Chinese art history.

Jehan Jihan (Lecturer in English Literature, Sadat Academy for Management Sciences, Faculty Leadership Development Centre, Cairo University, and Certified International Professional Trainer): “South versus North: Miscommunication in Othello.” This essay considers the mediums through which characters encode and decode a message, and argues that Othello can no longer be viewed as a naïve or jealous figure, but is instead an example of the mismatch between encoding and decoding.

Apara Tayal: “Private and Public in Global Law.” Ms. Tayal is a lawyer from the UK, Australia, and India, and has practiced in Australia, South Korea, and other places. Her concern in this essay is with the different languages of the law in private and public spheres.

Coffee Break: 4:25 – 4:40
Panel III: Heteroglossias of the Word – 4:40 - 5:30
Moderator: Paul Stasi – Associate Professor, Department of English

Beth Anne Horning (UAlbany BA, PhD Program in Educational Policy & Leadership): “Beckett’s Toppling Mug: Translation and the Breakdown of Meaning.” Her essay will deal with translation and the ‘erosion of communication’ within a single language in Beckett’s Molloy, where multiple meanings for the same object signal the breakdown (potentially inherent in language) between symbol and meaning.

Annika Nerf (PhD Program, UAlbany): “The Spoon, the Object, the Word.” A creative/critical piece that arises out of the memory of an object – and a word-- central to a childhood experience and to familial and cultural survival. This essay raises the question of how to read a text in terms of historical understanding and how to read it, simultaneously, as the very impossibility of such translation or transfer or understanding.

Eunai Joh (PhD Program, UAlbany): “Translingual Affinities: Teaching ‘Chi-suk’ as World Literature.” This essay, dealing with a 20th C short story by Chae Man Sik and the translation appearing in Norton World Literature, highlights the heteroglossia of the native language and its relation to the incommunicable.

Panel IV: On the Fragment and the Politics of the In-Between - 5:30 – 6:20
Moderator: Ilka Kressner: Associate Professor, Languages Literatures and Cultures

Craig Reardon (MA Program, UAlbany): “Reading the Fragment.” On the problem of the fragment, whether historical accident or deliberate style. This essay raises the problem of the fragment in ancient Greek literature, the very fragmentary nature of which is already a mode of translation.

Yolande Schutter (PhD Program, UAlbany): “Emily Dickinson: The Fragment as Translation.” Emily Dickinson as the writer of the ‘in-between,’ who does not go for a city on a hill but instead wields the weapon of the fragment as a way to insert ‘translation’ as ‘difference’ into normative cognitive understanding.

Qiaoyu Cai (PhD Program, UAlbany): “A Language of Synthesis: Translation and Ha Jin’s ‘A Distant Center.’” This essay addresses Ha Jin’s ‘interstitial understanding’ of identity and homeland, moving against traditional colonial/postcolonial divides and insisting on the importance of liminal spaces in which the ‘native’ and the ‘foreign’ speak each other’s language.