

ATISA XII

Translation and Interpreting as Unequal Exchange:
A Return to Power?

Book of Abstracts

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PLENARY TALKS

Emek Ergun

UNC Charlotte

The Transnational Growth of the Kurdish Liberation Struggle in Translation

In this talk, I will analyze borders as porous and unfixed places of trial with imminent possibilities of cross-border confrontation, collaboration, transformation, and solidarity – relational acts that are necessary to imagine and build a decolonial feminist future that can take place only across a multiplicity of languages and, thus, in translation. The talk draws on several border-crossing cases that uncover the political role of translation in the transnational growth of the Kurdish liberation struggle: (1) Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan's encounters with the Turkish translations of Murray Bookchin and the critical role of that engagement in the imagining and making of the Rojava Revolution; (2) the recent publication of the Kurdish translation of Frantz Fanon's *The Wretched of the Earth* (1961) by the newly founded University of Rojava Press; (3) the Turkish and Kurdish translations and stage adaptations of Galician author and activist Séchu Sende's *Made in Galiza* that brought together numerous Galician, Kurdish, and Turkish liberation activists in their struggles against the colonial and patriarchal dominations of the Spanish and Turkish nation-states; (4) the solidarity-based English feminist translation of Kurdish politician Gültan Kışanak's edited book, *The Purple Color of Kurdish Politics: Women Politicians Write from Prison*, which was collectively written from prison in Turkey (Pluto Press, 2022). By analyzing these key translational moments in the history of the Kurdish liberation struggle, my talk seeks to reveal the vital role of translation in the transnational growth and transformation of social justice movements.

Emek Ergun is Associate Professor of Global Studies and Women's and Gender Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Her first single-authored book, *Virgin Crossing Borders: Feminist Resistance and Solidarity in Translation* was published by the University of Illinois Press in 2023 and received the Middle East Studies Association's (MESA) 2024 Fatema Mernissi Book Award. Ergun is also the co-editor of *Feminist Translation Studies* (2017) and the 5th and 6th editions of *Feminist Theory Reader* (2020 and forthcoming). Additionally, Ergun is a feminist translator and among her translations are the Turkish translation of Octavia E. Butler's speculative novel *Kindred* (2019), English co-translation titled *The Purple Color of Kurdish Politics* (2022), and Turkish translation of Canadian trans writer of color Vivek Shraya's, *I'm Afraid of Men* (2024).

Debbie Folaron

Concordia University

The Resilience and Resistance of the Talking Circle and Wagon Wheel

Since the turn of the 21st century, digital technologies have played an increasingly vital role in the translation and localization sectors of the broader language services industry. While we are often more familiar with how they shape and are shaped by users' experiences for communicating in English and many other major world languages, it is less the case when reflecting on minoritized linguistic-cultural groups whose languages are considered to be endangered or are in the process of being reclaimed and revitalized. Indigenous and Romani peoples worldwide are cases in point. Beyond the labels, stereotypical representations, and categories often attributed to them, their unique global and local histories reveal the extent to which their ideas, traditions, and practices are heterogenous and culturally diverse. An incredibly diverse linguistic pallet likewise emerges, in the form of a composite of languages and dialects that have survived more than a thousand years in addition to the linguistic layers acquired from contact with other languages due to colonialism or migration. Their respective acts of 'nation-building' and identity formation are uniquely inscribed within translation.

The arrival on the global scene of GenAI translation and localization has shown signs of greater language inclusivity, with technologies now enabled for a growing number of languages and a wider breadth and scope of activities that can be carried out online by users. Critically, however, not all languages are considered of equal value, nor are their bi- or multi-directional flows in translating and interpreting spheres always easily discernible. Experience has taught us that fundamental realities of these kinds of minoritized contexts need to be understood, addressed, and attended to when researching their translation and interpreting practices. My talk will present and discuss four of these realities, by focusing on the following points in relation to the broader multilingual Romani and Indigenous contexts:

- Histories are critical and insightful as to the nature of the groups' relationships vis-à-vis other peoples and territories. These relations may be intimately configured by geographical land territories, colonization, genocide, forced displacement, migration and by relations to kin and other peoples, languages, and cultures through contact. Traces of history become embedded in languages and cultural practices, as evidenced in translation.
- Beyond requisite ethics compliance forms, co-building relationships that help elucidate the translation dynamics that potentially occur between 'source' and 'target' languages and cultures is an act of responsibly creating genuine trust and

respect. The privilege of working with these groups entails ethical considerations and consequences.

