

# “Translation and the Politics of Cultural Bilingualism”

a talk by **Azade Seyhan** (Fairbank Professor in the Humanities, Professor of German and Comparative Literature and Adjunct Professor in Philosophy, Bryn Mawr College)

**Friday, April 5, 3:45 p.m.**  
**Sandals Building, Room 108**

In her presentation she will address questions of language, identity, and translation: If language is one of the ultimate markers of national identity, what happens when non-native writers who write in exile in their second or third language claim the national language and infuse it with the tenor and memories of “foreign” tongues and cultures? This question has gained considerable academic and media attention in Germany where national identity has always been intimately linked to language and cultural nationalism, and where Turkish, Arab, Czech, Balkan, African, Italian, and Spanish writers continue to produce linguistically and culturally complex forms of “transnational” writing.

Professor Seyhan’s research interests range from German philosophical traditions and intellectual history, feminist literary theory and criticism, to theater and performance theory. Dr. Seyhan is the author of two books: *Writing Outside the Nation* (2001) and *Representation and Its Discontents: The Critical Legacy of German Romanticism* (1992). She has written numerous articles and book chapters including: “Geographies of Memory: Protocols of Writing in the Borderlands” (1998), “Ethnic Selves / Ethnic Signs: Invention of Self, Space, and Genealogy in Immigrant Writing” (1995), “Cultural Legacy, Legitimacy, and Identity in the Turkish Community of Germany”(1999), “Scheherazade’s Daughters: The Thousand and One Tales of Turkish-German Women Writers” (1997), “Lost in Translation: Re-Membering the Mother Tongue in Emine Sevgi Özdamar” (1996), “From Minor Literatur, Across Border Culture, to Hyphenated Criticisms” (1996), “Why Major in Literature? What Do We Tell Our Students?”(2002), “Allegory as the Trope of Memory” (2000), “Linguistic Difference and Culture Translatability: A Primer” (2002).

**The Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics’ Spring 2002  
Colloquium Series on Cultural Connections and Disconnections**

