



THE WORK OF THE LITERARY TRANSLATOR

Ethics, Aesthetics, and Politics

A Burdick-Vary Symposium organized by the Institute for Research
in the Humanities and Department of French & Italian, University of
Wisconsin–Madison

February 28, 2025
126 Memorial Library (728 State Street)

Morning

9:15 am – 12:30 pm



OPENING REMARKS

9:15 am – 9:45 am

Grant Nelsestuen, Professor and Associate Dean of Arts and Humanities, College of Letters and Science; **Grazia Menechella**, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of French & Italian; **Anne Vila**, Professor, Department of French & Italian, senior fellow at Institute for Research in the Humanities

SESSION 1: WHAT MATTERS IN TRANSLATION?

9:45 am – 12:30 pm

Moderator: **Nevine El-Nossery** (UW–Madison)

PART 1: 9:45 am – 11:00 am

Martin Rueff (University of Geneva), "How and Why Translation Matters"

Kaiama L. Glover (Yale University): "'Blackness' in French: Race Matters in Translation"

Discussion: 10:45 am – 11:00 am

– Coffee Break, 11:00 am – 11:10 am –

PART 2: 11:10 am – 12:30 pm

Ernesto Livorni (UW–Madison), "Cesare Pavese: Translator of Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*"

Diego Alegría (UW–Madison), "Creative Criticism as Literary Translation: Cortázar's Reading of Keats's 'Ode'"

Discussion: 12:10 pm – 12:30 pm

– Lunch Break, 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm –

Afternoon

2:00 pm – 6:00 pm



SESSION 2: TRANSLATION AND LITERARY CREATION

2:00 pm – 3:45 pm

Moderator: **Michael Bernard-Donals** (UW–Madison)

Michael F. Moore (scholar, translator, and interpreter), "Faithless Love: In Praise of Difference in Translation"

Jessica Dubie (UW–Madison), "Salvatore Quasimodo's Hermetic Translation of *The Odyssey*"

Florence Vatan (UW–Madison), "Dying Flies and the Life of Translation: Robert Musil and Philippe Jaccottet"

Discussion: 3:20 pm – 3:45 pm

– Coffee Break, 3:45 pm – 3:55 pm –

SESSION 3: TRANSLATION AS TRANSNATIONAL AND TRANSDISCIPLINARY MEDIATION

3:55 pm – 6:00 pm

Moderator: **Josh Armstrong** (UW–Madison)

Stefania Buccini (UW–Madison), "Carlo Goldoni Meets the Wisconsin Idea: The 1912 Translation of *La locandiera*"

Caroline Warman (Oxford University), "The Literary Translation of a Scientific Work: A Contradiction in Terms?"

Peter Russella (UW–Madison), "Translating Graphic Novels: The Case of *Thoreau: A Sublime Life*"

Anne Vila (UW–Madison), "My Life as an Accidental Translator: What I Discovered by Translating François Roustang (from *Casanova* to *Hypnosis*)"

Discussion: 5:40 pm – 6:00 pm

Coffee, water, and other refreshments will be provided throughout the symposium. During the lunch break (12:30 pm –1:45 pm), lunch will be provided to speakers and moderators at the UW–Madison French House (633 N. Frances St.).

This event is generously co-sponsored by the Institute for Research in the Humanities, the Anonymous Fund, the Jay C. and Ruth Halls Visiting Scholar Fund, the Department of French & Italian, the Center for Interdisciplinary French Studies, and the Center for European Studies. Special thanks to the UW–Madison faculty organizers: Anne Vila (Professor of French; IRH senior fellow, 2021–2025), Ernesto Livorni (Professor of Italian), and Florence Vatan (Professor of French).



Our speaker **Martin Rueff**, the 2025 Halls Visiting Scholar for the Department of French & Italian, will also be presenting another public lecture two days before the symposium:



« Mon image, cent fois plus belle que je ne fus jamais, viendra tout à coup te surprendre » : l'autre, le corps, l'image dans *Julie ou la Nouvelle Héloïse*

A Public Lecture by Martin Rueff
(University of Geneva)

Combien sommes-nous quand nous sommes deux ? La question peut surprendre sauf à se souvenir que l'autre, loin de se réduire à son corps, dépose en moi une image avec laquelle j'entretiens une relation intense et privée. C'est à la fois le même de l'autre et son autre. Le corps et l'image n'entretiennent pas le même rapport au temps et dictent des fidélités aussi différentes qu'impérieuses. *Julie ou la Nouvelle Héloïse* est le roman de ces fidélités. Images, portraits, modèles, fantômes : autant d'instances de l'autre que Rousseau expose, interroge, relance. Rarement un roman n'aura été aussi loin et sa profondeur reste encore pour une nous source d'interrogations et de méditations. Quel est le pouvoir des images ? Des opiniâtres images ?

Martin Rueff is a Professor of French Literature at the University of Geneva, Switzerland, as well as an acclaimed poet and translator. A specialist of 18th-century literature, especially Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Professor Rueff has also published several books on contemporary poetry.

Information

February 26, 2025 at 4:00 pm CST - 5:30 pm CST
126 Memorial Library (728 State Street)

This event is in French, free and open to the public. For virtual attendance, contact Dr. Anne Vila at acvila@wisc.edu.

This lecture is made possible through the generous support of the Jay C. and Ruth Halls Visiting Scholar Fund and the Department of French and Italian at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.