- Translation and interpreting practices for the groups may be connected to official language policies and guarantees of certain rights, or maybe not. What is the actual status of their rights to language access, especially for vital legal and medical services, and to what extent may translators and interpreters be acting as activists for these rights by default?
- What impact are translation and technologies (e.g., audio-visual, speech, CAT, MT, GenAI) having on the groups' languages, their usage, their acquisition and revitalization? What power asymmetries exist and how are they being dealt with by the groups themselves, by their allies for social justice and inclusion, and by Big Tech initiatives?

Debbie Folaron is Professor of Translation Studies at Concordia University in Montréal, Québec, Canada. Her research focuses on translation theory, practice, and technology in the digital age as well as on minoritized languages and cultures with a special focus on multilingualism and translation in the Romani context. She held the inaugural [Jean Monnet Chair](#) “Multiple Roles of Translation in Minority Multilingual Romani Contexts” (ROMTRA) at Concordia from 2020-2023, where she organized the first [Romani-Translation Summer Institute](#) in 2023. She is also a [Founding Editor](#) (2012) of the international academic journal *Translation Spaces: A Multidisciplinary , Multimedia, and Multilingual Journal of Translation*.

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

AI for Corpus Compilation and Analysis in Translation Studies"

Hussein Abu-Rayyash

Kent State University

This hands on, code light workshop will introduce translation studies researchers to AI-assisted tools for corpus creation and analysis. AI methods will be compared with traditional corpus tools (e.g., concordancers) and methods (e.g., keyword/dispersion and collocation analyses) to show how they might complement, not replace, them. Participants will have the opportunity to build and analyze small corpora with AI assisted tools, using ready made templates and click to run notebooks. Participants can choose between a monolingual track (e.g., reception/criticism, language industry discourse, genre/register) or a bilingual track (translation pairs, alignment, terminology, strategies). Attendees will compile or select data, clean and validate it, and run analyses such as terminology mining, semantic similarity, and translator style probes. No paid APIs are required, and pre scraped datasets are provided; participants may also bring short, legally shareable texts. The workshop closes with a short study design plan and an ethics checklist (robots.txt, licensing, attribution, privacy). Participants leave with a small corpus, a templated workflow, and a simple, configurable AI module tailored to their topic or language pair.

Working in and with Archives

Brian James Baer and Michelle Woods

Kents State University & SUNY New Paltz

Recent research trajectories in the field of Translation and Intepreting Studies, from complex systems to translator studies, highlight the unique perspectives made available through archives. This workshop is designed for doctoral students and early career scholars in the field of Translation and Interpreting Studies interested in pursuing archival research. The workshop will cover major themes, both conceptual and practical, such as: theorizing the archive; the affective dimension of archival research; the contributions and limitations of archival research; curated vs. uncurated archives; deciphering archival materials; accessing archival materials (permissions); scheduling appointments and requesting materials beforehand; protocols for working in archives; and reproducing and citing archival materials. The conference organizers will share their own experiences in archives while offering opportunities to interact with archival materials.

PANELS

Powerful geographies in/of translation (studies)

Issues of translation are often articulated through spatial or geographical terminology—such as language areas, the linguistic situation of countries or territories, in relation to borders or translation flows. The conflating of the translational and the geographical both reinforces and challenges existing power structures, leading us to question assumed stabilities and accepted narratives around historical and cultural identity (Lee 2021). Translation occurs within spaces “of heightened language awareness, where exchange is accelerated or blocked, facilitated or forced, questioned or critiqued” (Simon 2018, 97), conditioning and being conditioned by the relationship between people and the space they inhabit, languaging this space and imbuing it with complex cultural identity. This can create competing narratives, and “we must ask what the consequences are of reading the city-text in one language or another” (Vidal Claramonte 2021, 32). This panel aims to explore the relationship between translation and its various spatial and geographically defined categories: villages, islands, cities, regions, countries, and continents. Our approach questions the foregrounding of the city, to consider wider implications of reading space in terms of translation (Mansell 2025). It will consider the repercussions on people, societies and culture of markers of translation in the visual and tangible fabric of society, as well as the impact of reading spaces through the lens of translation (studies). In translation studies, this focus also carries significant methodological implications, illustrating how the “geographical fluidity and relativity of the terms allow for the inclusion of underlying hierarchical connotations or imaginations” (van Doorslaer 2024, 449), encouraging us to reflect on the object and core of translation (studies) research. This panel will consist of four complementary presentations:

