



FY 2015 NEA Literature Translation Fellowship Recipients

Some details of the projects listed are subject to change, contingent upon prior Endowment approval. For the most up to date project information, please use the NEA's [online grant search system](#).

Click on the recipient's name for information on the project.

- **Rosa Alcalá**, El Paso, TX
- **Douglas Basford**, Buffalo, NY
- **Wendy Call**, Seattle, WA
- **Enriqueta Carrington**, Highland Park, NJ
- **Alexander Cigale**, New York, NY
- **Jennifer Croft**, Tiffin, IA
- **Bruce Fulton** (in collaboration with Ju-Chan Fulton), Seattle, WA
- **Katherine M. Hedeem**, Mount Vernon, OH
- **Cynthia Hogue**, Phoenix, AZ
- **Jawid Mojaddedi**, Hoboken, NJ
- **Philip Pardi**, Phoenicia, NY
- **Sarah Ponichtera**, Brooklyn, NY
- **Jacquelyn Pope**, Oak Park, IL
- **Barbara Romaine**, Paoli, PA
- **Adam P. Siegel**, Davis, CA
- **Yvette Siegert**, New York, NY
- **Steven J. Stewart**, Rexburg, ID
- **Niloufar Talebi**, San Francisco, CA
- **Jeffrey Yang**, Beacon, NY
- **Andrew Zawacki**, Athens, GA

Rosa Alcalá, El Paso, TX (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Spanish of poems by Chilean poet Cecilia Vicuña for an anthology of selected works. The anthology will feature poems from more than ten books and guide the reader through four decades of Vicuña's career. It will include an array of interconnected themes, from poems that explore the three-dimensionality of the *quipu*, a pre-Colombian writing system of corded knots, to poems that unpack Quechua, English, and Spanish to reveal, in their etymologies, the interconnectedness of histories and cultures.

Rosa Alcalá's books of poetry include *Undocumentaries* (Shearsman Books, 2010) and *The Lust of Unsentimental Waters* (Shearsman Books, 2012). She has also published translations of poetry books by Cecilia Vicuña, Lourdes Vázquez, and Lila Zemborain, among others. She is an associate professor in the bilingual MFA program at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Douglas Basford, Buffalo, NY (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Italian of the sonnets of Florentine poet Il Burchiello. Domenico di Giovanni is a 15th-century barber-poet widely known as Il Burchiello, which it has been claimed derives from the Italian *barca*, or boat, referring to his habit of piling up images and observations like the bargemen heaped up merchandise. This project will involve the translation of his sonnets, described widely as satirical and off-beat. One of his most famous sonnets, for example, depicts the battle between poetry personified and his razor, the symbol of his profession. Aside from a limited number of scholarly articles and one unpublished dissertation from 1970, the sonnets of Il Burchiello have remained inaccessible to an Anglophone audience.

Douglas Basford's poems, translations, and critical prose appear in *Poetry*, *Western Humanities Review*, *Two Lines*, *Subtropics*, *The Hopkins Review*, *Texas Review*, *Smartish Pace*, *Diagram*, and *The FSG Book of Twentieth-Century Italian Poetry*. He is assistant director of composition at the University of Buffalo.

Wendy Call, Seattle, WA (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Spanish and Isthmus Zapotec of *Nostalgia Doesn't Flow Away like Riverwater*, Irma Pineda's third collection of poetry. Published in Mexico in 2007, this collection of 36 poems is told in two fictional voices from Pineda's hometown: a person who has immigrated to the United States as an undocumented worker and that person's partner, who has stayed behind. Pineda writes in Isthmus Zapotec and then, as she puts it, "recreates" her poems in Spanish. The Zapotecs were likely the first (and perhaps the only) society to invent writing in the Americas, using a glyph-based system nearly two thousand years ago, hundreds of years before the Maya.

Wendy Call is a writer, editor, translator, and educator. Her writing about Mexico's Isthmus of Tehuantepec includes *No Word for Welcome: The Mexican Village Faces the Global Economy*, winner of the 2011 Grub Street National Book Prize for Nonfiction and an International Latino Book Award for Best History. Her literary translations have appeared in numerous journals, including *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Kenyon Review*, and *World Literature Today*.

