The Department of Germanic Studies is hosting a one-day workshop on

**Theater as Foreign Language Classroom/The Foreign Language Classroom as Theater**

conducted by

**Lisa Parkes**

(Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at Harvard University)

May 25, 2013, 9am-4pm
Logan Center Room 802

!!! Open to all graduate students, lecturers, and faculty in foreign languages !!!

How can dramatic performance benefit the foreign-language learner? And how can dramatic techniques help instructors choreograph a more dynamic classroom? This workshop will guide instructors through strategies for transforming the literary text into a rich source of student creativity; for reinvigorating the language classroom through dramatic performance; and through the practical steps towards designing a course that culminates in a full performance of a play. Participants will learn how to encourage students to interact with dramatic texts through speaking, writing, and performance and to help prepare students for their roles through brief acting, improvisation, and pronunciation exercises. From text selection and techniques for provoking lively discussion to the practical concerns of staging a play, this workshop provides a variety of strategies for larger-scale performance projects as well as small-scale activities that can immediately be used in the foreign-language classroom.

**Tentative Program**

9:30 – 9:45  Introduction to foreign-language drama course: approaches and objectives, text selection, course organization.

9:45 – 10:30 Preparing students physically and linguistically for on-stage performances. Warm-up exercises for building on-stage confidence: ice-breakers, improving group cohesion, building trust, spatial and physical awareness, and physical expression.

10:30-11:00 Exercises for pronunciation and enunciation.

11:00-12:00 Improvisation workshop.

12:00-1:00 Lunch provided.

1:00-2:30: Approaching dramatic texts: how to provoke a lively discussion through acting, speaking, and writing exercises.

2:30-3:15: Approaching dramatic scenes in foreign language film.

3:15-4:00: Lessons from the classroom of theater: practical concerns; results and examples from previous productions. General Q&A.