

Translation-Related Events at AWP23

Wednesday, March 8

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

V101. **50 Years of Fire: A Reading to Celebrate AGNI**

(Cyrus Cassells, Jamie Quatro, Dzvinia Orlovsky, Lia Purpura, Jennifer Alise Drew)

Virtual event: This event has been prerecorded and will be available to watch on-demand online from March 8, 2023, to April 8, 2023.

For fifty years, AGNI has published international literature that transforms, combusts, and burns bright. Join us for a virtual reading that celebrates AGNI's legacy and envisions its future with some of our dynamic contributors. These poets, writers, and translators from across the globe will come together to give a reading and discuss their experiences with the magazine's intimate, rigorous editorial process.

V112. **Poetic License: Negotiating Creative Impulses in the Context of Translation**

(Lauren Brazeal Garza, p. Joshua Laskey, Jonathan Stalling, Jamie Proctor-Xu, Cindy Lynn Brown)

Virtual event: This event has been prerecorded and will be available to watch on-demand online from March 8, 2023, to April 8, 2023.

This multigenre panel focuses on strategies for writer / translators to negotiate their creative impulses in the context of translation. Focuses include how creative writers can ethically and responsibly utilize their creativity when translating, the potential merits and drawbacks of being a creative writer who translates, and how literary translators might be able to better understand the intentions of the writers they translate because of their background as writers themselves.

Thursday, March 9

9:00 am to 10:15 am

T119. **Migrations and Mutations: Writing and Translating from Our Bodies**

(Cecelia Martinez-Gil, Wendy Call, Marco Antonio Huerta, Samina Najmi, Alison Mandaville)

Rooms 431-432, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 4

How do situated bodily experiences shape the writing of belonging? Five writers and translators working in and between the Azerbaijani, English, Spanish, Urdu, and Zapotec languages, read poetry and creative nonfiction that attends to how immigrant and BIPOC writers create belonging through words shaped and transformed by their specific bodies, locations, and mobilities. These works emerge through the struggles of displaced people to connect body and place via storytelling—and so survive.

T121. Occupational Hazards: Teaching and Writing Risk Across Genres

(Destiny O. Birdsong, Jan Beatty, Asali Solomon, Lesley Wheeler, Erika Meitner)

Rooms 435-436, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 4

Writers conjure literary power by putting something real on the line. Yet risk operates differently across nonfiction, fiction, poetry, and translation, raising craft questions as well as the challenge of inspiring students to bring vulnerability to their writing. Panelists with experience in many teaching contexts—including universities, conferences, and community workshops—will share concrete ideas for empowering and equipping students to take personal and aesthetic chances.

12:10 pm to 1:25 pm

T155. Letting Go of a Periphery: The Rise of World Literature in the US

(Farukh Niaz, Maha Ahmed, Zarlisht Niaz, Kartika Budhwar, Kaitlin Rizzo)

Room 327, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

In this panel, women writers, translators, educators discuss how non-Western literary practices inform their work. Their perspectives on literary traditions from around the world address how contemporary literature has long been informed by non-Anglophone traditions, which have largely been erased, ignored or relegated to the “periphery.” Their conversation of the present nearness of these traditions raises questions about prolonged global inequities both on and off the page.

T157. On Errors: Reconsidering Accuracy and Authenticity in Translation, Sponsored by ALTA

(Gabrielle Civil, Sawako Nakayasu, Madhu H. Kaza, JD Pluecker)

Room 331, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

This panel focuses on errors in translation to raise urgent questions about race, class, power, and literary values. It will engage the fraught situation of heritage speakers who often feel shame when making translation mistakes. It will confront and redress dominant ideas of accuracy, authority, and authenticity. Diverse panelists will discuss navigating their own translation errors and/or their experiences teaching, editing, or mentoring emerging translators.

3:20 pm to 4:35 pm

T212. International Poetry with New Directions Publishing

(Jeffrey Yang, Pamela Mordecai, Phoebe Giannisi, Coral Bracho, Xi Chuan)

Room 332, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

A poetry reading with four renowned international poets: Pamela Mordecai (Jamaica/Canada), Xi Chuan (China), Coral Bracho (Mexico), and Phoebe Giannisi (Greece). Poets will read their original poetry with their translator or with the moderator. As the United States has become increasingly xenophobic and insular in the past decade, it is crucial for readers and students, poets and writers, to hear voices from the wider world.

