

THE ITALIAN UNDERGRADUATE LECTURE SERIES:

CLOSE READING OF A TITLE: ON PRIMO LEVI'S *SURVIVAL IN AUSCHWITZ*

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For many years in the United States, Primo Levi's first book was known by the title *Survival in Auschwitz*, rather than the Italian original *If This Is a Man*. This talk will interrogate the meaning behind this unfaithful, but also symptomatic translation. How did this new title contribute to the extraordinary success of the work and in what way did the word "survival" condition its reception? What does it mean to survive not only in Auschwitz, but also after Auschwitz? Most importantly, can the two titles shed light on each other, forcing us to ask: is this a life?

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2018, 4:30pm
KRESGE 1515

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NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY WWW.FRENCHANDITALIAN.NORTHWESTERN.EDU

