



## FY 2014 NEA Literature Fellowships: Translation Projects

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.

### **Mohammed A. Albakry**

Murfreesboro, TN

\$25,000

**To support the translation from the Arabic of *Tahrir Plays and Performance Texts from the Egyptian Revolution*, an anthology of contemporary Egyptian plays written by established and emerging playwrights.** These plays offer a diverse perspective on the Egyptian Revolution of January 2011 and represent a range of performance techniques, including absurdist comedy, political satire, and ensemble storytelling. Focused on issues of social justice and identity within Egyptian society, each text represents the work of dramatists that have never been translated into English. Seagull Books will publish the anthology, and the University of Chicago Press will distribute it.

Mohammed A. Albakry is a professor of English and Applied Linguistics at Middle Tennessee State University. His translations have appeared in the *International Journal of Arabic-English Studies* and the *Journal of Middle Eastern Literatures*. This project is a collaboration with Rebekah Maggor, theater director at Rowan University.

### **Daniel Borzutzky**

Chicago, IL

\$12,500

**To support the translation from the Spanish of a collection of poetry by Chilean author Raul Zurita.** Drawn from the poet's earlier publications, *War Journal* and *Zurita*, this project addresses the legacy of military atrocities committed under of General Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship. With more than 20 books of poetry published, Zurita is the recipient of several literary honors, including the National Literature Prize of Chile, the Pablo Neruda Prize, and Cuba's Jose Lezama Lima Poetry Prize.

Daniel Borzutzky is the translator of three books and the author of two collections of poetry. He has been working with Zurita since 2008, and the two have presented together at various literary events, including the Dodge Poetry Festival in 2012. Borzutzky holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the Art Institute of Chicago.



**Nancy Naomi Carlson**

Silver Spring, MD

\$12,500

**To support the translation from the French of a poetry collection by African writer Abdourahman Waberi.** Set in the author's hometown of Djibouti, these poems promote multiculturalism and tolerance as they condemn the civil wars and religious fundamentalism that plague the region. Also a novelist, essayist, and short fiction writer, Waberi has received several awards including the Grand Prize for the Francophone Short Story and the Grand Prize for Black African Literature. This collection has not yet been translated into English.

Nancy Naomi Carlson has published more than 250 poems and translations ranging from prose poems and formal poetry to free verse. She currently teaches at the Bethesda Writer's Center and is the recipient of grants from the Maryland Arts Council as well as the Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County.

**David Dollenmayer**

Hopkinton, MA

\$12,500

**To support the translation from the German of the novel *A Garden in the North* by Michael Kleeberg.**

Published in 1998, Kleeberg's novel tells the story of an aspiring writer who returns to Germany after a failed marriage and a ten-year exile as a businessman in Paris. Through this character, the novel explores the identity crisis suffered by Germans after the collapse of the Berlin Wall. Kleeberg is the author of seven novels, two short story collections, and a children's book. In 1996, he won the Anna Seghers Prize for German Literature.

David Dollenmayer holds a PhD in Germanic Languages and Literatures from Princeton University. He has published English translations of works by Moses Rosenkranz, Peter Stephan Jungk, and Anna Canetti, and his translation of Michael Kohlemeier's novella *Idyll with Drowning Dog* won the 2010 Translation Prize from the Austrian Cultural Forum in New York City.

**Erdağ Gökner**

Durham, NC

\$25,000

**To support the translation from the Ottoman Turkish of the epic poem *Insurgency* by Nazim Hikmet.** Published in 1936 and written while Hikmet was imprisoned in Istanbul, this free verse, narrative poem chronicles the end of the Ottoman Empire and the rise of the Modern Middle East. Hikmet's poetry has been translated into more than 50 different languages, but very little has been translated into English, including *Insurgency*.

Erdağ Gökner is an Assistant Professor of Turkish and Middle Eastern Studies at Duke University. He has translated several books, including Nobel Laureate Orhan Pamuk's novel *My Name is Red* and Atiq Rahimi's novella *Earth and Ashes*. Gökner is a Stanford Humanities Center Scholar.



**Jen Hofer**

Los Angeles, CA

\$12,500

**To support the translation from the Spanish of *To Be in Pain: Texts from a Wounded Country* by Mexican writer Cristina Rivera Garza.** A collection of poems, archives, blog posts, and essays, this nonfiction work is a meditation on life and death that addresses the impact of violence in contemporary Mexican society. Garza is the author of six novels, three collections of short fiction, and five collections of poetry, and she teaches Creative Writing at the University of California, San Diego.