T214.الو مين عالخط... Hello, Who's On the Line? Writing from the Arabic

(Deema Shehabi, Zeina Hashem Beck, Lubna Safi, Lena Khalaf Tuffaha)

Rooms 335-336, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

Writers in English from the Arabic produce work that is both illuminating and exigent, but what does it mean to be a writer in a language that's not your “mother tongue”? How does the language of exile or distance truncate creativity and expression? What role does audience play? How do you navigate the space between translation and writing original texts? Four Arab heritage women poets and translators explore the nuances, freedoms, and shortcomings of an English language writing life.

T231. A Universe with No Edges: Swahili Literature in Translation

(Munyao Kilolo, Jay Boss Rubin, Richard Prins, Idza Luhumyo, Kelsey McFaul)

Terrace Suite I, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 4

An African language of connectivity and diversity, Swahili is spoken across east Africa and the Indian Ocean. The Swahili literary tradition is centuries-old, yet little of it has been translated into English. Three translators and one editor discuss their contributions to contemporary translated Swahili literature, including the new collection *No Edges: Swahili Stories* from Two Lines Press, and efforts to make it more widely available with the director of the Safal-Cornell Kiswahili Prize.

Friday, March 10

9:00 am to 10:15 am

F120. Native Tongues: Teaching Creative Writing to Multilingual International Students

(Huan Hsu, Wade Geary, Page Richards, Jane Lewty, Hedgie Choi)

Rooms 431-432, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 4

Given how fundamental a writer's language is to the experience and portrayal of their world, how does the negotiation between a multilingual writer's “home” language and writing language (English) present both challenges and opportunities? Creative writing teachers from three continents explore how multilingual students can be supported and encouraged, and discuss conditions under which writers not only translate but also integrate plural languages and legacies into new experiences and thought.

10:35 am to 11:50 am

F133. What Presses and Journals Need to Know about Publishing Literary Translations, Sponsored by ALTA

(Laura Cesarco Eglin, Sacha Idell, Samuel Rutter, Alison Gore, Jared Daniel Fagen)

Room 331, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

Literary translation may be “having a moment.” More and more presses and journals in the US are eager to publish translations. But this can be an overwhelming new world for publishers unfamiliar with translation. This informative panel will answer questions about rights, locating work, evaluating translations, contracts, and more. Our aim is to contribute to a healthy ecosystem of translators and publishers and ultimately create more publishing opportunities for literary translators.

1:45 pm to 3:00 pm

F187. Books against Missiles and Shrapnel: Poetry from Ukraine

(Oksana Maksymchuk, Max Rosochinsky, Oksana Lutsyshyna, Olga Livshin, Olena Jennings)

Room 331, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

Since the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine war, poets in Ukraine have been producing remarkable poetry about the Russian aggression and its effects. They craft powerful imagery and sharp storytelling while facing the dangers of missile strikes, bombings, and occupation. This reading showcases poets from Ukraine in English translation, with a variety of voices across the boundaries of gender and class, featuring poetry from both the beginning of the war in 2014 and the full-scale invasion of 2022.

F188. Sharp Tongues: Multilingual Writing in Emerging Asian Diasporic Poetics

(Rushi Vyas, Phuong Vuong, Nilufar Karimi, Vyxz Vasquez)

Room 332, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

Poets who live in, with, and through multiple languages share different approaches to writing multilingual poetry in an Anglophone-dominant landscape. What politics and poetics inform a decision to translate or not to translate? How do the processes of poesis and translation alter and carve language in unexpected ways? Can poetry resist the colonial "melting pot"? Four emerging poets from Vietnamese, Iranian, South Asian, and Filipino diasporas share work and stories behind their process.

F210. Vital to Language and Living: Copper Canyon Celebrates Its First Fifty Years

(Ellen Bass, Paisley Rekdal)

Ballroom 1, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 5

Since 1973, Copper Canyon Press has exercised an unwavering commitment to the art of poetry, the creative lives of poets, the alchemy of publishing, and the belief that poetry is vital to language and living. This reading and conversation features poets and translators who represent different aspects of Copper Canyon's dynamic and diverse mission, who will read from their work, speak to the necessity for poetic truths, and converse with the long-time editor who has championed their work. This event will be livestreamed. ASL interpretation and live captioning will be provided.

