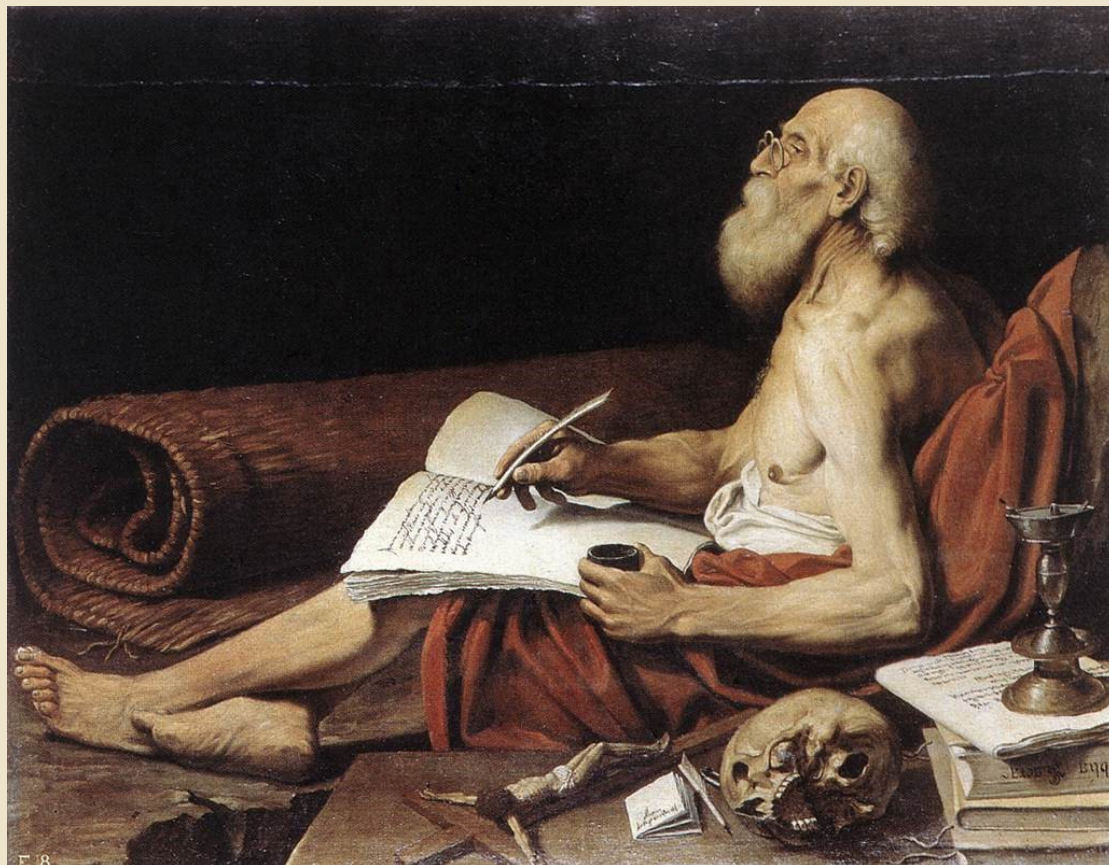


The Department of English Language & Literature



Prof. Adriana X. Jacobs

Love's Labor Lost: On the Work of Translation

12:15- 1:45 pm

On Zoom



March 05, 2024

Tuesday

The Department of English Language & Literature

Love's Labor Lost: On the Work of Translation



Any translator will tell you: translation is a lot of work. But where is that work in the finished product of translation? How does the translation you are reading in a book or on a screen reveal the time, effort, and even money, that has made this translation possible? And why does it even matter that we--as readers, teachers, scholars--acknowledge this labor? In this talk, I will reflect on the work of translation drawing from my own experiences as a literary translator, as well as texts like Walter Benjamin's "The Task of the Translator," Kate Briggs's *This Little Art*, and Sawako Nakayasu's *Mouth: Eats Color*. I'll discuss the role that paratexts--e.g., notes, introductions, letters, social media posts--play in making the material conditions of translation visible.

Bio: Adriana X. Jacobs is a poet, scholar, and translator based in Oxford and New York City. Her full-length translations of Hebrew poetry include Vaan Nguyen's *The Truffle Eye* (Zephyr Press), winner of the 2022 Harold Morton Landon Translation Award, and Merav Givoni Hrushovski's *End-* (Carrion Bloom Books, 2022). She is the recipient of a 2015 PEN/Heim Translation Fund Grant (for *The Truffle Eye*) and a 2020 NEA Translation Fellowship (for Tahel Frosh's *Avarice*). Jacobs is the author of *Strange Cocktail: Translation and the Making of Modern Hebrew Poetry* (University of Michigan Press, 2018), which was a finalist for the 2019 Jordan Schnitzer Book Award, and the co-editor, with Claire Williams, of *After Clarice: Reading Lispector's Legacy in the Twenty-First Century* (Legenda, 2022). She is an associate professor of Hebrew literature at the University of Oxford.