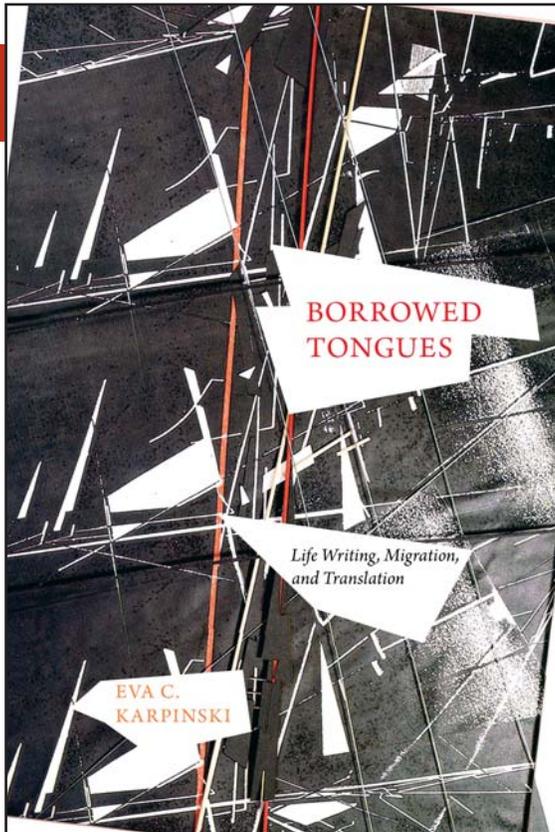


New from Wilfrid Laurier University Press



## Borrowed Tongues: Life Writing, Migration, and Translation

Eva C. Karpinski

\$39.95 Paper • 282 pp. • 978-1-55458-357-7 • Life Writing series • May 2012

Eva Karpinski has taken on questions that arise for every reader in a transcultural, multi-linguistic, and diasporic world. Although she focuses on translated texts, her title, *Borrowed Tongues*, names all our tongues; her insights into the ethical and psychosocial dimensions of autobiography, translation, and theory will open new intellectual trade routes among us. This is a sophisticated, smart, and beautifully readable book, and an important addition to WLU Press's wonderful Life Writing series.

– **Jeanne Perreault**, University of Calgary, co-editor of *Tracing the Autobiographical* (WLU Press, 2005)

*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 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*, and co-editor of *Trans/acting Culture, Writing, and Memory: Essays in Honour of Barbara Godard* (WLU Press, forthcoming 2013).

### CONTENTS

#### Introduction

**Migrations of Theories:** Autobiography and Translation

- Literacy Narratives:**  
Mary Antin and Laura Goodman Salverson
- Immigrant Crypto(auto)graphy:**  
Akemi Kikumura and Apolonja Maria Kojder
- Experimental Self-Translations:**  
Eva Hoffman and Smaro Kamboureli
- Translation as Allegorical Metafiction:**  
Marlene Nourbese Philip and Jamaica Kincaid

#### Conclusion

#### Notes

#### Works Cited

#### Index

### MEDIA, EXAMINATION, AND REVIEW COPIES

Contact Clare Hitchens  
519-884-0710 ext. 2665 or [clare@press.wlu.ca](mailto:clare@press.wlu.ca)

### ORDERS

Contact your favourite bookseller or call 1-800-565-9523



**WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY PRESS**

[facebook.com/wlupress](https://facebook.com/wlupress) | [twitter.com/wlupress](https://twitter.com/wlupress)  
toll-free 1-866-836-5551 | [www.wlupress.wlu.ca](http://www.wlupress.wlu.ca)