



Distinguished Lecturer in Multilingualism and Language Learning

Lawrence Venuti

*Distinguished Professor of English, Translation Theory
and History at Temple University*

Traduttore Traditore: The Instrumentalism of Conventional Wisdom

Wednesday,

December 5, 2018

3:00 p.m.

Norris University Center, Room 202
1999 Campus Drive, Evanston IL

Reception to follow

RSVP requested at

www.tinyurl.com/LawrenceVenuti

Free and open to the public
No tickets or reservations required

For more information, contact
linguistics@northwestern.edu
or call 847-491-4020

Translation has long been grounded on an instrumental model in which it is understood as the reproduction or transfer of an invariant contained in or caused by the source text. This lecture initiates a rigorous interrogation of proverbial expressions where instrumentalism continues to limit translation commentary. Venuti examines the proverb as a genre that is metaphorical and then returns to a particular translation proverb--“traduttore traditore.” The discussion explores how instrumentalism preempts an understanding of translation as an interpretive act. The aim is to defamiliarize notions that have come to be all too familiar as truths of translation, to show how they actually limit thinking about what translation is and does, and to indicate other, more productive directions that thinking can take.