

Lexicons of Migration: Histories, Texts and Human Lives in

November 4-6, 2022



Lexicons of Migration: Histories, Texts, and Human Lives in Translation

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Greetings Attendees of Lexicons of Migration: Histories, Texts and Human Lives in Translation,

I am overjoyed to welcome you! For two days, we will be together on a small bucolic campus in Vermont's Green Mountains. We gather in this calm place to actively reflect on the turbulence and danger in which so many are forced to live, and to explore the ways in which many of you have helped protect, even liberate, poets and novelists persecuted by their governments. We will celebrate writers, translators, and protectors of "small," endangered, and/or forcibly marginalized languages and literary traditions. We will revel in panels and conversations, in multilingual, multi-modal performances of music and poetry. We will break bread together and take breaks together.

The spirit of our conference is conversation: among panelists, between panelists and audience members. Everyone should think of themselves as an active participant. We hope that professors, practitioners, and students will take advantage of our venue and campus for informal discussion and chat. I recommend the paths around the pond, the trails across the meadows, the Commons lawn that leads to the lookout toward Mount Anthony.

Bennington students have been instrumental in the development of this conference. In fact, the Conference booklet and website were designed and created by students, who look forward to hosting you. You can rely on them for directions, for conversation in a host of languages, for provocative questions about your work, and for the rich perspectives gleaned from their own complex lives.

Bennington is a mask-friendly campus, which we might translate as "Mask for Mask." If you are wearing a mask, you have the right to be met by others doing the same. Don't hesitate to let us know what you need to be safe and to protect your health.

Our thanks go out to the Mellon Foundation for its support of our Consortium on Forced Migration, Displacement, and Education. Our partners in this multi-year endeavor are Bard, Sarah Lawrence, and Vassar. I also wish to thank our Bennington Provost, Maurice Hall; CAPA Director Susan Sgorbati; Bennington CFMDE coordinator John Hultgren; as well as Matt Vozzella, and his expert Bennington technology team.

Wishing you all a splendid conference!

Warm regards,

Marguerite Feitlowitz
Member of the Faculty in Literature
Director, Bennington Translates

Lexicons of Migration: Histories, Texts, and Human Lives in Translation

Contributor Biographies



Aron Aji

Aron Aji is Director of MFA in Literary Translation at the University of Iowa. A native of Turkey, he has translated Karasu's *The Garden of Departed Cats* and *A Long Day's Evening*. Aji was president of the American Literary Translators Association between 2016 and 2019. He leads the Translation Workshop, and teaches courses on retranslation, poetry and translation, theory, and contemporary Turkish literature.

[Scan here to learn more](#)



Osama Alomar

Osama Alomar is a prominent practitioner of the *Arabical-qisa al-qasira jiddan*, the “very short story.” His short stories have been published in *Newyorker.com*, *Noon*, *Conjunctions.com*, *The Coffin Factory*, *Electric Literature*, and *The Literary Review*. Currently, he is working on a new novel about the Syrian War as well as another project about love, hate, democracy, dictatorships, motherhood, freedom, success, and failure among other concepts surrounding the human experience. He is currently a writer-in-residence at City of Asylum Pittsburgh.



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Joseph Alpar

Joseph Alpar is an ethnomusicologist, performer, and educator whose research centers on musical and religious practices in Turkey and former Ottoman territories. His research has been supported by fellowships from The American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT) and The Center for Jewish Studies at The Graduate Center, CUNY among other institutions. In addition to his academic work, Alpar is an accomplished multi-instrumentalist and singer of Middle Eastern and Western art music. He is the director of David's Harp, an acclaimed Philadelphia-based ensemble specializing in the music of Turkey, Greece, and North Africa.

[Scan here to learn more](#)



Vitaly Chernetsky

Vitaly Chernetsky is a Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Kansas. Prior to coming to KU in 2013, he taught at Columbia, Northeastern, and Miami University, as well as held research fellowships at Cornell and Harvard. A native of Ukraine, he has been an ASEES/AAASS member since 1993 and an active member of Q*ASEES. He is a past president of the American Association for Ukrainian Studies (AAUS) and the current First Vice President of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in the U.S., the autonomous U.S. branch of the oldest Ukrainian learned society, founded in 1873.



