COUNCIL ON TEACHING
Follow-Up Report for
Teaching in Higher Education Conference Award

Name: Irene Lottini

Department/Unit: Department of French and Italian

Conference Attended: 55th NeMLA (Northeast Modern Language Association) Annual
      Convention

Date of Conference: March 7-10, 2024

Award Amount: $1,297.00

Briefly summarize how your attendance at the conference enhanced your professional
development and allowed you to gain a better understanding of teaching in your
discipline or trends in higher education in general.

     The Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA) is the largest regional
affiliate of the Modern Language Association (MLA). The NeMLA annual convention
provides opportunities of intellectual exchanges for the advancement of teaching in
modern languages and literatures. At the 2024 NeMLA Annual Convention, I
participated in the roundtable *Translation in Foreign Language Teaching*, which
examined how translation pedagogy helps multilingual students acquire literacy skills
and intercultural competencies. My contribution focused on audiovisual translation as a
pedagogical tool in language and culture learning. In particular, it considered how
subtitling projects allow students to practice their listening, speaking, reading, and
writing skills, while offering them an opportunity to analyze contemporary cultural
products. The discussion that followed my presentation and those given by the other
roundtable participants reflected upon how audiovisual translation may be incorporated
in existing language curricula.

     The feedback that I received offered me useful inputs on how to develop new
learning activities, courses and co-curricular initiatives. Besides incorporating subtitling
projects in the courses that I am already teaching, I plan to develop a course on
audiovisual translation. The 21st-century technological changes have determined an
increase in the production and circulation of audiovisual works. In this new context,
audiovisual translation has guaranteed the accessibility and facilitated the consumption
of foreign cultural products. While audiovisual translation has been recognized as one of
the fastest growing sectors in the translation industry, very few US universities offer
courses on its principles and applied practice. My plan is to propose a course which

investigates the role of audiovisual translation in today's media production and circulation. By exploring the different practices of captioning (interlingual and intralingual subtitling, subtitling for theater and opera, respeaking) and revoicing (dubbing, voice over, audio description), this course would invite students to reflect on the relationship between audiovisual translation and media accessibility. Through hands-on activities, it would also help students gain the expertise needed for a career in audiovisual translation.

How have you been able to share what you learned about teaching with your department, the University of Iowa, and/or beyond?

On April 3, the Italian program celebrated the 2024 edition of *Giornata italiana* (*Italian Day* - https://events.uiowa.edu/85852), an event which is designed towards cultural enrichment and outreach. Open to members of the UI community, *Italian Day* is mainly intended to provide students of Italian with a forum where they can showcase their knowledge and skills. At the event, students enrolled in my course "Images of Modern Italy" (ITAL:2550:0002) presented the final product of an audiovisual translation project which they have completed this semester: the English subtitles for an episode of the TV-program *Vox Populi* produced by RAI, Italy's national broadcaster. The presentation, titled "Voices and Translations," included a screening of the subtitled TV show, a discussion on the topics of migrations and multiculturalism addressed in the episode, and an illustration of the subtitling project. This initiative sparked additional conversation on how the introduction of audiovisual translation projects in the language classroom contributes to create a motivating learning environment.