



Language in Exile: Reflections on the Autobiography of Elias Canetti



Marjorie Perloff, Ph.D.

Author of:
*Edge of Irony: Modernism
in the Shadow of the
Hapsburg Empire*
(University of Chicago Press, 2016)

Reception and book signing to
follow lecture.

Monday, September 26, 2016 • 6 p.m.
The William and Willa Dean Lyon Conference Center
Argyros Forum 209

About Marjorie Perloff

Marjorie Perloff was born Gabriele Mintz into a cultured and largely assimilated Jewish family in Vienna. In the immediate aftermath of the *Anschluss*, Gabriele, then six years old, her parents, and older brother escaped from Vienna to Switzerland and later emigrated to the United States. Dr. Perloff graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Barnard College and earned a Ph.D. from Catholic University.

A prolific and often groundbreaking scholar, Dr. Perloff has written more than a dozen books, including works on the poets W.B. Yeats, Robert Lowell, and Frank O'Hara, and on post-modern literature and art. Her book, *Differentials: Poetry, Poetics, Pedagogy*, published in 2004, received the Robert Penn Warren Prize in 2005.

Dr. Perloff has served as President of the Modern Language Association and the American Comparative Literature Association and is an elected Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society. She received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Chapman University in May 2015.

About Elias Canetti

In his autobiography, *The Tongue Set Free*, the Nobel-prize winning author, Elias Canetti (1905-94) shows us how difficult it is for an exiled writer to find his own tongue, a language in which he can be at home. Born in Bulgaria, he spoke Ladino with his Jewish Sephardic parents, Romanian to the servants, and overheard his parents speaking their secret language, German, which they had acquired in the Vienna of their youth. When the family moved to Manchester, England, he became fluent in English. After his father's untimely death, he moved to Vienna with his mother and she made him learn German overnight. Austrian-German was to remain the language in which Canetti wrote after he had to flee to England. *Which, then, was his "native" language? And how does the exile find his "true" roots?* These questions are the subject of Dr. Perloff's lecture.

Admission is Free

This event is part of the Inauguration of Daniele C. Struppa, Ph.D.
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