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Mariam Ghani

Mariam Ghani is an artist, writer, and filmmaker. Her films have been screened at the Berlinale, Rotterdam, CPH:DOX, DOC NYC, Sheffield Doc/Fest, SFFILM, Ann Arbor, FIDBA, and II Cinema Ritrovato film festivals, among others. Her work has also been exhibited and screened at the Guggenheim, MoMA, Met Breuer and Queens Museum in New York, and the National Gallery in Washington, D.C., the Saint Louis Art Museum, the Indianapolis Museum of Art, the CCCB in Barcelona, the Sharjah, Lahore and many more along with numerous publications.



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Amelia Glaser

Amelia Glaser is an associate professor of Russian and comparative literature at UC San Diego. She is the author of *Songs in Dark Times: Yiddish Poetry of Struggle from Scottsboro to Palestine* and *Jews and Ukrainians in Russia's Literary Borderlands: From the Shtetl Fair to the Petersburg Bookshop*. She is the editor of *Commintern Aesthetics, Stories of Khmelnytsky: Competing Literary Legacies of the 1648 Ukrainian Cossack Uprising*, and of *Proletpen: America's Rebel Yiddish Poets*, which she also translated. Glaser is currently working on a new book about literature, translation, and changing conceptions of community in Eastern Europe since the 2013-2014 Euromaidan in Kyiv.



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Sawad Hussain

Sawad Hussain is the winner of the 2019 Arablit Short Story Prize and two English PEN Translates awards. She co-teaches a workshop on translating Arabic comics at UK secondary schools via the collective Shadow Heroes. Her recent translations include resistance novella *Passage to the Plaza* (shortlisted for the 2020 Palestine Book Awards) and the groundbreaking experimental short fiction collection *A Bed for the King's Daughter*. She holds an MA in modern Arabic literature from the School of Oriental and African Studies.



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Laura Kunreuther

Laura Kunreuther is the associate professor and director of Anthropology at Bard College. Her research centers on themes such as sound, voice, translation/interpretation, technology and media, social suffering, affect, cultural memory, and urban public culture. Kunreuther's work ranges from her first book titled *Voicing Subjects: Public Intimacy and Mediation in Kathmandu* to her current book-length project titled *Interpreting the Field: On the Labor of Interpreters for UN Missions*, with several publications in between. She has been awarded the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship, Fulbright-Hays Fellowship, and NMERTA South Asia Fellowships (2).



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Thomas Leddy-Cecere

Thomas Leddy-Cecere is a scholar of language variation and change. His work has focused on interaction between speakers of related language varieties, and involves ongoing studies of multiple dialects of modern Arabic, as well as regional North American English. His projects have included extensive fieldwork in Egypt and with speakers of both Arabic and English across the United States, and inhabit the intersections of sociolinguistics with other subfields including contact linguistics, historical linguistics, and language

documentation. Leddy-Cecere's work has appeared in journals such as *Al-'Arabiyya*, *American Speech*, and the *Journal of Historical Linguistics*, and has been supported by the National Science Foundation and the Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences.



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Hanna Leliv

Hanna Leliv is a freelance literary translator from Ukraine. In 2017-2018, she was a Fulbright scholar at the Iowa Translation Workshop. Among her translations into Ukrainian are texts by Kazuo Ishiguro, Ernest Hemingway, and Stephen Hawking. Her translations of contemporary Ukrainian literature into English have appeared in *The Washington Square Review*, *The Adirondack Review*, *The Puritan*, *Asymptote*, and *Apofenie*. Leliv runs literary translation workshops at Ukrainian Catholic University, and puts a special focus on promoting Ukrainian children's books and women's voices.



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T. Urayoán Noel

T. Urayoán Noel is a Puerto Rican poet, critic, translator, and performer who teaches at New York University and at Stetson University's MFA of the Americas. Noel has been a finalist or semifinalist for the National Translation Award, the Best Translated Book Award, the PEN America Literary Awards, the International Latino Book Awards, The National Poetry Series Paz Prize for Poetry, and the Modern Language Association book prizes, as well as several others. His work has been exhibited at the Museum of the City of New York and the Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico and has been published or is forthcoming in *The New York Times*, *Poetry*, and *Google Arts & Culture*. He has been a fellow of the Howard Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and the Schomburg Center, and both fellow and faculty at CantoMundo and the Macondo Writers Workshop.



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Ross Perlin

Ross Perlin is a linguist, writer, and translator who serves as co-director of the non-profit Endangered Language Alliance. As a linguist, he has created a trilingual dictionary, a corpus of recordings, and a descriptive grammar of Trung. As a writer, he has written for the *New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and *Harper's*, among others, and published a book titled *Intern Nation*. As a translator, Perlin has translated Liao Yiwu's *Bullets and Opium* and Chen Guangcheng's *The Barefoot Lawyer*. He has recorded two Yiddish-language video series for *The Forward* and translated essays, stories, and poems as a National Yiddish Book Center Translation Fellow.