Jen Hofer holds an MFA in Literary Translation and Poetry from the University of Iowa. She has spent several years in Mexico City and maintains a collaborative relationship with Garza. Hofer's most recent translation, *15 Poems from South of the Rio Grande*, is forthcoming from Copper Canyon Press in late 2013.

**Christina E. Kramer**

Toronto, Canada

\$12,500

**To support the translation from the Macedonian of the novel *The Path of the Eels* by Luan Starova.** The third installment in Starova's multi-volume Balkan Saga, this novella explores the nature of borders and boundary crossing through the metaphor of the migration of eels living in Lake Ohrid, which straddles the border between Macedonia and Albania. This series is based on Starova's family history and through it, he hopes to reinvent the shared history of the Balkans, rejecting the common assumption that it is a region of inherited hatred and interethnic strife. The translator has published the first two volumes in Starova's series and will continue to bring his work into English with the *The Path of the Eels*.

Christina E. Kramer is a translator and the acting chair of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Toronto. She has published four books of translation and co-organized both the Symposium on Language Teaching and Learning and the Biennial Conference on Balkan and South Slavic Languages. Kramer has spent several summers researching in Macedonia and is in regular communication with Starova regarding this project.

**Andrea Lingenfelter**

Berkeley, CA

\$12,500

**To support the translation from the Chinese of *The Kite Family*, a collection of fiction by contemporary Hong Kong writer Hon Lai Chu.** Published in 2008, Chu's fictions capture the alienation experienced by citizens of Hong Kong's capitalist society as they wrestle with high unemployment rates and a deteriorating environment. It is difficult to find Hong Kong writers in translation, especially young writers, and as such, Chu's collection has not yet been published in English. In 2008, *The Kite Family* received an Open Book Award from *The China Times* and was selected as a Top 10 Chinese Novel by *Asia Weekly*.



Andrea Lingenfelter is the translator of three novels and one collection of poetry. She began studying Mandarin in 1981 and ultimately earned her PhD in East Asian Languages and Literature from the University of Washington in 1998. Lingenfelter also composed the subtitles for Chen Kaige's 2006 film *Temptress Moon*.

**Denise Newman**

San Francisco, CA

\$12,500

**To support the translation from the Danish of a collection of short stories, *Baboon*, by Danish author Naja Marie Aidt.** The stories in *Baboon* are set in Denmark and focused on characters that experience extreme psychological strain. Aidt's work is well regarded throughout Europe and has been compared to that of Anton Chekhov, James Joyce, and Jhumpa Lahiri; however, she is relatively unknown in America. In 2008, Aidt received the Nordic Council's Literature Award for *Baboon*, the highest honor available for a book published in the Nordic countries.

Denise Newman is a senior adjunct professor in the MFA Writing and Undergraduate Writing and Literature Programs at the California College of the Arts. She is the translator of two novels by Danish writer Inger Christensen, *Azorno* and *The Painted Room*. Newman has received awards for her translation work from the Danish Arts Council and the Danish Ministry of Culture.

**George O'Connell**

Omaha, NE

\$12,500

**To support the translation from the Mandarin of *From Here to Here: New and Selected Poems* by Chinese writer Hu Lan Lan.** The poems in this collection represent a strong female voice and draw on the poet's daily experiences as a single mother of twin girls living in Beijing. Though Lan Lan's work has been translated into nine languages, no book length collection of her poetry has yet been published entirely in English. This translation also will include a critical introduction.

George O'Connell holds an MFA in Poetry from the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop. He has published numerous translations and has been Poet-In-Residence at both the Ragdale Foundation for the Arts and the Saltonstall Foundation for the Arts. This project is a collaboration with Diana Shi, translator and editor at *Pangolin House*, an international journal of Chinese and English-language poetry.



**Mariana F. Past**

Lancaster, PA

\$12,500

**To support the translation from the Haitian Creole of *Controversial Issues in Haitian History*, a work of creative nonfiction by Michel-Rolph Trouillot.** Published in 1977, Trouillot's historical narrative charts the understudied role of the slave masses in the Haitian Revolution (1791-1803) through the popular Haitian tradition of storytelling. The project will include a critical introduction, detailed annotations, an index of Haitian Creole terminology, and it will be made available free of charge to the public via a digital archive at the University of Florida. This work has not yet been translated into any other language.

