

## Spring Literary Symposium – Wednesday, April 9 & Thursday, April 10, 2025

### *Literary Culture, Translation, and the Other*

This two-evening symposium gathers internationally renowned scholars, translators, and other creatives, including poets, for a lively exchange of cutting-edge ideas related to the challenges of writing and research across borders and in opposition to marginalized structures. Panel discussions, scholarly presentations, and creative readings will focus on multicultural, feminist, queer, and postcolonial perspectives while also celebrating and elucidating the contributions of writers especially from Spanish and Italian speaking diasporas. **Wednesday evening** will feature a panel presentation on the Challenges of Translation from Spanish and Italian and a **Keynote Presentation by [Prof. Caterina Romeo](#), Sapienza Università di Roma**, on “Postcolonial Europe, Migration, and Italian American Culture.”

On **Thursday evening** the events will continue with the presentation of the Erika Knowles Poetry Prize for outstanding undergraduate poetic achievement, and feature readings by PEN Award and Yale University Windham Campbell Prize winning Mexican-American Poet, [Prof. Natalie Scenters-Zapico](#) (Central Florida State) and [Poet-translator, Prof. Curtis Bauer](#) (Texas Tech University) with time afterward for questions.

#### **Day 1 – Wednesday, April 9, Galanti Lounge 4:00 pm – 6:15 pm**

**4:00 pm – 5:00 pm - Panel Discussion – Challenges of Translating from the Italian and Spanish:** with URI Prof. of Spanish [Prof. Susana de los Heros](#), Director of Creative Writing at Texas Tech Prof. [Curtis Bauer](#), URI Prof. of Italian Prof. [Michelangelo La Luna](#), and URI Associate Prof. of English [Prof. Peter Covino](#). Each presenter will offer a 10-minute overview of their recent work with time for questions and reactions from audience members.

**5:15 pm – 6:15 pm - Keynote Presentation, [Prof. Caterina Romeo](#) (Sapienza Università di Roma)** “Postcolonial Europe, Migration, and Italian American Culture.” Followed by a question-and-answer session, which will foreground issues of culture, marginalization, and translation. Prof. Peter Covino to provide Introductions and moderate discussion.

#### **Day 2 - Thursday, April 10, Galanti Lounge 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm**

##### ***Erika Knowles Poetry Award – National Poetry Month Reading***

**5 pm – 5:15 – Dean of Arts and Sciences, Jen Riley, Introduces and Knowles Poetry Award**

**5:15 - 6:30 - Featured Poetry Readings and Book Signings.**

The symposium will culminate in two half-hour **poetry readings** by PEN Award and Yale University Windham Campbell Prize winning Mexican-American Poet, [Prof. Natalie Scenters-Zapico](#) (Central Florida State) and [Poet-translator, Prof. Curtis Bauer](#) (Texas Tech University) with time for questions afterward. Prof. Peter Covino will facilitate, including introductions by Olivia Thomakos and Kyle Jordan.

**Keynote Speaker - Prof. Caterina Romeo** is an Associate Professor at Sapienza Università di Roma, where she also earned her Italian dottorato, and where she teaches Literary Theory, Gender Studies, Postcolonial Studies, and Migration Studies. Prof. Romeo earned an American PhD in Comparative Literature at Rutgers University. In 2019, she was Academic Visiting Fellow at the University of Auckland (NZ) and was invited as a Visiting Professor at the University of Hong Kong (HK). She is the author and/or editor of eleven full-length critical studies, several republished in expanded English editions, including, *Interrupted Narratives and Intersectional Representations in Italian Postcolonial Literature* (Palgrave 2023); *Tra follia e realismo magico. La produzione narrativa di Domenico Dara* (Perrone 2023); *Riscrivere la nazione* (Le Monnier-Mondadori, 2018), (and *Narrative tra due sponde. Memoir di italiane d'America* (Carocci 2005). She has also co-edited the groundbreaking volume *Postcolonial Italy: Challenging National Homogeneity* (2012); *Postcolonial Europe* (special issue of the journal *Postcolonial Studies*, 2015), and another special issue of the *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* titled *Intersectional Italy* (2022), which in 2024 was selected as part of the Routledge Special Issues as Books (SPIBs) program and just appeared (2025). She has translated the work of numerous Italian American women writers into Italian, among them Louise DeSalvo's best-selling *Vertigo*, Nutrimenti 2006; and Kym Ragusa, *The Skin Between Us, La pelle che ci separa*, Nutrimenti 2008). Prof. Romeo's critical writing, which appears regularly in Italy and international journals, and in edited volumes, focuses mainly on memoir and autobiography, Italian postcolonial literature, intersectionality, representations of Italian Blackness, and Italian American literature. Her current work centers on Italy's new migrant mobilities and exploring fields of research in the Environmental Humanities.

#### **Panelists:**

**Prof. Susana de los Heros** is originally from Peru where she obtained her BA in Spanish Language and Literature from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. She holds a Ph.D. in Hispanic Linguistics from the University of Pittsburgh. Prof. de los Heros has taught a wide variety of Spanish courses ranging from beginning Spanish to Spanish Discourse Analysis. She is the Director of the Spanish Master's Program and the Summer Study Abroad Program in Salamanca, Spain. Her publications include many critical articles and three acclaimed books *Utopía y realidad* (Vervuert/Instituto de Estudios Peruanos, 2012) and *Fundamentos y modelos del estudio pragmático y socio-pragmático del español* (GUP 2012, coedited with Mercedes Niño- Murcia). *Discurso, identidad y género en el castellano Peruano* (Discourse, identity and gender in Peruvian Spanish). Lima: Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, 2001 Since 2014, she has served on the Editorial Board, *Hispanic Journal of Linguistics*, and as a reviewer for *Lenguaje, Cultura y Representación* (Journal from the Universidad de Castellón, Spain), and for *Language in Society, Linguistics and Education, Journal of Pragmatics*, Pragso. She is currently exploring the construction of bilingual identities in the US media and on how institutional discourse manifests in the medical sphere.