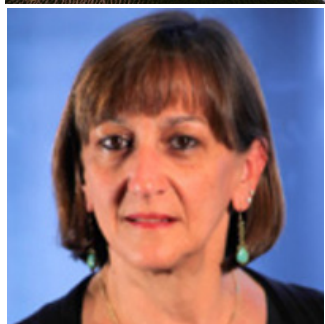
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Red T: Maya Hess and Naomi Robbins

Maya Hess is the Founder and CEO of Red T, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting translators and interpreters in high-risk settings. As a forensic linguist on many high-profile terrorism trials, she witnessed firsthand the extreme vulnerability of the language profession. She went on to study criminal justice and turned her dissertation into action in the form of Red T. Since 2010, she has been calling for a paradigm shift in how translators and interpreters are perceived and treated, advocating for linguists at risk by promoting policies and laws that protect them on a global scale. Naomi began her professional life in business, specializing in marketing/product management at home and abroad, and earning an MBA along the way. But she quickly realized her true passion was language, so she redirected her focus and got an MA in Translation. During the 30 years since, she has been translating, interpreting, and editing in Spanish, English, and French across a range of disciplines. Red T: Maya Hess and Naomi Robbins

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Barbara Ofuso-Somuah

Barbara Ofosu-Somuah is a Ghanaian-American activist and interdisciplinary social scientist from Accra, Ghana, and the Bronx, New York. Her purpose is to center equity in all aspects of justice work. As a Thomas J. Watson Fellow and as a Fulbright Researcher, Barbara investigated the racialized lived experiences of Black folx across the African Diaspora. Currently, she is co-translating *Future. Il domani narrato dalle voci di oggi* in collaboration with Candice Whitney. She has received both Thomas J. Watson and Fulbright research

fellowships to investigate the racialized lived experiences of Black folx, primarily womxn, across the African diaspora. For over seven years, Barbara has worked in mission-focused organizations and has pursued projects connected to her interests in culture, educational access and equity, language, inclusive leadership, and technology. In her current role at the Posse Foundation, Barbara manages the educational non-profit's Salesforce database system in the research Institute.



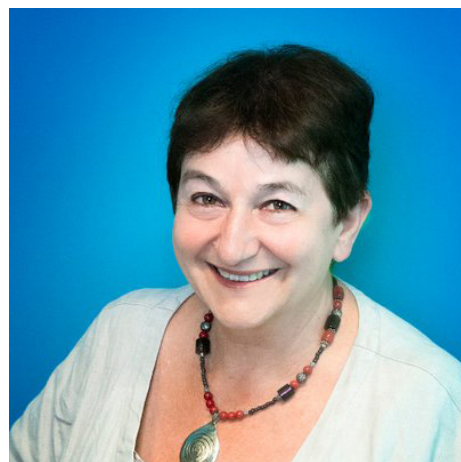
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Ros Schwartz

Ros Schwartz is an award-winning translator from French. Acclaimed for her new version of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's *The Little Prince*, she has over 100 fiction and nonfiction titles to her name. The French government named Schwartz a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 2009, and in 2017 she was awarded the John Sykes Memorial Prize for excellence by the Institute of Translation and Interpreting. For the past two decades, she has been in a number of translator trainings, including masterclasses worldwide and is the co-founder of a literary translation summer school. After two years as a Royal Literary Fund Fellow at Kings College London (2019-2021), she is now an Advisory Fellow. Schwartz has published in several professional journals such as *In Other Words and Context*.

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Maria Sonevytsky

Maria Sonevytsky is associate professor of Anthropology and Music at Bard College. She has received her tenure in Ethnomusicology at UC Berkeley. She has held postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Toronto and Harvard University, worked as an assistant professor of Music at Bard College and joined the Berkeley faculty in 2018. Her first book, *Wild Music: Sound and Sovereignty in Ukraine* was published in the Music/Cultures Series of Wesleyan University Press in late 2019 and was awarded the 2020 Lewis Lockwood First Book Prize from the American Musicological Society. Sonevytsky is currently developing two new book projects.



[Scan here to learn more](#)



Candice Whitney

Candice Whitney is a writer, leadership coach, and international education professional based in the New York City area. She is currently co-translating *Future. Il domani narrato dalle voci di oggi* in collaboration with Barbara Ofosu-Somuah. As a Fulbright Scholar to Italy in 2016–2017, she wrote about African women's entrepreneurship, racial politics, and privilege. Whitney is the cocurator and cohost of the webinar series *Virtual Salons: Discourses on Black Italia* at NYU's Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò. She received her BA in anthropology and Italian from Mount Holyoke College.



