



## **Translation and Time: Exploring the Temporal Dimension of Cross-cultural Transfer**

Presentation Details
<p>Title of Paper:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Intercultural Theatre and Modernity: Translating Migrant Experiences in Multilingual Theatre</p>
<p>Interculturalism – understood as creative practice that fosters contact, exchange and (problematically) appropriation of “other” cultural traditions and forms – has been a fundamental trope of modernity and post-modernity in European theatre throughout the twentieth century. However, while the intervention of translation in intercultural theatre has been widely acknowledged in geographical terms, in the way it re-draws borders and “landscapes” (Buffery, 2013), its temporal dimension as a “de-historicizing” and “re-historicizing” tool (Bahba, 2006) has remained less explored.</p> <p>This paper explores the nexus between interculturalism and modernity in two early productions by multilingual company Teatro delle Albe “Ruh, Romagna piu Africa uguale” (1988) and “Lunga vita all’Albero” (1990). Coinciding with the first substantial wave of West African migration to Italy, the productions was instrumental in problematizing negative perceptions of the figure of the African ‘immigrant’. My analysis indicates that translational transactions were fundamental in articulating such redefinition but also in creating a temporal split where the cultural inheritance of colonialism is brought before modernity and re-written through a multilingual performance aesthetic.</p> <p>Indeed instances of translation, be it the actors’ embodied languages, the performed narratives or the public discourses they engendered, are shown to be important sites of re-negotiation and contestation not only of cultural and individual subjectivities but also of linear accounts of progress, whereby facile equations of progressiveness with the European experience and backwardness with African landscapes are fruitfully opened up and rewritten.</p>

Author's Biography:

**Cristina Marinetti** obtained a PhD on translation and theatre history from the Centre for Translation and Comparative Cultural Studies at the University of Warwick. She has now moved to Cardiff University where she is Lecturer in Translation Studies. Her primary areas of research are translation and theatre practice. She has published on translation theory in relation to identity and performance, on drama and multimedia translation and on the interface between translation theory and practice. Her most recent project "Intercultural Dialogues" in collaboration with the University of Milan is a three three-year project sponsored by the British Council and supported by major Milanese theatres. The project uses translation and site-specific performance as ways of involving minority communities in cultural production.