Enriqueta Carrington, Highland Park, NJ (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Spanish of 17th-century Mexican poet Juana Inés de la Cruz's complete sonnets and "Reply to Sister Filotea de la Cruz," a 14,000-word autobiographical letter.

Considered one of Mexico's greatest poets, de la Cruz is known for her exploration of love, passion, and defense of feminist ideas. Seventy-six of her sonnets survived the vicissitudes of time and the destructive zeal of the Inquisition. Many of these have never been made available to the English-language reader. The "Reply to Sister Filotea de la Cruz" is a response to her critics and vindication of a woman's right to study, write, and think for herself. Her fictional correspondent was in fact the Bishop of Puebla in person, and the letter represented the first move in a deadly end-game that would eventually result in the poet's loss of all freedom to read or write.

Enriqueta Carrington is a writer-mathematician. Her poetry in Spanish and English has appeared in *Pedestal Magazine*, *Carnelian*, *WAH*," and *US1 Worksheets*. Her poetry translations have appeared in *Rattapallax* and *A Gathering of the Tribes*. She is the editor and translator of the bilingual book *Treasury of Mexican Love Poems, Quotations and Proverbs* (Hippocrene Books, 2003).

Alexander Cigale, New York, NY (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Russian of selected poems of Mikhail Eremin. Born in 1936, Eremin is associated with one of the first unofficial post-war Soviet literary groups of poets, the so-called "philological school" of the late 1950s. His entire oeuvre consists almost exclusively of eight-line poems; this project seeks to translate 149 of them. Himself a translator of English poetry into Russian, Eremin has been writing and publishing for over a half-century in a peculiar kind of highly respected obscurity, his work having the reputation of being the most hermetically difficult in all of Russian poetry.

Alexander Cigale's translations from the Russian can be found in *Crossing Centuries: New Generation in Russian Poetry*, *Brooklyn Rail in Translation*, *Modern Poetry in Translation*, *Crab Creek Review*, *Literary Imagination*, and *PEN America*. A monthly column of his translations of Russian Silver Age poets and an anthology of Silver Age miniature poems are on-line at *Danse Macabre* and *OffCourse*.

Jennifer Croft, Tiffin, IA (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Polish of Olga Tokarczuk's novel *Runners*. *Runners* was awarded Poland's most distinguished literary prize (the Nike) in 2008. It intertwines travel narratives and reflections on travel with observations on the body and on life and death, offering thoughts on such topics as travel-sized cosmetics, belly dancing, maps, relics, the Maori, Wikipedia, Cleopatra, and the effects of airports on the psyche. Born in 1962, Tokarczuk recently founded her own digital publishing house in an effort to encourage Poland's creative younger generation.

Jennifer Croft holds a PhD in Comparative Literature from Northwestern University (2013), as well as an MFA in Literary Translation from the University of Iowa. Her recent book translations include *Lovely, Human, True, Heartfelt: The Letters of Alina Szapocznikow and Ryszard Stanisławski, 1948-1971* (University of Chicago Press, 2012).

Bruce Fulton (in collaboration with Ju-Chan Fulton), Seattle, WA (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Korean of a compilation of multigenre literary works by Ch'ae Man-shik. One of the great talents of modern Korean literature, Ch'ae Man-shik (1902-50) is known as a master storyteller who gleaned material from everyday life. His command of idiom, realistic dialogue, and keen wit produced a unique fictional style. His subject matter is couched in a particular period in Korea's turbulent modern history – the Japanese colonization of the Korean peninsula from 1910 to

1945. This compilation will include six stories (including his debut story); one novella; two sketches; one travel essay; one personal essay; one critical essay; one children's story; two plays; and two roundtable discussions involving writers and critics. Ch'ae Man-shik is currently represented in English translation by only a few stories and a single novel, currently out of print.

Bruce Fulton teaches Korean literature and literary translation in the Department of Asian Studies at the University of British Columbia. He has collaborated with Ju-Chan Fulton on numerous volumes of modern Korean fiction translations, most recently *River of Fire and Other Stories* by O Chŏnghŭi (Columbia University Press, 2012) and the novel *How in Heaven's Name* by Cho Chŏngnae (MerwinAsia, 2012).

