


The Literature Discipline Group and
The Center for the Advancement
of Public Action Present

 BENNINGTON

Fall 2017

translates

Empathy, Intimacy, Imagination



Thursday, **NOVEMBER 2** • 7:00 pm • CAPA Symposium

AARON COLEMAN

“Locating and Translating New World Blacknesses”

A personal interest in international Blacknesses (attuning to both their similarities and differences) was a driving force in Aaron Coleman’s writing long before he began to develop the creative and critical terms to explore it. During this talk, Coleman will share the poetry of Afro-Cuban writer Nicolás Guillén, his ongoing project of translating and responding to Guillén’s work, and discuss his empathetic, critical, and self-aware approach to the process of literary translation. Coleman’s ongoing interest in the ways in which ethnic identities subvert, coerce, live inside, or move beyond national identities informs not only his work as a translator, but also his work as a poet and educator.

Aaron Coleman is the author of the chapbook *St. Trigger*, which won the 2015 Button Poetry Prize, judged by Adrian Matejka, and his first full-length collection, *Threat Come Close*, is forthcoming from Four Way Books in March 2018. A Fulbright Scholar and Cave Canem Fellow, Aaron received his MFA from Washington University in St. Louis. From Metro-Detroit, Aaron has lived and worked with youth in locations including Chicago, St. Louis, Spain, South Africa, and Kalamazoo. Former Public Projects Assistant at Pulitzer Arts Foundation, winner of the Tupelo Quarterly TQ5 Poetry Contest, The Cincinnati Review Schiff Award, and the American Literary Translator Association’s 2017 Jansen Memorial Fellow, Aaron’s poems have appeared in Boston Review, Fence, New York Times Magazine, and elsewhere. He is currently a Chancellor’s Graduate Fellow in Washington University St. Louis’ Comparative Literature PhD program.



Thursday, **NOVEMBER 30** • 7:00 pm • CAPA symposium

ELISABETH JAQUETTE

“Imagining Arabic Literature Beyond Politics”

Translated literature from non-European countries is often expected to play a dual role, both literary and ethnographic. What books, authors, and stories are missed when we read through a political lens? How might we imagine reading Arabic literature in English without the usual tropes of conflict, oppression, and hardship, which have often provided convenient justifications for US imperialism and military action? How instead might we learn to read Arabic literature on its own terms?

Elisabeth Jaquette’s translation of *The Queue*, by Basma Abdel Aziz, won the English PEN Translates Award and was longlisted for the Best Translated Book Award. She received the PEN/Heim Translation Grant for her translation of *Thirteen Months of Sunrise*, by Rania Mamoun. Her shorter works have appeared in several anthologies, and in *The New York Times*, *the Guardian*, *World Literature Today*, and other publications. Forthcoming translations include *The Apartment in Bab el-Louk* by Donia Maher and *The Frightened* by Dima Wannous. Jaquette has an MA from Columbia University, a BA from Swarthmore College, and was a CASA Fellow at the American University in Cairo. An adjunct instructor of Arabic translation at Hunter College-CUNY, she is also managing director of the American Literary Translators Association.

All events are open to the public • contact: capa@bennington.edu • 802-447-4267