The Right Side of the Tapestry
A Conversation on Translation

THE OAKLEY CENTER
was established in 1985 to support research and inquiry across the humanities and social sciences.

The center hosts events each year that facilitate intellectual exchange and collaboration across disciplinary boundaries.

Schedule
SATURDAY, NOV 10TH

10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Panelists Aurora Lauzardo, Vicente Rafael & Sarah Ruden
*Moderated by Christopher Bolton, Associate Professor of Comparative and Japanese Literature

Noon – 1:45 p.m.
Break

2:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.
Panelists Matthew Fraleigh, Na’ama Rokem & Shawkat Toorawa
*Moderated by Christopher Nugent, Associate Professor of Chinese

Note that seating is limited; kindly RSVP to oakleycenter@williams.edu by Friday, Nov. 2, if you wish to attend, and we will promptly inform you of availability.

Oakley Center for the Humanities & Social Sciences
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PHOTO: Soledad Fox
“[I]t seems to me that translation from one language into another, unless it is from Greek and Latin, the queens of all languages, is like looking at Flemish tapestries from the wrong side, for although the figures are visible, they are covered by threads that obscure them, and cannot be seen with the smoothness and color of the right side.”

These are Don Quixote’s comments on translation, and he expresses here a basic anxiety known to many of us when we read a translation: “What am I losing?”

Yet before we can even attempt to answer this, we find that we must ask other questions that focus and enrich this initial query. After all, if we are losing something, then we have to agree that there was an original, agreed upon meaning to lose — and that is where things become very interesting.

In this Oakley Center event we have the privilege of conversing with six groundbreaking scholars and practitioners of translation who will offer us new perspectives on one of the most intriguing ways in which we communicate.

It is a pleasure to invite you to engage in a dialogue with our distinguished guests who will present a wide range of issues — always within a specific context — to help us understand the many natures and functions of translation.

**Panel 1**

**AURORA LAUZARDO**

Aurora Lauzardo is Professor at the College of Humanities, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus. She was Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research from 2002 to 2006 and Chair of the Graduate Program in Translation from 2006-2011. Since November 2010 she has been Coordinator of Faculty Initiatives of a Title V grant to develop undergraduate research at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus. She has translated literary, academic and audiovisual works. She is currently working on the Spanish translation of Dr. Astrid Cubano’s book *Rituals of Violence in Nineteenth-Century Puerto Rico: Individual Conflict, Gender, and the Law.*

**VICENTE L. RAFAEL**

Vicente L. Rafael is Professor of History at the University of Washington in Seattle. He is the author of several works on colonial and post-colonial Philippines that focus on the questions of translation and the technologies of power. He has also written on the politics of language and translation in US imperial history. Rafael’s current research has to do with the relationship between translation and war. One part examines the US military’s on-going attempt to weaponize translation in its current “global war on terror.” The other part consists of a study of the colonial and post-colonial legacy of English in the Philippines predicated on a “war of translation” waged against the vernacular languages, including Spanish.

**SARAH RUDEN**

Sarah Ruden has taught at Harvard, Yale, and the University of Cape Town, South Africa. Her scholarship has concentrated on literary translation of the Greek and Roman classics: she has published translations of the *Satyricon* of Petronius (Hackett, 2000), Aristophanes’ *Lysistrata* (Hackett, 2003), the *Homeric Hymns* (Hackett, 2005), and Vergil’s *Aeneid* (Yale UP, 2008). She has been particularly concerned with making ancient literature clear, appealing, and informative for readers who have little or no background in ancient languages. Ruden was a 2010 recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship.

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