



TRANSLATION

CE &

Wed Feb 17 2021

2:30-3:30 pm EST

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://fordham.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvcOqvrTwtHNP_NegnhJn3uVWb_Btz5E9W

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Fordham University
Sponsored with the generous support of the Deans of Arts and Sciences, the Office of the Chief Diversity Officer, and gifts to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

OUR SPEAKERS

Joshua Jordan



Joshua Jordan is an Advanced Lecturer of French in the Modern Languages and Literatures Department at Fordham. In addition to his specialization in 20th/21st-century French poetry, poetic theory, and stylistics, he has for many years worked as a translator from French to English. He will be speaking about some of the questions that arise in the act and art of translation, especially in light of his current project of translating Isabelle Boni-Claverie's memoir, *Trop noire pour être française* (Too Black to Be French), for which he won the 2019 French Voices Grand Prize for nonfiction.

He has translated numerous books in French theory and philosophy, most recently the French philosopher Etienne Balibar's *On Universals*.



Amara Lakhous was born in Algeria in 1970. He moved to Italy in 1995. He has a degree in philosophy from the University of Algiers and another in cultural anthropology from the University of Rome, La Sapienza where he completed a Ph.D. dissertation entitled “Living Islam as a Minority.” He is the author of five novels, three of which were written in both Arabic and Italian. His best-known works are the much-acclaimed *Clash of Civilizations Over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio* (2008), *Divorce Islamic Style* (2012), *Dispute over a Very Italian Piglet* (2014). *The Prank of the Good Little Virgin in Via Ormea*, came out in Italian in 2014 and published in English by Europa Editions in May 2016. The latest novel in Arabic *Tir al-lil, The Bat* (2019). His novels have been translated from Italian into many languages: English, German, French, Spanish, Dutch, Japanese, Danish and Berber. Lakhous has been awarded, among others, the Flaiano Prize in Italy in 2006 and the Algerians Booksellers Prize in 2008. *Clash of Civilizations Over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio* has been adapted into a movie by the Italian director Isotta Toso in 2010 and many theater productions and it was chosen for the 2014 New Student Reading Project at Cornell University. He moved to New York City in August of 2014.

He is currently a visiting professor at New York University.

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Fordham University
Sponsored with the generous support of the Deans of Arts and Sciences, the Office of the Chief Diversity Officer, and gifts to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

Barbara Ofosu-Somuah



Barbara Ofosu-Somuah (1991) was born in Accra, Ghana and grew up in the Bronx, New York. She is an educational equity activist, interdisciplinary social scientist, and Italian to English translator. Barbara believes in the foundational importance of considering and centering equity in all aspects of justice work. As a Thomas J. Watson Fellow (2013) and as a Fulbright Researcher (2016), she investigated Black people's racialized lived experiences across the African Diaspora. She is translating with Candice Whitney, *Future. Il domani narrato dalle voci di oggi (Futures. Tomorrow Narrated by the Voices of Today)*, the first literary anthology by black Italian womxn, edited by Igiaba Scego. 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.

Barbara has a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Psychology, and Italian from Middlebury College.

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Fordham University
Sponsored with the generous support of the Deans of Arts and Sciences, the Office of the Chief Diversity Officer, and gifts to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

Candice Whitney



Candice Whitney is a writer, leadership coach, and international education advocate based in New Jersey. She has channeled her passion for international education by working for a university in Florence, Italy, and most recently at an education not-for-profit in the U.S. In 2017 she completed a Fulbright research project that explored how the diversity of African women's entrepreneurial projects interrogates and challenges stereotypes about the African diaspora in Italy. She has published articles on different platforms. She is translating with Barbara Ofose-Somuah, *Future. Il domani narrato dalle voci di oggi (Futures. Tomorrow Narrated by the Voices of Today)*, the first literary anthology by black Italian womxn, edited by Igiaba Scego.

She received her Bachelors in Anthropology and Italian from Mount Holyoke College in 2015. Her background in Anthropology and Italian Studies provided her the tools to understand the dynamics of human movements in local and global contexts.

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Fordham University
Sponsored with the generous support of the Deans of Arts and Sciences, the Office of the Chief Diversity Officer, and gifts to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

About the MLL Vocab Diversity Initiative

In response to the death of George Floyd and a call for action around the world the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures with generous support from Rafael Zapata, Chief Diversity Officer and the Office of The Chief Diversity Officer, proposed a collaborative overhaul of our language syllabi over the summer and a series of roundtables this fall to address the systemic racism, classism, and sexism that arise from vocabulary and its representation.

How does language, and the way we and our textbooks present and represent language/vocabulary in the classroom, create, reinforce, and normalize certain forms of bias, stereotype, and prejudice? For example, what is the vocabulary that we provide to students to discuss “the family” or “professions”? Why are only certain entities represented, how are they presented, what is the message implicitly being conveyed to students about the societies and cultures they are learning about? How have these groupings of words and their representations changed at different historical moments and in different regions where these languages are studied?

- This academic year, courses 1001-1502 in all languages will begin to address these problematic issues of language vocabulary teaching with the Vocab Diversity Initiative.
- This initiative, which is funded by the Office of the Chief Diversity Officer, Rafael Zapata, and the Deans of Arts and Sciences and Fordham College integrates classroom vocabulary activities, readings, talks, and workshops throughout the semester that examine questions of diversity and inclusion regarding race, gender, class, sexuality, and disability (among other topics).
- With this initiative, we aim to build a collective lexicon and knowledge base that enable our students, at all levels and for all languages, to discuss and reflect on the diverse world our languages are used in as well as the histories of some of these words.
- The classroom component is built directly into the common syllabi for 1001-1502 courses.
- The specific vocabulary topics and classroom implementation vary somewhat across languages, instructors should consult their language coordinators for more in-depth details on the classroom components of this initiative for their course.
- Workshops and talks are intended for students in all languages and levels. Further information will be shared throughout the semester.

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Fordham University
Sponsored with the generous support of the Deans of Arts and Sciences, the Office of the Chief Diversity Officer, and gifts to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

**October 28: Representations of Anti-Blackness and White Supremacy
in Languages**

(Allison Blakely, Isabelle Boni-Claverie, Tanya Hernández,
Avishai Yeganyahu Mekonen)

November 4: Exploding the (Gender) Binary

(Vera Gheno, Kiki Kosnick, Joy Ladin, João Nemi Neto)

November 18: Food: Colonial Legacies

(Suzanne Cope, Isaie Dougnon, Pierre Thiam)

December 2: Do You Have an Accent?

(Elaine Chun, Evangelia Manatou, Yossi Zabari)

February 17: Race and Translation

(Joshua Jordan, Amara Lakhous,
Barbara Ofosu-Somuah, Candice Whitney)

March 24: Vocabularies of Ableism

April 21: Music/Language: Migrations & Colonial Legacies

Each roundtable starts at 2:30pm (EST) and lasts one hour. All students from classes 1001 through 1502 are asked to attend. The events are open to the public through registration. The events will be recorded and posted to our YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZ_onwmjnM_ihs0r4-k73pQ/

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Fordham University
Sponsored with the generous support of the Deans of Arts and Sciences, the Office of the Chief Diversity Officer, and gifts to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures