



## **Conference Announcement: *International Symposium ‘Poetry Across the Lines: Translating Colour, Gender, History’***

**Date:** December 5-6, 2023

**Location:** Aula Magna Palazzo Matteucci, Piazza E. Torricelli 2, Pisa

The University of Pisa, the Department of Philology, Literature, and Linguistics (Department of Excellence 2023-2027), in collaboration with the University of Bari “Aldo Moro” - Department of Humanistic Research and Innovation, the University of Louisville, the Italian Association for the Study of Cultures and Literatures in English (AISCLI), the University of Palermo, and the University Library System (SBA), is pleased to announce the upcoming International Symposium, ‘Poetry Across the Lines: Translating Colour, Gender, History’, which will be held in Pisa, Italy, on December 5 and 6, 2023. Organised by Biancamaria Rizzardi, Fausto Ciompi, Marco Petrelli, Elisa Fortunato, Simona Bertacco, AISCLI, and Alessandra di Maio, this event will bring together university professors, teachers, scholars, editors, and publishers interested in exploring the multifaceted intersections of colour, gender, poetry, history, and translation.

The symposium revolves around the crossings of languages, cultures, genders, and colours, and explores how these experiences are articulated in the translational tradition of postcolonial poetry. In this respect, translation, the quintessential metaphor of crossing, is of interest not only to students of foreign languages, literatures, and cultures, but also to those who live, work and interact with people who cross borders in the contemporary era of migration.

Our collective reflections have been prompted by a recent confluence of polemics concerning three main elements: literary genre, femininity, and translation policies dealing with Afro-diasporic cultural experiences in Europe. Two examples are the recent public controversy over the Italian translation of the poem *Zong!* by the Canadian-Caribbean poet Marlene NourbeSe Philip – one of the most powerful poetic texts in Anglophone literature dealing with the transatlantic slave trade and forced migration from Africa – and the case of the European translations of Amanda Gorman’s ‘The Hill We Climb’, which sparked debates about translators’ ethnicity and translation policies. Despite the diversity of their contexts, these cases have influenced translation and editing practices in Italy and Europe, highlighting the relationship between certain appropriative forms of translation and coloniality, and promoting more inclusive and collaborative ways of producing and sharing knowledge.

The symposium aims to outline and discuss the methodologies and deeper meanings of practices such as the translation of postcolonial literature and the teaching of foreign languages and cultures. It will be structurally divided into four sessions: I – Alterity and ethics of translation, II – Through forms and codes, III – Translating gender: languages, spaces, bodies, IV – Re-thinking translation. The four sessions will be followed by a round table entitled ‘Paper-words: Poetry, Translation, Publishing’, featuring conversations with Gabriel del Sarto and Niccolò Scaffai (‘Poetica’, *Industria e Letteratura*), Andrea Molesini (Molesini Editore), and Adama Sanneh (Moleskine Foundation). Speaker Sessions feature Aminat Emma Badmus (PhD student, Università

degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia), Giovanni Bassi (Università LUM “Giuseppe Degennaro”), Elena Basile (York University / University of Toronto), Simona Bertacco (University of Louisville), Roberta Cimarosti (Università della Calabria), Fausto Ciompi (Università di Pisa), Pietro Deandrea (Università di Torino), Alessandra di Maio (Università degli Studi di Palermo), Elisa Fortunato (Università degli Studi di Bari “Aldo Moro”), Antonella Francini (Syracuse University, Firenze), Laura Giovannelli (Università di Pisa), Maria Paola Guarducci (Università degli Studi Roma Tre), Paola Loreto (Università degli Studi di Milano), Angelo Monaco (Università degli Studi di Bari “Aldo Moro”), Renata Morresi (Università degli Studi di Padova), Marco Petrelli (Università di Pisa), Biancamaria Rizzardi (Università di Pisa), Andrea Sirotti (Liceo Machiavelli, Firenze), Alessandro Vescovi (Università degli Studi di Milano), Nicoletta Vallorani (Università degli Studi di Milano).

**Scientific Committee:** Biancamaria Rizzardi (Università di Pisa), Fausto Ciompi (Università di Pisa), Marco Petrelli (Università di Pisa), Simona Bertacco (University of Louisville), Alessandra di Maio (Università degli Studi di Palermo), Elisa Fortunato (Università degli Studi di Bari “Aldo Moro”), Alessandro Vescovi (Università degli Studi di Milano, AISCLI), Federica Zullo (Università degli Studi di Urbino “Carlo Bo”, AISCLI).

**Organizing Committee:** Valérie Tosi (PhD Student, Università di Pisa), Andrea Lupi (PhD Student, Università di Pisa), Lorenzo Santi (PhD Student, Università di Pisa).

For additional information, please contact: [valerie.tosi@phd.unipi.it](mailto:valerie.tosi@phd.unipi.it)