

**SPRING 2020**

COLT 519: Translation in Theory and Practice

# SPLIT TONGUE

TRANSLATING POETIC MULTILINGUALISM

Professor DAVID ST. JOHN

Professor GIAN MARIA ANNOVI

Multilingualism is necessarily at the core of any act of translation—in this discussion-based, workshop style graduate seminar we will examine multilingualism from an unusual perspective. We will try to understand what happens when, not just the translator, but also the author of a text is a multilingual speaker. In particular, we will concentrate on multilingual poets whose dual or multiple linguistic citizenship left visible traces in their writing. This course will demonstrate that in the case of multilingual poems, translation does not simply involve traveling between two languages, but a multifaceted linguistic and cultural negotiation. The course is comprised of two interconnected strands: critical and creative. Critical discussion will in fact be fostered and stimulated by translation workshops. We will analyze some of the most representative texts on the theory of translation, and several creative reflections on translation by seminal authors such as Primo Levi, Ingeborg Bachmann, Yves Bonnefoy, and Jorge Luis Borges. Our discussion about the assigned readings will serve not only to explore the issues of translation, but to also generate ideas for the students' projects.

**THURSDAY 2-4:50PM THH 107**