

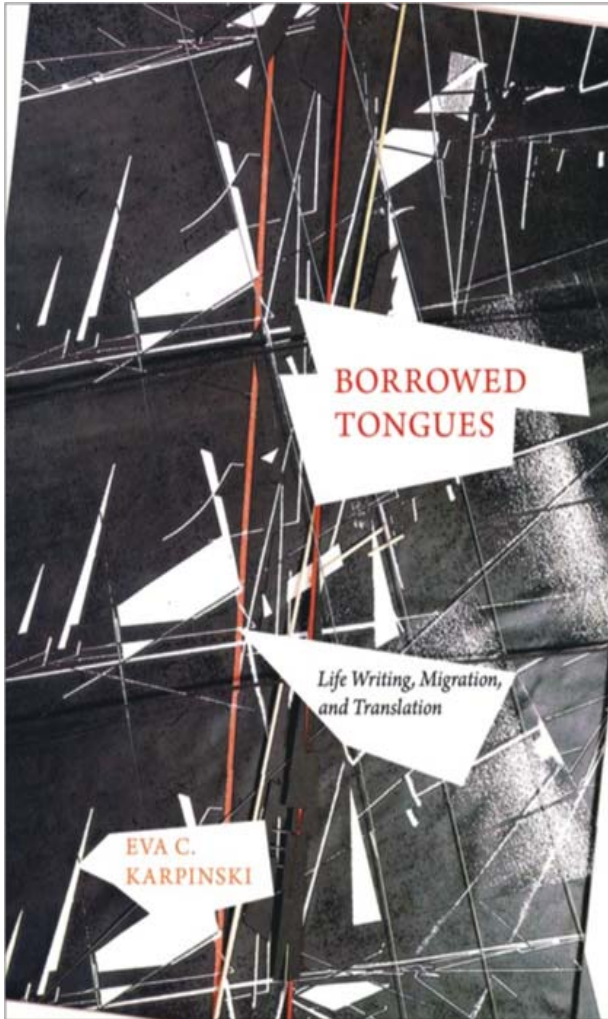
The Centre for Feminist Research presents a book launch for

Borrowed Tongues:
Life Writing, Migration and Translation
by Eva C. Karpinski

Thursday, February 14, 2013

2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Founders Senior Common Room



Borrowed Tongues is the first consistent attempt to apply the theoretical framework of translation studies in the analysis of self-representation in life writing by women in transnational, diasporic, and immigrant communities. It focuses on linguistic and philosophical dimensions of translation, showing how the dominant language serves to articulate and reinforce social, cultural, political, and gender hierarchies. Drawing on feminist, poststructuralist, and postcolonial scholarship, this study examines Canadian and American examples of traditional autobiography, autoethnography, and experimental narrative.

As a prolific and contradictory site of linguistic performance and cultural production, such texts challenge dominant assumptions about identity, difference, and agency. Using the writing of authors such as Marlene NourbeSe Philip, Jamaica Kincaid, Laura Goodman Salverson, and Akemi Kikumura, and focusing on discourses through which subject positions and identities are produced, the study argues that different concepts of language and translation correspond with particular constructions of subjectivity and attitudes to otherness. A nuanced analysis of intersectional differences reveals gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, culture, and diaspora as unstable categories of representation.

Eva C. Karpinski teaches feminist theory and autobiography in the School of Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies at York University. She has published articles in *Literature Compass*, *Men and Masculinities*, *Studies in Canadian Literature*, *Canadian Woman Studies*, and *Resources for Feminist Research*, among others. She is the editor of *Pens of Many Colours: A Canadian Reader*.

Panelists joining the discussion include:

Elena Basile, Translator and Instructor at York University and the University of Toronto

Paola Bohorquez, Faculty Member at York University in the Writing Department

Marlene Kadar, Professor at York University with the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies

If you have any questions, please e-mail cfr@yorku.ca