



**MONTGOMERY
COLLEGE**

**MC CONFLUENCE SERIES VIRTUAL
CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

TRANSLATION CONFERENCE IN THE CAPITAL AREA

**LIVING BETWEEN LANGUAGES:
THE TRANSLATOR'S TERRITORY/PREDICAMENT**

***SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2025,
11:00AM - 2:00PM***

MC Confluence Series Opening Event

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

11:00 AM ___ **OPENING REMARKS BY DEAN JENNIFER HAYDEL**

11:10 AM ___ **KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY DR. NANCY NAOMI CARLSON**

12:00 PM ___ **BREAK**

12:05 PM ___ **CONFLUENCE PRESENTER DR. CHRISTINA PARDO-BALLESTER**

12:40 PM ___ **CONFLUENCE PRESENTER DR. SEAN SONG**

01:15 PM ___ **CONFLUENCE PRESENTER DR. JULIA LEVERONE**

01:40 PM ___ **CLOSING REMARKS BY JOSEPH MAZZA**

MESSAGE FROM THE HUMANITIES DEAN – JENNIFER HAYDEL

Welcome to the Kickoff Event for the 2025-2026 MC Confluence Series. We are pleased to be able to bring together Montgomery College, DC-ALT, and NCATA virtually this year around the theme “Living Between Languages: The Translator’s Territory/Predicament.”

The Humanities Area at MC works every day to empower students and employees to engage with each other and their communities – through civic engagement, participatory dialogue, sharing of stories, exploration of ethics, and consideration of the many ways that we as individuals and groups are able to create meaningful lives.



Translation and interpretation are essential parts of enabling cultural interaction, mutual discovery, and dialogue across differences. As Eliot Weinberger wrote in his 19 Ways of Looking at Wang Wei, “...translation is more than a leap from dictionary to dictionary; it is a reimagining of the poem...” We are grateful that you’ve joined us today for our collective exploration of the reimagining opened up through translation and interpretation. Welcome to MC Confluence 2025-2026.

MEET THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

DR. NANCY NAOMI CARLSON



Dr. Nancy Naomi Carlson, winner of the 2022 Oxford-Weidenfeld Translation Prize, is a poet, translator, essayist, and editor, as well as a recipient of two literature translation fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts. She has also received grants from the Maryland State Arts Council and the Albertine Translation Fund (2023).

In 2018, she was decorated as Chevalier of the Order of the Academic Palms by the French government.

Author of five non-translated titles and nine books of translations, her second full-length collection of poems, *An Infusion of Violets* (Seagull Books), was published in 2019 and was featured in *The New York Times Book Review* ("New & Noteworthy"), as well as reviewed by Elizabeth Lund in *The Washington Post*. Her third full-length poetry collection, *Piano in the Dark* (Seagull Books, 2023) was featured as a "Must Read Editor's Choice" on *Poetry Daily* (June 21, 2023).

Carlson has authored ten translations, including Khal Torabully's *Cargo Hold of Stars: Coolitude* (Seagull Books, 2021), which was the winner of the 2022 Oxford-Weidenfeld Translation Prize, and a finalist for the Sarah Maguire Poetry Prize awarded by the Poetry Translation Centre in London. *Hammer with No Master*, translations of René Char (Tupelo Press), was a 2017 finalist for the Firecracker Award for Poetry by the Community of Literary Magazines and presses (CLMP). *The Nomads, My Brothers, Go Out to Drink from the Big Dipper* (Seagull Books, 2015), translations of Abdourahman Waberi, from Djibouti, was a finalist for the Best Translated Book Award for Poetry. If you want to know more about her work, [click here.](#)

MEET THE CONFLUENCE PRESENTERS

DR. CRISTINA PARDO-BALLESTER, IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY. “HUMOR MEETS AI: REVOLUTIONIZING SPANISH LEARNING THROUGH CREATIVE TRANSLATION”



Dr. Cristina Pardo Ballester is an Associate Professor of Spanish Linguistics in the Department of World Languages and Cultures at Iowa State University where she co-directs the Iowa State University on Mediterranean – Summer program in Valencia, Spain.