Katherine M. Hedeem, Mount Vernon, OH (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Spanish of selected poems by Ecuadorean poet Jorge Enrique Adoum. *Disinterred Love: Poems, 1949-2009* is a translation project that encompasses sixty years of poetry by Jorge Enrique Adoum (1926-2009), Ecuador's leading intellectual of the 20th century, hailed by Pablo Neruda as the best poet of his generation in Latin America. Despite his many prestigious international literary awards, Adoum's work is unknown in the English-speaking world. Of Lebanese descent, Adoum was a journalist and professor, and worked at a variety of cultural institutions. Word play, neologisms, and the juxtaposition of different social and cultural registers mark his poetry.

Katherine Hedeem is an Associate Professor of Spanish at Kenyon College and co-editor of a series of Latin American poetry in translation for Salt Publishing. Her latest translation publications are *Thaw* (Arc Publications, 2013), a recent poetry collection by Víctor Rodríguez Núñez, and *Every Good Heart Is a Telescope: Early Poems* (Toad Press, 2013), a chapbook of Rodríguez Núñez's early poetry.

Cynthia Hogue, Phoenix, AZ (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the French of *Joan of Arc* by experimental French poet Nathalie Quintane. This serial poem, composed of fifty untitled prose poems on the subject of Joan of Arc, raises questions about the embodied experience of the actual peasant girl who lived a short life and came to a violent end in 15th-century France. Quintane (b. 1964) writes a feminist corrective of an iconic national heroine, written in the margins of the dramatic, inherited myth of Joan of Arc. Quintane is at the forefront of a generation of contemporary writers whose works interrogate French capitalist, colonialist, and nationalist narratives. This project will make Quintane's work available to English readers for the first time.

Cynthia Hogue has published eight collections of poetry, most recently *Revenance* (Red Hen Press, 2010). Her translations have appeared in *American Letters & Commentary*, *Aufgabe*, *Interim*, *Poetry International*, *APR* and *Field*, among other journals. She is a professor at Arizona State University.

Jawid Mojaddedi, Hoboken, NJ (\$25,000)

To support the translation from the Persian of book four of the *Masnavi* by the 13th-century Sufi mystic poet Rumi. Rumi was identified in 1997 by the *Christian Science Monitor* as the bestselling poet in America. In 2007, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated the commemoration of the 800th anniversary of his birth as an event of major international importance. Rumi's *Masnavi* comprises six books of approximately 26,000 verses and is recognized as

the most consummate expressions of Sufi mysticism. This project will offer the first-ever unabridged verse translation of Book Four into English, the only previous translation being a prose translation published in 1930.

Jawid Mojaddedi is known worldwide as an expert on Rumi. He has published several books, including translations of the first three volumes of Rumi's *Masnavi*. *The Masnavi: Book One* was published in 2004 and was awarded the Lois Roth Prize for excellence in translation of Persian literature by the American Institute of Iranian Studies.

Philip Pardi, Phoenicia, NY (\$25,000)

To support the translation from the Spanish of selected poems by Salvadoran poet Claudia Lars. Born in 1899, Lars is arguably one of El Salvador's most important poets. The Salvadoran government declared her birthplace a national landmark in 1997, and at least two schools have been named in her honor. There is also a postage stamp with her image that was introduced shortly after her death in 1974. This volume, which would be the first book-length collection of her poetry in English, will focus on four subjects representing her diverse interests: the fears of a country torn by social inequalities and political repression; the beauty, simplicity, and sincerity found in day-to-day life; her identity forged by a Salvadoran mother and Irish-American father; and the vocation of the poet and the power of poetry.

Philip Pardi has published poems in *Gettysburg Review*, *Seneca Review*, *Mid-American Review*, and elsewhere, and his work has been reprinted in *Best New Poets 2006* and *Is This Forever or What? Poems and Paintings from Texas*. A former fellow at the Michener Center for Writers, he now teaches at Bard College.

Sarah Ponichtera, Brooklyn, NY (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Yiddish of Leyzer Ran's *Memoirs of the Soviet Gulag: The Internationale Union of the Dead*. This translation will trace the journey of Lithuanian linguist, literary critic, archivist, and historian Leyzer Ran (1912-95) from Nazi-occupied Europe and his arrest by the Stalin-era People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs, or NKVD, in Russia and imprisonment in the Gulag to his eventual escape, examining the darkest years of the last century through a humanistic and intellectual lens. It is estimated that more than 20 million people disappeared in the Gulag. This text consists of a series of vignettes, woven together to create a rich and varied landscape. Ran's memoirs include reflections on the historical, political, social and economic contexts that led to his imprisonment, as well as on the ways prisoners were treated and the consequences of such treatment.