Central European cities and regions: historical layers of power, resistance and self-translation – Luc van Doorslaer (University of Tartu)

This presentation begins by establishing a conceptual and epistemological framework for understanding geographically defined categories and their application in translation studies—across interlingual, representational, and semiotic dimensions. It highlights the prominence of the city and the urban in many research approaches, despite increasingly complex interactions between geographical entities and the diversification of identity and image construction. The framework is illustrated with examples from Central Europe—a term that itself poses a translation challenge due to its historical and cultural non-

equivalence with the German *Mitteleuropa*. Partly building on Sherry Simon’s work on literary and spatial representations of Central European cities such as Budapest, Trieste, Prague, and Czernowitz (Simon 2014, 2019), the analyses in this paper focus on the Baltic region and the (nowadays Ukrainian) city of Lviv. These examples demonstrate how translation operates not only as interlingual mediation but also as a tool for reflecting societal values, interrogating power (im)balances, shaping identities, constructing images, and influencing cultural dynamics. The historical layers of power and resistance are rendered visible in urban and regional landscapes, including museums and monuments (Spiessens and van Doorslaer 2024). The complex, multilayered nature of these cities and regions calls for a flexible translation concept—one that accommodates self-translation and cultural translation. Such concepts are applied to the study of city and region translation, illustrating how a representational approach to translation can yield valuable insights for this line of research.

Experiencing the Process: Visibilities and Possibilities of Translation in the City – Regina Galasso (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

Listening to cities is to understand them. And since there are no monolingual cities, we need to listen to their languages, and thus translation is a lens which makes visible both competing understandings of cities (Simon 2012) and their representations (Galasso 2018). Concepts from translation studies have been a helpful framework in which to study the historical and contemporary complexities of discrete urban sites (Simon 2019) and cities at large (Simon 2012). Against a dynamic backdrop of languages, interlingual translations happen as products in cities for many reasons from complying with institutionalized legal obligations and providing access to essential information for survival in the city to visible gestures of spontaneous and popular welcoming and belonging. Translation can also intervene in the city, and it is in this context that this presentation focuses on the possibilities of organized acts of translation to provide language experiences, make the city’s languages and the identities of its residents more visible, empower speakers of different languages, and recognize the histories of languages in a city. It engages with recent projects and initiatives including translation literacy (Baer 2022), machine translation literacy (Bowker 2021), public translation (Bowker 2024), the “Spectacular Translation Machine” (Ardizzone and Hahn 2023), and “Lives in Translation” (Rodríguez 2023), to argue that such events amplify the translation process as one that educates and engages audiences across multiple social and cultural backgrounds. This access to translation in the city thus promotes translation’s transformative nature (Gentzler 2017) and presents strategies that subvert long-standing attitudes regarding translation and its practice.

Translation beyond the city: Reading the island of Majorca through/as translation – Richard Mansell (University of Exeter)

The Mediterranean island of Majorca presents a complex cultural identity shaped through the contact of many languages and cultures, both through history and in the present day. In recent years this has crystallized around, on the one hand, the conflict of identities tied to Spain's formal and informal territorial divisions (the Spanish state, Catalan-speaking territories, the Balearic Islands as a unit and Majorca as a distinct entity), and, on the other, popular protests by residents faced with the huge numbers of tourists who swell the island's population each year (Colom-Montero 2019), from sun seekers on package deals to "A-listers" such as Jeff Bezos, Kanye West, Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones. This contiguity creates translational markers (Simon 2019) far beyond the limits of its capital city, Palma, leading to a complex web of translational processes in evidence across the whole of the island, across both institutionalized and popular contexts: in public signage, in protests and graffiti, in cultural centers, museums, monuments and more. The paper will map instances of translational markers across the island, revealing the network of human creation in the built fabric bearing the mark of translation as constitutive of culture itself (Mansell 2025). It will interrogate the concepts of both "city" and "translation": on the one hand considering whether it is translation that dissolves borders and diffuses the city; on the other, considering how we define such phenomena as translation, and the extent to which such processes challenge, reinforce and diminish identity.

