Northwestern WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES



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

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

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.

Co-sponsored by: the Weinberg Science of Language Initiative; the Council on Language Instruction; the Buffett Forum for Languages and Cultures; the Departments of Linguistics, Asian Languages and Cultures, Slavic Languages and Literatures, Spanish and Portuguese; and the Kaplan Humanities Institute