

# Bard Berlin

# Conference

## Conference 2010

### The Translator

While 'translation' itself is often a subject of theoretical inquiry, 'the translator' as a figure remains relatively unexamined. What is, to cite the title of Walter Benjamin's famous essay, (in which the figure of the translator is in fact little mentioned), the 'task' of the 'translator'? Ought he or she to efface the marks of individual choices and labour from the products of translation itself? How do translators work and what is their conception of their approach, commitments and aims? The conference explores historical instances of translation; the challenges of translation in contemporary multi-lingual and multimedia contexts, and the applicability of the idea of translation to specific practices and processes not directly concerned with rendering one language into another. We discover the extent to which the 'translator' is a figure operating in many fields and professions, and the degree to which each one of us, in an international environment and cross-border culture, shares the 'task' of the translator's work.

### Guest speakers

- Sabine Strümper-Krobb, Lecturer in German at University College Dublin
- Erica Johnson Debeljak, writer and columnist
- Carl Henrik Fredriksson, Co-Founder and Editor-in-Chief of *Eurozine*
- Peter Wortsman, writer
- Alix Rule, art critic