The Hebrew translation and reception of literary works by Jewish-American writers, and the English translation of works by Israeli authors, constitute compelling junctures between the two major Jewish cultures of our time. Each culture was confronted in this way with an often competing concept of Jewish identity, and divergent representation of contemporary Jewish existence, which were harbored by the literary imagination of their Jewish Other. This talk explores the ideological appropriation involved in processes of translation and literary interpretation in both directions, in order to shed light on the different ways in which each Jewish culture responded to the challenge—and potential inspiration—represented by its counterpart.

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