Dr. Pardo Ballester teaches a variety of courses including Introduction to Spanish-English Interpretation, Contemporary Spanish Linguistics, and Contrastive Analysis of Spanish/ English for Translators. Her research interests center on Computer Assisted Language Learning, Second Language Acquisition, instructional material design, second language assessment, and translation studies. She has co-authored a Spanish language textbook *Pura Vida*, published in 2014 by Wiley & Sons. She has also published in leading scholarly journals in the field. If you want to know more about her work, [click here](#).

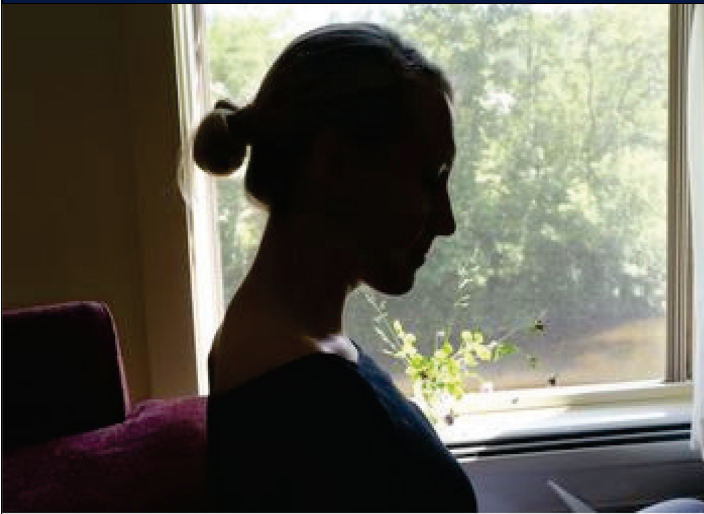
DR. SEAN SONG, TRANSLATION BOULEVARD. “HOW TO UTILIZE MACHINE TRANSLATION AND AI TECHNOLOGY TO HELP SUBTITLE TRANSLATION BUSINESS”

Dr. Sean Song is the founder of Translation Boulevard. He graduated from Communication University of China with a B.A. in Journalism, from the London School of Economics with an MSc in Globalization and Communication, and from the University of Southern California with an MA in Global Communication.

Translation Boulevard specializes in translation services in subjects such as media, marketing, law, medicine, finance, and general documents. They work on over 50 major languages pairs. If you want to know more about his work, [click here](#).



DR. JULIA LEVERONE, WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY POTOMAC COLLEGE. “TRANSLATIONAL TRAINING: HOW TRANSLATING CHANGES POETIC VOICES”



Julia Leverone holds a PhD in comparative literature from Washington University in St. Louis, an MFA in poetry from the University of Maryland at College Park, and a BA in Spanish from Tufts University. Her research areas include poetry of witness, contemporary poetry of the US and Latin America, testimonial literature, and revolutionary poetry.

She is an accomplished translator of poetry from Spanish to English; more

than 50 individual pieces have been published in national and international journal publications. Her book of translations, Fuel and Fire: Selected Poems of Francisco Urondo, was published in 2018. She is a poet with numerous journal publications and two chapbooks, Shouldering (Finishing Line Press, 2016) and Little Escape (JMWJ, 2019). She has been a literary and academic editor for 17 years and founded and serves as the editor of the online magazine of poetry in translation, AzonaL. If you want to know more about her work, [click here](#).

CLOSING REMARKS BY JOSEPH P. MAZZA

Joseph P. Mazza, a 1984 graduate of the George Washington University, served in the US Navy's Translation Unit and in the State Department's Office of Language Services. In 2006 he became Chief of LS's Translating Division, with responsibility for most State Department translations. If you want to know more about his work, [click here](#).



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

CONFLUENCE ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE:

JENNIFER HAYDEL, DEAN OF HUMANITIES

DR. M. ELVIRA LUNA-ESCUDEIRO-ALIE, CHAIR OF HUMANITIES-TP/SS CAMPUS

SUSAN SHEPHERD, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT II

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SHAILINE KIRKLAND, (ADVISOR)

DR. SAUNDRA MALEY, ENGLISH PROFESSOR

RANIA SULIMAN, ARABIC PROFESSOR

KEYNOTE & PRESENTERS

DR. NANCY NAOMI CARLSON

DR. CRISTINA PARDO-BALLESTER

DR. SEAN SONG

DR. JULIA LEVERONE

MR. JOSEPH P. MAZZA

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