



Ca' Foscari  
University  
of Venice

Department of Asian  
and North African Studies



Prof. **Alvard Jivanyan**, Yerevan State University

Introduction by Prof. **Sona Haroutyunian** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

**November 20<sup>th</sup> 2025, 8.45-10.15**

Polo didattico San Basilio, Aula MF6

**INTERSEMIOTIC TRANSLATIONS OF FAIRY TALES AND FANTASY FICTION**

**November 27<sup>th</sup> 2025, 8.45-10.15**

Polo didattico San Basilio, Aula MF6

**CROSS-CULTURAL TRANSFORMATIONS: INDIRECT TRANSLATIONS OF FAIRY TALES AND FANTASY FICTION**

**December 4<sup>th</sup> 2025, 8.45-10.15**

Polo didattico San Basilio, Aula MF6

**THE MAKING OF THE FANTASY ENVIRONMENT: TRANSLATING THE SUPERNATURAL**

The three seminars will examine the variety of transformations that texts may undergo through indirect (mediated) and intersemiotic interpretations, including semiotic systems other than language, such as the visual, performing, and decorative arts. They will also focus on a previously underexplored aspect of humanity's relationship with nature: the unique web of connections between humankind and the fantasy environment, exploring how fantasy worlds can be 'translated' from one language to another and recreated within the receiving culture. The seminars will consider possible 'translations' of the supernatural, including plants, animals, and non-human creatures generally believed to be non-existent. The analytical material will include folk tales, classic fairy tales, and works of fantasy fiction such as *The Arabian Nights' Entertainments*, E.T.A. Hoffmann's *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*, J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens*, Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series, and others.

Professor **Alvard Jivanyan** teaches stylistics, comparative folklore, and children's literature at Yerevan State University, Armenia. She is also the Head of the Fairy Tale Studies Centre at the Toumanian Museum in Yerevan, and the editor of *Voske Divan: A Journal of Fairy Tale Studies*. She has lectured extensively on fairy tales and fantasy fiction, published numerous articles on these subjects, and translated several works of children's literature into Armenian, including the six *Harry Potter* books. In 2017, she was a visiting professor at Ca Foscari University within the Erasmus+ ICM exchange programme with Armenia, and this semester, she is hosted by the Department of Asian and North African Studies as a visiting scholar.

The seminars are held as part of the course "Translation & Migration" (ref. Sona Haroutyunian)