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Storytelling, Multilingualism and Identity

Friday 26 March 2021

h. 11.00-13.00

Zoom link to Academic & Popular Writing 2020-2021

(MA degree programme in The Ancient Mediterranean World: History, Archaeology and Art)

Abstract

Stories are central to our understanding of the world, history as well as the construction of meaning. Accordingly, storytelling is a skill central to our ability to express complex ideas clearly and communicate effectively. At the same time, citizens of the modern global village use a range of languages and communicative strategies for different purposes, to negotiate their professional and intimate relationships. Many of us use different languages to do different things and we find ourselves in a translingual situation. If we decide to express a written content, an academic, professional text or fiction, in the same storytelling format but in a different language, we engage in self-translation. Furthermore, we increasingly rely on technology, from planes to smart phones, to reach out to the world around us. And yet, the most exciting of our journeys might be the one to the centre of our own selves – a journey of discovery and creation of our own identity. In order for Ulysses to find his way to Ithaca, he needs his story to be told. In this talk I will discuss the position of the participants with respect to such multilingual and multicultural issues as well as instances of literary self-translation and re-writing. The session will offer participants the opportunity to produce and discuss their own brief accounts.

Nebojša Radić is Director of the institution-wide world languages programme at the University of Cambridge in the UK. His professional and personal interests range from the role of information technology in language-teaching, methodology of teaching in blended and remote modes of delivery, to self-translation, translingual, world literature and journalism.

Nebojša wrote academic papers and fiction in the English, Italian and Serbian languages. He published poetry, short stories and two novels in Serbian, a novel in English and short stories in Italian. He is the correspondent from Britain of the Serbian current affair magazine *Pečat* and editor of the linguistic section of the *Ljudi govore* journal published in Toronto, Canada.

The talk is part of the 2020-2021 course *Academic & Popular Writing* (MA in The Ancient Mediterranean World: History, Archaeology and Art) and supported by 28ESFLC2018. For more information on the talk and the Zoom link, please contact maria.freddi@unipv.it