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Katherine E. Young

Katherine E. Young is the author of two poetry collections, *Woman Drinking Absinthe* and *Day of the Border Guards*, receiving numerous awards and recognitions; and two chapbooks. Her poems, reviews, and criticism have appeared in *Prarie Schooner*, *Shenandoah*, *The Iowa Review*, and many others. She has read her poetry both at national and international venues. Young was named the 2022 Pushkin House Translation Residency Awardee (UK). She was named a 2017 National Endowment for the Arts Translation Fellow, and a number of her translations have received awards and recognitions. She has been invited to lecture on translation and translation theory at Oxford, the University of Wisconsin, Pushkin House, and at the Institut Peredova.



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Lexicons of Migration: Histories, Texts, and Human Lives in Translation

Conference Schedule

Friday, November 4th

6:30 p.m.-7:50 p.m.

Welcome Dinner for Conference Panelists
Location: Faculty Lounge, CAPA

8:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

“A Life in Translation”:
Public interview with Ros Schwartz, eminent translator of French and Francophone literature, led by Marguerite Feitlowitz (Director, Bennington Translates, Literature Professor, Bennington College)
Location: Deane Carriage Barn



9:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Rebetiko: Songs of a Greek Subculture.
Featuring The Bennington Rebetiko Ensemble
Joseph Alpar, Director, percussion, kanun, santouri
Location: Deane Carriage Barn



Joseph Alpar, *Director, percussion, kanun, santouri*

Tristan Archibald, *violin, vocals*

Tallulah Brown, *vocals*

Garrett Crusan, *piano, drums, vocals*

Ivy Dunn-Flyer, *vocals, guitar*

Isaac Euler, *vocals, percussion, dance*

Senneth Hartvigsen, *vocals, guitar*

Marlon Hope, *mandolin, vocals*

Greta Jensen, *vocals*

Ethan Kelley, *clarinet*

John Kirk, *fiddle, mandolin*

Milo Lis, *vocals, piano*

Nathaniel Parke, *cello*

Nicholas Pertz Kelley, *electric bass, vocals*

Kai Schaffer, *guitar, percussion*

Louis Searles, *percussion, mallet percussion*

Marta Scharbakova, *vocals*

Oliver Wessels, *saxophone*

Saturday, November 5th

9:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

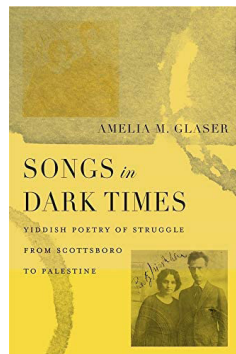
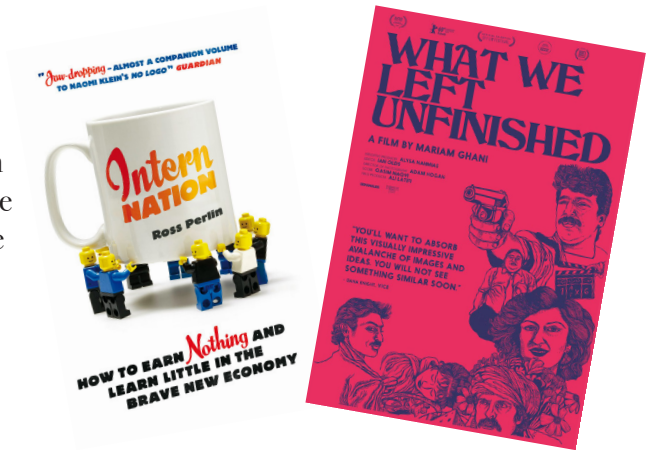
Continental Breakfast Buffet

Location: CAPA Gallery (Just outside the Symposium)

9:30 a.m.- 10:45 a.m.

“New York: The Most Linguistically Diverse City in the History of the World”: Ross Perlin and Mariam Ghani. Perlin (Executive Director, Endangered Language Alliance) will introduce us to a “vertical urban village” in Brooklyn where a fragile Nepalese language is being sheltered and revitalized by recent immigrants. Ghani will present the monumental mural she created to document New York’s more than 700 languages, and which is featured in the new Terminal C at La Guardia airport.

