

LTWR 115 [T: 5:00-7:50] [Fall 2013]  
EXPERIMENTAL WRITING  
(IN-TRANSLATION)

Dr. Cristina Rivera-Garza  
LB432 [criveragarza@ucsd.edu](mailto:criveragarza@ucsd.edu)  
OH: MT

In a provocative essay published in *Boundary 2*, poet and essayist Juliana Spahr argued that, in the 90s, “some of the more provocative literatures in English from various literary schools and various national traditions blatantly turned away from standard English in order to say something about English.” This literature, she went on “is distinctive for the number of works that turn away from standard English by including other languages and/or are written mainly in the pidgins or creoles that resulted from English-language colonialism.” Writers from other latitudes, such as Daniel Tabarovsky in Argentina, also paid great attention and valued works that he described as “written-in-translation”. Some translators, in fact, have argued that translation is the true original language.

In this workshop we will explore contemporary notions and practices of translation as it has been incorporated in a diversity of works in English and Spanish. You do not need to be bilingual to take this class.

In addition to theoretical readings on the subject, we will revise contemporary texts, including both poetry and prose, resulting from unique takes on translation. In addition, whether students are bilingual or not, and following prompts and exercises issued in class, they will be writing with and translating a series of young authors from Mexico. Working in teams, students will hold “skype” meetings with their authors throughout the quarter, aiming at completing a book of translations by the end of Fall2013. Some of these authors will visit our class in early November, thanks to a UCSD-CECUT project called “Experimental Station SD/TJ 2013”.

Participating authors include Mexican poet and translator (from Portuguese) Paula Abramo, who currently teaches at UNAM; poet and L.A. resident, Dolores Dorantes; poet and visual artist from Oaxaca, Efraín Velasco; poet and UNAM professor, Roberto Cruz Arzábal; Central American poet now in residence in Berlin, Allan Mills; iconoclast essayists Bruno H. Piché and Vivian Abenshushan.

#### REQUIRED READINGS:

- a. Venuti, *Translation Studies Reader* (selected essays, in PDF)
- b. Juliana Spahr, *The 90s*, *Boundary 2* (link)
1. Jerome Rothenberg, *Lorca Variations* (with Jack Spicer, *After Lorca*, in PDF)
2. Chris Tysh, *Our Lady of Flowers*, *Echoic*
3. Mónica de la Torre, *Public Domain*
4. Yoko Tawada, *The Naked Eye*
5. Caroline Bergvall, *Meddle English*
6. Anne Carson, *Antigonick*
- c. Dworkin and Goldsmith, *Against Expression* (selected sections, in PDF)

REQUIRED WORK:

1 team presentation of selected required readings (from 1-6)	20%
1 team presentation of selected author	10%
6 translation exercises (in assigned dates)	30%
1 final project per person (handmade book)	20%
1 final project per team (handmade book and presentation/public reading)	20%

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I. Tuesday, October 1st

TRANSLATION: AN EXERCISE

Presentation of syllabus.

Creation of teams. Start researching participating authors; select required readings presentation date

Translation Exercise #1 issued: Team members \_\_\_\_\_

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II. Tuesday, October 8th

TURNING AWAY FROM STANDARD ENGLISH

Required readings: Juliana Spahr, *The 90s* ([link](#)); Dworkin and Goldsmith, *Against Expression* (selected fragments).

Translation Exercise #2 issued: Team# \_\_\_\_\_

Translation Exercise #1 distributed (appropriate number of copies)

Select your author. Contact author via mail and get his/her texts. Distribute texts among team members. Start reading them. We will use these texts as basis of our translating exercises.

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III. Tuesday, October 15th

THE VARIATIONS

Required readings: Spicer, *Lorca Variations*

Team #1: Presentation

Translation Exercise #1: Comments

Translation Exercise #2: Distribution

Translation Exercise #3: Issued

Start setting dates for skype interviews with author.

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IV. Tuesday, October 22th

ECHOES

Required reading: Tysh, *Our Lady of Flowers*

Team #2: Presentation  
Translation Exercise #2: Comments  
Translation Exercise #3: Distribution  
Translation Exercise #4: Issued

Hold skype interviews with authors.

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V. Tuesday, October 29th  
EXOPHONIC EYES  
Required readings: Tawada, *Naked Eye*

Team#3: Presentation  
Translation Exercise #3: Comments  
Translation Exercise #4: Distribution  
Translation Exercise #5: Issued

Hold skype meetings with with authors.

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VI. Tuesday, November 5th  
PUBLIC DOMAINS  
Required reading: De la Torre, *Public Domain*

Team#4: Presentation  
Translation Exercise #4: Comments  
Translation Exercise #5: Distribution  
Translation Exercise #6: Issued

VISITING WRITER: PAULA ABRAMO

Discuss translations and book structure with author.

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VII. Tuesday, November 12th  
MEDDLING  
Required Readings: Bergvall, *Meddle English*

Team #5: Presentation  
Translation Exercise #5: Comments  
Translation Exercise #6: Distribution

VISITING WRITER: EFRAIN VELASCO

Report 1 of Skype Meetings with selected author

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VIII. Tuesday, November 19th

VERSIONING

Required readings: Carson, Antigonick

Team #6: Presentation

Translation Exercise #6: Comments

Report 2 of Skype Meetings with selected authors

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IX. Tuesday, November 26th

MAKING A BOOK OF TRANSLATIONS (INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE)

Team skype interviews with professor and/or participating author

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X. Tuesday, December 3rd

MAKING A BOOK OF TRANSLATIONS

FINAL TEAM PRESENTATIONS

INDIVIDUAL BOOK DUE

COLLECTIVE BOOK DUE