Migrant Translation and the Making of Urban Space: Cartographies of Belonging in Antwerp's Red Star Line Museum – Anneleen Spiessens (Ghent University)

This paper investigates Safe Haven/Thuishaven, an outreach initiative of the Red Star Line Museum in Antwerp, as a case study in participatory mapping and place-making. At its core, the project invited newcomers to annotate a stripped-down city map with locations where they felt safe or "at home," generating over 700 multimodal cartographies that now form part of the museum's collection and offer fresh insights into citizenship as a translational practice. Reading this corpus through the combined lenses of translation studies (Cronin & Simon, 2014; Inghilleri, 2017; Polezzi, 2012), migration studies (Bertacco & Vallorani, 2021; Radstone & Wilson, 2020) and urban theory (Yamamura, 2025), the analysis foregrounds three interrelated dimensions: (1) over- and under-translations that chart affective geographies of belonging and exclusion, (2) linguistic strategies of assimilation and resistance that engage with existing power dynamics, and (3) non-linear translations that connect past and future, here and elsewhere. Rather than reproducing canonical models of translation grounded in source-target binarism, cultural homogeneity, and unidirectional

transfer, the corpus points toward (self-)translation as a lived, open-ended condition through which individuals creatively inhabit and reconfigure urban space. The article concludes by reflecting on the role of the museum as a translational mediator that not only archives but also facilitates these practices, inscribing them into the city's evolving cultural memory.

Translating Materiality and Its Perception

The panel will take the form of four short papers followed by discussion of the way in which each participant is engaged in researching the intersection between creative practices, material culture with its memory and its representations, and translation.

Artists and activists (as well as 'artivists') have long used practices mutated from material culture to create work that translates lived experience into a rich narrative, intersecting multiple sensorial dimensions with verbal languages, while also tracing connections between distinct times and locales. Materiality and its perception are elaborated, represented and translated through artistic practices as varied as writing, photography, visual art, music or the use of traditional skills and techniques such as embroidery or weaving. The use made of these tools allows artists to modify our perception of what is 'traditional' or innovative, tapping into long-standing narratives while at the same time experimenting with new forms of retelling.

Temporal elements are inscribed into these practices through the work of memory and the act of 'storying', whether these relate to personal and family dimensions, as in (auto)biographic works, or through collective expression, as in practices of co-production. The work of memory, with its public and private modes and settings, thus continuously translates and reframes cultural practices. This, in turn, has implications for how we perceive both the 'labor' of translation and its role in critiquing, resisting or undermining established and emerging asymmetries in the cultural field, including the perception of traditional 'female arts', the intergenerational transmission of memory, or the relationship between artistic production and (post)industrial decline.

Translating Decline: Visual Storytelling of Post-Industrial Struggle in the United States – Moira Inghilleri, University of Massachusetts Amherst

This talk examines the work of two artists—Janice Regolsky-Babcock and Camilo José Vergara—who translate economic and cultural decline into powerful visual narratives through different media.

Regolsky-Babcock creates a mythical post-industrial space, *The Town*, to explore the collapse of the textile industry and its social consequences. Using driftwood, rusted metal, and worn fabric, she transforms raw materials into evocative symbols of economic erosion and communal identity. Her characters—such as the Butcher, the Teacher, the Blindman, and the Prisoners—embody social fragmentation, while the town’s deteriorating infrastructure reflects broader structural decline. Through multimedia and oral storytelling, she translates economic hardship into a compelling visual and narrative language of resilience and loss.

