

3<sup>rd</sup> World Conference on

# ARTS, HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES, AND EDUCATION

October 16-17, 2023 | Paris, France

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### The Challenges of Translating World Prison Literature: Investigating Omid Tofighian's Contribution to *No Friend but the Mountains*

My presentation focuses on the English translation of *No Friend but the Mountains: Writing from Manus Prison*. I investigate the Boochani-Tofighian collaboration and argue that Omid Tofighian is not only a translator. He is also a collaborator in the English version of Boochani's text written while incarcerated. I consider Tofighian's contribution an integral and indispensable part of *No Friend but the Mountains* and the Manus Prison Theory. While the attention that has so far been given to the book has centralized the main English text, this paper concentrates on the frame narrative that consists of both the Translator's Note and the supplementary essay that has the final Translator's Reflections. In this article, I explore the collaborative aspects of the translation and the translation challenges through a focus on this paratext. I read the paratext in light of the other scholarly work of Tofighian. This focus on the Translator's Note, Reflections and articles sheds light on Tofighian's intervention in *No Friend but the Mountains*. It shows that Tofighian's additions are the result of 1) untranslatability and 2) his responsibility as he transmits the message of an incarcerated Kurdish refugee to the Australian public.

#### Biography:

Dr. Jyhene Kebsi is the Director of Learning & Teaching at Macquarie University in Australia.

Her research and teaching sit at the intersection of world literatures and literary gender studies. Dr. Kebsi is an expert in postcolonial and transnational world literature, particularly

world refugee literature. She uses a transnational feminist approach in her analysis of the narratives and testimonies of refugee women and girls. Dr. Kebsi's research on world refugee literature and cinema has appeared in the *Journal of World Literature*, *Antipodes: A Global Journal of Australian/New Zealand Literature*, the *Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies*, *Postcolonial Text*, *Law & Literature* and the *Journal of North African Studies*.

Dr. Kebsi's teaching sheds light on transnationalism, postcolonialism and feminist literary theories. Her courses focus on postcolonial feminism, Black feminism, Chicana feminism, transnational feminism, ecofeminism, state feminism, colonial feminism, imperial feminism and Islamic feminism. They also have a special concentration on the literary and cinematographic representations of immigrants and asylum seekers. Before coming to Macquarie University, Dr. Kebsi taught literature and composition at the University of Sydney and Western Sydney University. She also taught American and British literature at the University of Saint Thomas in the United States. Dr. Kebsi is the recipient of multiple prizes and awards, including Fulbright.