

The Literary Translator as an Empathetic and Creative Detective – Conversation with Mauro Cazzolla & Jonathan Combs-Schilling



Event details

Thursday, April 17, 2025

4:00pm – 5:00pm

Hagerty Hall 180

This conversation between Dr. Mauro Cazzolla and Professor Jonathan Combs-Schilling analyzes some of the current trends in literary translation and the challenges that a literary translator has to face when they have to translate a literary work. A quick overview of the discipline will first try to define what literary translation is. Then, through some translation examples taken from some Francophone authors' books, this presentation explores why, besides linguistic and writing skills, a literary translator needs to possess other skills such as empathy, creativity and attention to detail to be able to perform a good literary translation. The talk also aims to explore other questions such as positionality in translation and to present Dr. Cazzolla's latest translation of the novel *Célèbre* by French author Maud Ventura.



Mauro Cazzolla



Jonathan Combs-Schilling