Mariana Past is a scholar of literary translation and Haitian studies and has published a number of articles on the Haitian Revolution. She is the 2012-13 Penn Humanities Forum Mellon Regional Faculty Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. This project is a collaboration with Haitian Creole and French scholar and translator, Benjamin Hebblethwaite.

**Amanda Powell**

Eugene, OR

\$12,500

**To support the translation from the Spanish of the novel *El gato de si mismo* by Costa Rican writer Uriel Quesada.** One of the few Spanish-language novels that addresses homophobia, Quesada's book examines heterosexual privilege and queer resilience in 21st-century Latin America through allusions to literary history and Hispanic Catholic culture. *El gato de si mismo* (literal translation: *The Cat Himself*) received Costa Rica's National Literary Award in 2006. Quesada holds a PhD in Spanish American Literature from Tulane University and directs the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Loyola University New Orleans.

Amanda Powell has translated several books and collections of poetry from Spanish. She has traveled extensively in Spain and Mexico and is currently the director of Mundo a Mundo/World to World, a summer workshop on literary translation in Queretaro, Mexico.

**Daisy Rockwell**

North Bennington, VT

\$25,000

To support the translation from the Hindi of the novel *Falling Walls* by Indian author Upendranath Ashk. The first installment in a seven-volume, 4,000-page series, *Falling Walls* is a coming-of-age story set in 1930s Punjab before the Partition of India and Pakistan in 1947. During his lifetime, Ashk published more than 100 volumes of fiction, poetry, criticism, memoir, and translation and is considered one of Hindi literature's most controversial, yet most celebrated, authors. *Falling Walls* has been translated into Japanese, Russian, and Punjabi, but never into English.



Daisy Rockwell has studied Hindi language and literature since 1988. She taught Hindi-Urdu language and South Asian literature and film in translation at Loyola University Chicago. During a Fulbright Fellowship in India in 1996, Rockwell met daily with Ashk to discuss his work and her translations. She is also a painter and a children's book author.

**Angela Rodel**

Eagan, MN

\$25,000

**To support the translation from the Bulgarian of the novel *The Physics of Sorrow* by Bulgarian writer Georgi Gospondinov.** Gospondinov's novel chronicles several distinct voices via one protagonist to produce a nuanced portrait of his country's past. Published in 2011, *The Physics of Sorrow* was highly anticipated by Bulgarians and its first press run sold out in just a few days. The following year, the novel received both the Hristo G. Danov Award for Fiction and the Sofia City Award for Best Fiction.

Angela Rodel is the translator of four novels and one play and is the recipient of a 2010 PEN Translation Grant for *Holy Light*, a collection of short stories by Bulgarian writer Georgi Tenev. In 2004, Rodel received a Fulbright Fellowship to conduct field research in Bulgaria and has lived there ever since. She is also a musician and a folk singer.

**Rimas Uzgis**

Brooklyn, NY

\$12,500

**To support the translation from the Lithuanian of selected poems by Lithuanian writer Judita Vaiciunaite.** Vaiciunaite is a poet of the city, and this thematic concern with urban life is reflected in the style of her poems. They are marked by sudden juxtapositions, unexpected ellipses and enjambments, and unconventional line breaks. The project will include the translation of approximately 175 pages of poetry published during the course of Vaiciunaite's career from 1960-2001. This collection of poems has not yet been translated into English.

Rimas Uzgis is both a poet and a translator. His poems have appeared in several journals, including *The Hudson Review*, *Drunken Boat*, and *Literary Laundry*. In 2013, Uzgis received a Fulbright Fellowship to conduct research at Vilnius University in Lithuania. He holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Rutgers University.



**Hester Velmans**

Sheffield, MA

\$12,500

**To support the translation from the Dutch of the novel *Slow Light* by Herman Franke.** Completed four days before Franke's death in 2010, *Slow Light* is the third and final installment in his series of semi-autobiographical novels. The protagonist in *Slow Light* is a professional "writer of portraits"—he writes about the lives of others to ultimately understand the truth about himself. In addition to authoring more than ten novels, Franke was also a sociologist, journalist, and criminologist.

Hester Velmans was born in Amsterdam in 1950 where she grew up speaking English, French, and Dutch. She is the author of two novels, *Baggage* and *The Anachronist*, and has translated numerous books, including *A Heart of Stone* by Dutch author Renate Dorrestein, which won the Vondel Prize for Dutch/Flemish Translation in 2001.

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