**Prof. Michelangelo La Luna** is Professor of Italian in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages at University of Rhode Island since 2003. He is also the Director of the URI Italian International Engineering, Business, Computer Science, and Pharmaceutical Science Programs. He has a Ph.D. in Romance Languages and Literatures from Harvard University (2001) and a Ph.D. in Albanian Language and Literature from University of Calabria (1997). Dr. La Luna has many years of experience in study abroad programs. Before directing the URI Summer Program in Italy (2005), he organized the first study abroad Italy programs for the DeRada Italian Institute (2001-2004) and for Harvard University (2002-2004). He is also a passionate researcher of Dante's *Divine Comedy*, and of Luigi Capuana's fairy

tale *La Reginotta* (2020). As the Director of the book series SOPHIA, Dr. La Luna edited several books in honor the renowned Italian writer, Dacia Maraini. In 2023, his translation of Carmine Abate's masterpiece *Il ballo tondo*, was published with the title *The Round Dance* in the *Other Voices of Italy: Italian and Transnational Texts in Translation* series by Rutgers University Press.

**Prof. Curtis Bauer** currently directs the Creative Writing Program at Texas Tech University, where he also earned his PhD. Prof. Bauer received an MFA degree from Sarah Lawrence College. He is the author of ten books of translation from the Spanish and three original poetry collections, most recently *American Selfie* (Barrow Street Press, 2019), also published in Spanish translation as *Selfi Americano* by Vaso Roto Ediciones (2022). His ten books of translations of poetry and prose from the Spanish include the bilingual anthology *Fierce Voice / Voz feroz, Contemporary Women Poets from Argentina and Uruguay* (U of NM Press, 2023); the short story collections *The Names of the Things That Were There*, by Chilean author, Antonio Skármeta (Other Press, 2023); *Mothers and Dogs*, by Italo-Mexican writer Fabio Morábito (Other Press, 2023); the memoir *Land of Women*, by the Spanish author María Sánchez (Trinity University Press, 2022); the novel *The Home Reading Service*, by Fabio Morábito (Other Press, 2021); and the poetry collection *This Could Take Some Time*, by Argentinian poet Clara Muschietti (Eulalia Books, 2022). Forthcoming titles include *Your Steps on the Stairs*, by Spanish novelist, Antonio Muñoz Molina (Other Press, 2025), *Mineral Fire* (co-translated with Keila Vall de la Ville) by Spanish poet María Ángeles Pérez López (Vaso Roto Editions (USA), 2025) and *The Mammoth's Shadow* by Fabio Morábito (Other Press, 2026).

Poet-translator-editor **Prof. Peter Covino** is an associate professor in the English and Creative Writing Program at the University of Rhode Island. After a fourteen-year career as a professional social work (MS, Columbia University) in the fields of foster care and AIDS services, he earned a PhD in English from the University of Utah. Prof. Covino is a well-published scholar and author most recently of the *What Sex Is Death? Dario Bellezza Selected Poems* (2025) winner of Wisconsin Press Prize for Poetry in Translation—starred review in *Publisher's Weekly* and featured in *Poets and Writers* magazine. Covino's other books include the poetry collections *The Right Place to Jump* and *Cut Off the Ears of Winter* both from W. Michigan UP; and *Essays on Italian American Literature* CUNY / Bordighera. His awards include, a 2019 NEA Translation Fellowship, a Fellowship from the Richmond American International University of London, the PEN American/Osterweil Award, and the Frank O'Hara Prize for his chapbook *Straight Boyfriend*. He is a founding editor/trustee of Barrow Street Press and the founding editor/ faculty advisor for the *Ocean State Review*. [petercovino.com](http://petercovino.com)

**Prof. Natalie Scenters-Zapico** is a fronteriza from El Paso, Texas. She is the author of *My Perfect Cognate*, forthcoming in 2025 from Copper Canyon; *Lima :: Limón* (Copper Canyon Press 2019), and *The Verging Cities* (Colorado State University 2015). She won Yale University's Windham Campbell Prize (2021), a Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation (2018), a Lannan Literary Fellowship (2017), and a CantoMundo Fellowship (2015). Her first book, *The Verging Cities*, won the PEN/America Joyce Osterweil Award (2016), the GLCA New Writer's Award (2016), and the Utah Book Award (2016). Her second book, *Lima :: Limón*, was a finalist for the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Prize (2020) and shortlisted for the Griffin International Poetry Prize (2020). Her books have been reviewed widely in publications like *The New Yorker*, *NPR*, *The Washington Post*, and *Publisher's Weekly*, among others. Natalie has published poems in *Ploughshares*, *The Academy of American Poets' Poem-A-Day*, *Poetry*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *The Kenyon Review*, among others. Poems from her third book-in-progress have been published in *The Paris Review*, *Colorado Review*, *New England Review*, *Narrative*, and more. She teaches in the undergraduate and MFA

creative writing programs at the University of South Florida, where she won a USF 2022 Faculty Outstanding Research Achievement Award (ORAA) and a 2023-2024 McKnight Junior Faculty Fellowship. She currently serves as steward for the Michael Kuperman Memorial Poetry Library.