Sarah Ponichtera is a processing archivist at the Center for Jewish History. She holds an MA from the University of Texas and a PhD in Comparative Literature from Columbia University, where she completed a dissertation on American Jewish poetry.

Jacquelyn Pope, Oak Park, IL (\$25,000)

To support the translation from the Dutch of selected poems by Hester Knibbe. Born in 1946, Knibbe worked for many years as a clinical pharmaceutical analyst. Her first collection of poetry was published in 1982; since then she had published 13 more collections to widespread critical acclaim. Although Dutch poetry has appeared in English translation over the years, it remains largely unknown in the English-speaking world. Knibbe's poetry is grounded in classical themes and situations, and often

reworks myths into contemporary situations. Her language is reserved, stoical, rich in sound, and marked by nuanced repetition and shifts in perspective; mythical figures speak in her poems, as well as rivers, rocks, and gardens.

Jacquelyn Pope is the author of *Watermark* (Marsh Hawk Press 2005). Her poems have been published in numerous journals, including *Gulf Coast*, *The New Republic*, *FIELD*, and *The Southern Review*. Her translations from the Dutch and Afrikaans have appeared in *Poetry*, *Salamander*, and *PN Review*.

Barbara Romaine, Paoli, PA (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Arabic of *A Cloudy Day on the Western Shore*, a historical novel by Egyptian writer Mohamed al-Mansi Qandil. Born in 1946, Qandil practiced medicine in the countryside of the district of Minya before devoting himself entirely to writing. *A Cloudy Day on the Western Shore*, his third of four novels, challenges common western assumptions about the roles of women in Arab societies. This 567-page historical novel will be the first to bring English-speaking readers a literary and historical perspective on post-colonial Egypt.

Barbara Romaine is a professor and translator of Arabic literature. Her published translations include the novel *Blue Lorries* by Radwa Ashour (Bloomsbury UK, 2014), and *Spectres*, a semiautobiographical novel by Ashour (Interlink Books, 2010), which was facilitated by a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship in 2007. She currently teaches at the Institute for Global Interdisciplinary Studies at Villanova University.

Adam P. Siegel, Davis, CA (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Russian of Vasilii Golovanov's *The Island: or, A Justification for Meaningless Travels*. Golovanov was born in 1960 in Moscow and spent his literary career as a reporter and correspondent – particularly from conflict and crisis zones – for Russian newspapers and magazines. *The Island* details a number of journeys he made during the 1990s to the island of Kolguev in the Barents Sea. Golovanov claims these sojourns were a therapeutic response to a personal and professional crisis brought on by his work as a war correspondent. Over time, his involvement with Kolguev broadened into a meditation on the Russian Far North, its inhabitants, its natural beauty, and its tragedy; along the way, the work he produced to document this engagement deepened into an exploration as to the meaning of travel itself.

Adam Siegel is a librarian and translator from numerous languages. Recent translations from the Russian and the German include Viktor Shklovsky's *How I Write* (Context, 2011), his *Five Feuilletons On Sergei Eisenstein* (Context, 2008), and Xaver Bayer's *The Alaskastrasse* (Brooklyn Rail/InTranslation, 2011). He holds degrees from the Defense Language Institute, the University of Minnesota, the University of California at Berkeley, and San Jose State University.

Yvette Siegert, New York, NY (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Spanish of the collected poetry of Argentine poet Alejandra Pizarnik. Born to Russian-Jewish immigrants in Argentina, Pizarnik (1936-72) was one of the leading avant-garde writers of 20th-century Latin American literature. This collection will focus on the several radical stylistic transformations Pizarnik's work underwent, from the spare, luminous lyrics of her early poems to the dense, anguished prose poems of later works, and finally to the more dialogic, sometimes absurdist

structures of the work she produced before she committed suicide at the age of 36. By that time, critics had already likened the scope of her literary influence to Arthur Rimbaud's or Paul Celan's.

Yvette Siegert is a poet and literary translator. She has edited for the United Nations and *The New Yorker* and has taught at Columbia University and 92nd Street Y. *A Musical Hell*, her translation of Alejandra Pizarnik's final poetry collection, was published by New Directions in July 2013.