Location: CAPA Symposium



11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

“Translating Ukrainian Literature in the Shadow of War” Alexandar Mihailovic (Moderator), Vitaly Chernetsky, Amelia Glaser, Katherine E. Young. A conversation among scholars, writer/ translators, and activists.

Location: CAPA Symposium

12:30 p.m.-1:40 p.m.

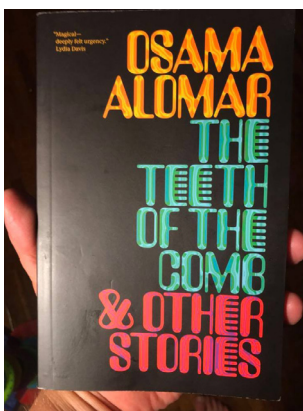
Buffet Lunch

Location: CAPA Gallery

1:45 p.m.-2:50 p.m.

“Contemporary International Writing in Arabic”:
Osama Alomar, Sawad Hussain, Thomas Leddy-Cecere (discussant)
A conversation among a Syrian refugee poet, an Egyptian-born, London-based translator focused on Arabic writing in Africa, and an Arabist scholar specializing in regional variants and dialects.

Location: CAPA Symposium



3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

“Black Italy: Translating Blackness, Considering Gender”

Barbara Ofosu-Somuah and Candice Whitney will present *Future*, the first anthology of contemporary writing by Black Italian women.

Location: CAPA Symposium



From the July-August edition of ‘Words Without Borders,’ ‘Maggio’ by Nazanin Rastan. Image: Courtesy of the artist.



4:30 p.m.-5:45 p.m.

“Translating Sound: The Sacral, Political, and Popular”: Joseph Alpar: “Musical Adjustment, Language, and Religious Propriety in Turkish Hazzanut”; Maria Sonevytsky: “Instrumentalizing the Politics of Aesthetics in a Time of War: Ukrainian Popular Musicians at the Cultural Front”

Location: CAPA Symposium



6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

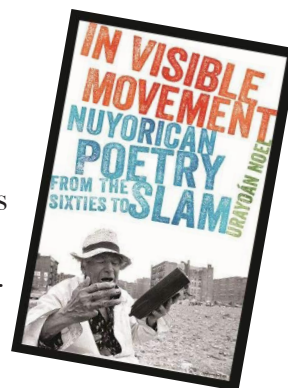
Panelists Dinner

Location: Faculty Lounge, CAPA

8:15 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Poetry Readings by Osama Alomar and T. Urayáon Noel. Searing poems and micro-fictions rooted in classic Syrian forms (Alomar) and kinetic, bilingual, visual poems created and performed by Noel, who also edited the first-ever anthology of Nuyorican poetry.

Location: Deane Carriage Barn



Sunday, November 6th

9:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast Buffet
Location: CAPA Gallery

9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.

“Building Community Around/With Translation”: Aron Aji, Hanna Leliv, Katherine E. Young
Aji and Leliv will discuss their groundbreaking gathering of translators in the city of Lviv; Young will present the case of Azeri novelist/playwright/poet Akram Alyisli, whose freedom from house arrest she has long fought for.
Location: CAPA Symposium

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Film Screening: *The Bridge*, a film made by interpreters and translators in a Kenya refugee camp, presented by Bard anthropologist Laura Kunreuther.
Location: CAPA Symposium



12:35 p.m.-1:25 p.m.

Buffet Lunch
Location: CAPA Gallery

1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

“Students Voicing Collective Action”
Undergraduate writers and artists, editors and producers, activists and researchers gather to share work and explore future possibilities for collaboration.
Location: The Symposium (Breakout Groups in CAPA Design Labs)

All Students Welcome!
You need not be a member of a project to attend.

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Special Thanks

Our Contributors

This Conference Book was designed by undergraduate Adriene Byron, with technical assistance from Squirrel Todd, and guidance from Kelie Bowman, Associate Program Director at the Center for the Advancement of Public Action (CAPA). The cover image, and conference poster, were created by Chuna, also a Bennington undergraduate.

Content for this book was compiled and written by the Bennington College students in LIT 2151, Words Without Borders: Translation in Times of Crisis, taught by Marguerite Feitlowitz, in Fall 2022:

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Funding for this conference was provided by the Mellon Consortium on Forced Migration, Displacement and Education. Additional support was provided by Susan Sgorbati, Director of Bennington's Center for the Advancement in Public Action (CAPA), and by Provost Maurice Hall.

Catering supplied by Sunhee's (Troy, NY) and Mount Anthony Country Club (Bennington, VT).

Booklet printed by Howard Printing (Brattleboro, VT).





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