

# CJR LUNCHTIME LECTURE SERIES

**DR. MELEK ORTABASI,  
DIRECTOR, WORLD LITERATURE PROGRAM,  
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH, 12:30-1:30PM  
ASIAN CENTRE, ROOM 604**



Cuore (Heart, 1886), by popular travelogue author Edmondo de Amicis (1846-1908), was the first bestseller in its home country of Italy. Almost immediately recognized as a children's "classic," it was translated and adapted into many languages. Japan was not immune to the book's charms, and the popularity Cuore has enjoyed there reaches back to the first partial translation of the book, which appeared in 1902. This talk will trace Cuore's rich afterlife in Japanese and in so doing test a number of theories about how translation functions to produce world children's literature.

## **SPEAKER BIO:**

Melek Ortabasi is Associate Professor and Director of the World Literature Program at Simon Fraser University. Her teaching and research interests include translation practice and theory, popular culture and transnationalism, and internationalism in children's literature. Her latest book, *The Undiscovered Country: Text, Translation and Modernity in the Work of Yanagita Kunio*, was published in 2014 by Harvard University Asia Center. She is currently working on a comparative historiography of world children's literature at the turn of the 19th century, tentatively entitled "The World Republic of Childhood: Transnationalism and Children's Literature, 1870-1930."

