



Alternating Words:
War and the Translator's Task
Fatima Mojaddedi

Anthropology 290
Speaker Series
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2 – 4pm
221 Kroeber Hall
Gifford Room

Fatima Mojaddedi is a President's Postdoctoral Fellow. She completed her Ph. D. in Anthropology at Columbia University in 2016. Her ethnographic research is based in Kabul, Afghanistan where she considers the nature of contemporary warfare, economy, and questions of language and catastrophe.

poster art by Susan Crile
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In the War on Terror, speech is a technology and medium of access. This talk examines linguistic and representational practices of war deployed in intercultural translation within military campaigns, and argues they are newly commodified and bear much greater and more devastating consequences. It considers the scenes where the exchange of words and propaganda participate in the construction of Afghan subjectivity and bodies as an ineradicable source of danger. It concludes by suggesting that even though translation is predicated on the exchange of meaning, as a way of avoiding direct combat, it is experienced by subjects of military campaigns as a profound harbinger of death.

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