Title of paper: Rewriting Lorca into the 21st century. A Paradigm of Retranslation.

Abstract:

As new translations of Federico García Lorca continue to appear in the English-speaking world (two new volumes of poetry have appeared in the last twelve months) and his literary reputation continues to be rewritten and perhaps even manipulated through these successive retranslations, this paper explores the reasons for this constant desire to rewrite Lorca since the time of his murder right into the 21st century. From his representation as Spanish Republican martyr to his adoption through translation by the Beat Generation, his iconic status during the Transition to his canonization by the Queer Studies movement, Lorca in translation has a long history of rewriting and manipulation and in recent years the translations of his New York poems have begun to run the risk of being considered an egregious example of cultural appropriation. This paper seeks to identify the reasons for this continuous need to retranslate such a protean and deeply politicized author.