Steven J. Stewart, Rexburg, ID (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Spanish of *House of Geishas*, a collection of microfictions by Argentine writer Ana María Shua. Shua (b. 1951) has published over 80 books in a multitude of genres and won numerous national and international awards. *House of Geishas* is her second book of microfictions, which are short narrative pieces that are typically less than half a page each. Many of the pieces appear as fables or dreams, while others provide quirky retellings of familiar stories drawn from history, mythology, and fairy tales. The pieces in the collection explore such themes as the way we deal with otherness, the weight of expectations imposed on us by our roles in life, and the problematic nature of memory.

Steven Stewart's published translations of Shua's work include *Without A Net* (Hanging Loose Press, 2012) and *Microfictions* (University of Nebraska Press, 2009). His translation of Rafael Pérez Estrada's *Devoured by the Moon* (Hanging Loose Press, 2004) was a finalist for the 2005 PEN-USA translation award. He was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship in 2005 to translate the poetry of Ángel Crespo.

Niloufar Talebi, San Francisco, CA (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Persian of selected poetry, prose, and interviews by Iranian writer Ahmad Shamlou. Nominated for the Nobel Prize, Shamlou (1925-2000) was a poet, writer, encyclopedist, translator, journalist, editor, and human rights activist. He published more than 70 books, including novels, screenplays, children's books, volumes of poetry, short stories, and essays. His translations into Persian include the work of Mark Twain, Langston Hughes, and Anton Chekov. *Elegies of the Earth: An Ahmad Shamlou Reader* will be a representative and comprehensive volume of his work throughout his 60-year career. It will include a biography, timeline, and list of his works.

Niloufar Talebi is a writer, translator, and theater artist. She is the editor and translator of *Belonging: New Poetry by Iranians Around the World* (North Atlantic Books, 2008) and the founding director of The Translation Project. Her translations have appeared in numerous journals, including *World Literature Today*, *Two Lines*, *Poetry International*, and *Rattapallax*.

Jeffrey Yang, Beacon, NY (\$25,000)

To support the translation from the Chinese of *City Gate Open Up*, a lyrical autobiography by poet Bei Dao. The recipient of numerous international awards and shortlisted for the Nobel Prize for many years, Bei Dao is the author of seven poetry collections. This project aims to translate the lyrical prose memoir of his childhood and adolescence in Beijing, where he was born in 1949. It is a book not only of the poet as a child, but of the wondrous metropolis itself, coming alive through the luminous memories of its neighborhoods and residents, gardens, and temples, schools and music and vibrant ways of life. Since the Tiananmen Square Massacre in 1989, Bei Dao had been living in forced exile, moving from country

to country, forbidden by the Chinese government to return to his homeland. The compulsion to write this book began in 2001, when Bei Dao was allowed back into China to see his sick father.

Jeffrey Young is a translator, poet, and editor. He works at *The New York Review of Books* and for New Directions Publishing. His publications include *Vanishing-Line* (Graywolf Press, 2011) and *An Aquarium* (Graywolf Press, 2008), as well as *June Fourth Elegies* (Graywolf Press, 2012), a translation of Liu Xiaobo's poetry.

Andrew Zawacki, Athens, GA (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the French of Sébastien Smirou's second poetry book, *See About: Beastiary*. Smirou (b. 1972) is a psychoanalyst specializing in working with troubled children. *See About: Beastiary* is his second volume of poetry; each chapter features a different animal – lion, giraffe, chamois, cow, cat, turtle, glowworm, and dodo – each presented in order of decreasing size. The book is divided into eight chapters, each containing eight poems, with each poem exactly eight lines. The last line, or a portion of it, is repeated in every poem within a section. The title is eight letters, and the full volume is exactly 64 pages. Smirou's work has been described as poised between exhibition and exhibitionism, inventory and invention.

Andrew Zawacki is a poet, professor, editor, and translator. His translation of Smirou's *My Lorenzo* was published by Burning Deck Press in 2012. His poetry collections include *Videotape* (Counterpath Press, 2013); *Petals of Zero Petals of One* (Talisman House, 2009); *Anabranch* (Wesleyan University Press, 2004); and *By Reason of Breakings* (University of Georgia Press, 2002).

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