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presents



## MY ITALY: Teaching Culture and Language through Memory, Myths, and Lore

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February 13, 2017  
11:30 am - 12:45 pm  
Modern Languages Building  
Room 201

RSVP for a meal with Sarah Shortt at [sshortt@emory.edu](mailto:sshortt@emory.edu)  
by February 9, 2017

Recently an administrator pointed out that taking advantage of my native knowledge in conducting a study in Italy program creates a disadvantage for other programs whose presence in Italy is neither culture nor language based. The natural conclusion to this consideration was that in fairness to non-native colleagues, I cannot share my culture to the fullest.

The lack of response by peers in other disciplines to this seemingly nonsensical limitation leads me to wonder: is there value to being a native(\*) professor teaching in the foreign country? If so, what is it? Do our students understand what native knowledge means and offers? Do they value this? What is the value added that a native professor contributes to the overall lessons of engagement of "others"? Are we highlighting this value sufficiently and effectively?

In a time when conversations around common values and engagement of other cultures is of national focus, this opportunity will not be as much for *presentation* as for *provocation*, hopefully leading to constructive outcomes and goals. To start the conversation, I will share part of a class I teach in Rome that is totally based on memory, myths, and lore - that patrimony of culture that only a native can transmit - and illustrate the lessons that can be drawn. Ideally, participants who attend this session will come willing to share similar lessons, and ready to discuss possible outcomes.

(\* 'native' in this conversation refers both to faculty born and culturally raised in the foreign country as well as to faculty who are academically trained and professionally dedicated to the teaching of a foreign language and culture.)

Please RSVP to Sarah Shortt ([sshortt@emory.edu](mailto:sshortt@emory.edu)) by February 9.