

# Keynote Lectures

## Uwe Wirth



### “After Hybridity: Grafting as model of cultural translation”

"All translation" Walter Benjamin states in his essay *The Task of the Translator*, "is only a somewhat provisional way of coming to terms with the foreignness of languages". The notion of *cultural translation* as it was developed by *postcolonial studies* in the tries to cope not only with the foreignness of language, but also with 'the other' as a foreigner. In order to overcome the various shades of 'othering' postcolonial thinkers like Homi Bhabha tried to refer to relations between different cultures as processes of hybridization.

I would like to propose an alternative model for describing processes of cultural translation, namely the model of grafting that has not only been used by Jacques Derrida as a metaphor for textual *cut and paste* operations, but also by Johann Gottfried Herder and Friedrich Schleiermacher for the purpose of coming to terms with the foreignness of other languages as well as other cultures. The aim of my talk will be to point out the various implications the model of grafting might have for theories of translation as well as for theories of culture.