3:20 pm to 4:35 pm

F214. "Across": One Poem in a Thousand Voices: Comparative Perspectives in Translation, Sponsored by ALTA

(Vassiliki Rapti, Peter Bottéas, Vladimir Boskovic, Maklena Nika, Nicholas Alexiou)

Room 331, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

This panel will showcase a collaborative translation effort from members-translators of the collective Citizen TALES Commons (citizentales.org) to translate the poem "Across" by poet/sociologist Nikos Alexiou. This poem belongs to his forthcoming poetry collection *Queens*, which aims to highlight the ethnically diverse character of Queens and the different iterations of

“solidarity.” What does it mean to attempt to translate the same poem in the languages of the largest ethnicities of Queens?

F219. Cambodian Poetry, Prose, and Translation Today

(Sharon May, Sokunthary Svay, Putsata Reang, Trent Walker, Greg Santos)

Rooms 338-339, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

The destruction of much of Cambodia's classical and contemporary literature occurred during the Khmer Rouge regime of the 1970s. Tens of thousands of writers, artists, teachers, and intellectuals were systematically murdered. This reading will present the literature that has been recovered as well as the writing of the Cambodian diaspora: songs, poetry, and folktales in brand-new translations; and nonfiction and poetry by young and emerging authors.

F227. Ukrainian Poetry in Translation as a Critical Cultural Bridge in Times of War

(Grace Mahoney, Ali Kinsella, Serhiy Zhadan, Iryna Shuvalova, Vitaly Chernetsky)

Rooms 433-434, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 4

This panel will discuss the role of Ukrainian poetry in translation as a critical cultural bridge in the months since the Russian Federation's invasion and all-out war of aggression in Ukraine. How are poets and translators responding to this unprecedented threat to Ukraine's national sovereignty? How are reading publics seeking out and connecting with poetry as a conduit of response, activism, and diplomacy?

Saturday, March 11

9:00 am to 10:15 am

S123. Beyond BTS and Squid Game: Korean Contemporary Poetry in Translation

(Jeanine Walker, Marci Calabretta Cancio-Bello, Stine An, E. Bok Lee, Emily Jungmin Yoon)

Room 437, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 4

At a time when many around the world know Korean culture through K-Pop and K-Dramas, Korean poetry in translation is more relevant than ever. Addressing leprosy, grief, and poverty, with images of a mirror's sound and time uprooted like weeds, Korean poets offer poetic vision that resonates beyond borders. Five translators speak on the joys and challenges of translating Korean poems: which nuance to privilege, where to make the poetic leap, and how translation can feed one's own poetry practice.

1:45 pm to 3:00 pm

S197. Translation 101: How to Become a Translator, Sponsored by ALTA

(Jennifer Acker, Curtis Bauer, Jenna Tang, Aaron Coleman)

Rooms 435-436, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 4

You're interested in becoming a translator: how do you get started? How does one negotiate the role of translator between publishers, authors, and readers? In navigating both the translation

process and publication, are there special considerations for those translating from nonheritage languages, non-European languages, or for people of color? This panel of translators, editors, writers, and scholars will address nuts and bolts as well as larger market forces and philosophical considerations.

3:20 pm to 4:35 pm

S211. Translating the Poetry of Urgency, Sponsored by ALTA

(Nancy Naomi Carlson, Boris Dralyuk, Cynthia Hogue, Gabriela Ramirez-Chavez, Joshua Weiner)
Room 331, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

What are “urgent poems”? Although they arise as responses to critical situations, they know no borders and are essential to our survival, as well as our humanity. This panel of poets and scholars—translating from such languages as French (Canada and Congo-Brazzaville), German, Russian, and Spanish / K'iche' Mayan—will briefly discuss, then read bilingual examples of poems that demand to be heard. A Q&A with the audience will follow.

S217. Borders and Scars: The Poetry of Venezuelan Migrants

(David Brunson, Leonora Simonovis, Ivana Aponte, Sara Vilorio, Maximiliano Sojo)
Rooms 340-342, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

Over six million people have fled Venezuela to build new lives around the world. How do they navigate intersectional identities across national, cultural, and linguistic lines? How can poetry assert the integrity of individuals and cultures in the face of injustice? How do craft, translation, and political engagement intersect as resistance? In this panel, four Venezuelan writers will read from their work and discuss these and other questions in relation to their writing and lived experiences.