

MC CONFLUENCE

Translation in the Capital Area

"Love For Words In The Time of COVID"

Virtual Conference Spring 2021

Saturday, April 10th

9:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Registration is now OPEN

Keynote Speaker

Joe Mazza

Joseph P. Mazza, a 1984 graduate of the George Washington University, joined the State Department's Office of Language Services (LS) in 1989 as a translator of Romance languages (Spanish, French, Italian, and Portuguese) into English, following five years as a translator of Russian and Romance languages for the Navy. In 2003, he was named Chief of LS's Romance Translations Branch. Since early 2006, he has been Chief of LS's Translating Division, with responsibility for most State Department translations. LS carries on a tradition of translating and interpreting for the President, Secretary of State, and federal agencies dating back to 1781.

Humanities Area



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9:30am - 10am ♦ **Opening - Welcome**

10am - 11am ♦ **Strange Bedfellows: Literary Translators & Languages They Don't Know**

Moderator & Panelist: Nancy Naomi Carlson

Panelists: Nancy Arbuthnot, Lo Dagerman, Barbara Goldberg, and Lola Haskins

It's generally assumed that literary translators should stick to source texts written in languages they know...but should that always be the case? Is there a general prejudice against translators who engage in this practice or is it true, as some believe, that fluency in the target language is more important? This panel of critically acclaimed poet-translators, translating from such languages as Hebrew, Swedish, and Vietnamese, will share the strategies they have developed to overcome barriers that may arise from a lack of fluency in the source language.

11:20am -12:20pm ♦ **Rewording Ourselves**

Keynote Speaker: Joe Mazza

We live in a world convulsed by pandemic. How has the past year changed our outlook as translators? Has the quarantine brought positive change, perhaps a rediscovery of ourselves and our craft?

1pm - 2pm ♦ **Mega Projects and Teamwork**

Presenters: Farah Arjang and Ida Jones

One hundred files. Two million words. Two months. Technical text. Thirty translators. No "highway" option. What do you do, when confronted with these parameters? Farah Arjang and Ida Jones explore the challenges and successes of putting together large projects, from the perspective of both linguist and project manager, explicating the necessity of collegial collaboration between the manager and the managed.

2:20pm - 3:20pm ♦ **Complexities of End-of-Life Discussions Across Language and Cultural Barriers – virtual family meetings in the era of the COVID 19 pandemic**

Presenters: Sylvia Christie ACNP-BC, ACHPN and Elizabeth Collado, M.S.Ed.

Family meetings in the hospital setting to discuss end-of-life decision-making can be difficult to have with speakers of English but can be particularly complex when these conversations must bridge language and cultural barriers. This presentation addresses the role of the interpreter as an integral contributor to the work of the patient care team, how to engage with other members of the healthcare team to achieve the most productive and culturally appropriate meetings, and obstacles to positive meeting outcomes.

3:30pm - 4:00pm ♦ **Closing remarks**