



Literature, Language and Community in Multilingual Europe

presented by

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Rose Room (Rm 337) Dept of Anthropology
National Museum of Natural History

In the twenty-first century, globalization, migration and digitization have changed the way groups are created, organized and sustained. With the rise of the Internet and seemingly unlimited travel possibilities come new communities in novel spaces. This wholesale reorganization of society puts pressure on existing language ideologies grounded in the logic of the nation-state. In this talk, I will explore these developments in more depth and show how multilingualism moves to the fore analytically in Europe today. I will also consider how minority writers emerging from multilingual environments such as Hafid Bouazza, Tsjèbbe Hetinga, Emine Sevgi Özdamar and Kjell Westö engage with these changing societal dynamics and stake their position in their respective literary fields.

Bio:

Jesse van Amelsvoort is a PhD candidate at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. In Fall 2019, he is a research fellow with the Recovering Voices program at the Smithsonian Institution. He works at the intersection of literary multilingualism, minority literature and European studies. His research deals with the strategies developed and used by multilingual minority writers to position themselves in a Europe that is characterized by a changing understanding of how collectivities are formed. He is interested in how writers approach these matters, the role they see for themselves and how they respond in their fiction to the changing dynamics around their authorship. Through a series of thematically-arranged case studies, he aims to identify shared strategies, positions and tactics.

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