Vergara’s long-term photographic project, *American Ruins*, documents decades of urban transformation in marginalized U.S. communities. As both photographer and sociologist, he captures factories, churches, schools, and homes as they decay, persist, or are repurposed, creating a sustained visual archive of post-industrial America. His work makes visible the temporal layers of abandonment and adaptation, encouraging viewers to read urban spaces as historical texts.

Together, their work shows how art can make economic decline visible and emotionally resonant through visual storytelling.

On Time and Translation – Tal Goldfajn, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Temporality has become a major focus of scholarly attention across multiple disciplines in recent years. This presentation argues that translation, too, requires a renewed engagement with questions of time. We translate *across* time, *through* time, *into* time. We *retranslate*. There is the time *of* a translation and the time *in* a translation. And there is also the translation of time *between* languages. And yet, despite the centrality of these issues, few studies have systematically addressed the temporal aspects of translation. This presentation asks: what is our relation to time in translation studies, and how might rethinking temporality reshape the ways we approach translations, translators and the translating process?

A Stitch in Time: Diasporic Artists and the Weaving of Migrant Memory – Loredana Polezzi, Stony Brook University

Images of textile art forms are well-established and increasingly popular among metaphors of translation. Embroidery, sewing, weaving and other ‘feminine arts’ have also been read as key practices and forms of artistic expression in migrant and diasporic communities. In the second half of the 20th Century, artists such as Maria Lai connected local craft traditions from her Sardinian homeland with, on the one hand, the theorization of art produced by the Arte Povera movement and, on the other, with her own ‘discovery’ of Native American material practices, including weaving and stitching. In this paper, I will connect Lai’s work to

that of two contemporary diasporic artists, Filomena Coppola and Luci Callipari Marcuzzo, who explore the link between Italy and Australia, but also between the two realms of experience represented by translation and migration, through the specific acts of weaving and stitching. These practices have symbolic and practical dimensions; they (re)connect as well superimpose; they have haptic and tactile as well as visual dimensions; and they often become part of storytelling, especially (but not exclusively) when what is stitched on, woven or embroidered takes the form of words. Diasporic artists follow long standing traditions, I will argue, using such material practices to bridge and translate across both space and time dimensions, re-elaborating intergenerational memory and connecting distant locales.

A Labour of Love? (Auto)biography as a Practice of Translatedness – Alexandra Lopes, Universidade Católica, Lisbon

My contribution proposes we look at life-writings – and particularly writers’ memoirs on parents – as a twofold act of translation: on the one hand, a memoir arguably seeks to translate an experienced life into a remembered life (‘remember’ having two operative meanings here: to ‘recollect’ and to ‘re-assemble’ memories into a cohesive, coherent story); and on the other, memoirs of others tend to investigate who these others were in relation to the narrating self – the son or the daughter who, after the death of a parent, usually try to make sense of who their parents were and to what extent they impacted on who the child is/became.

I am interested in discussing how language, in its materiality, shapes both who we are and how we perceive (and transform) ourselves and our others throughout time and across space, and the stories we tell about ourselves and others in a language inhabited literally and metaphorically by translation. I will look at three literary instantiations of this translatedness: ‘The Invention of Solitude’ (Paul Auster, 1982), *My Ear at his Heart* (Hanif Kureishi, 2004), and *Mother Mary Comes to Me* (Arundhati Roy, 2025).

Translation, Archives and the Visual

This panel focuses on visuality, archives and translation through art, film and theatre in order to reflect on contemporary approaches to materiality (Vidal Claramonte 2024), translationality (Blumczynski 2023) and performativity in translation studies (Bassnett and Blumczynski 2025; De Francisci and Marinetti 2025). To what extent can thinking about the translation of, and within, a variety of visual mediums allow us to rethink the parameters of translation and the agents involved in the processual nature of translation and interpretation? From the role of the researcher in the film and theatre archives, to the translator of the words of visual artists (Wolf 2024) and silent film captions (Abend-David

2025), to the role of producers, directors and adaptors in theatre, the panel focuses on both the objects and subjects of translation, as well as the visual *consumption* of translation. In thinking about new theorizations of materiality and performativity, the panel aims to widen discussions of the variety of loci of translations happening through and beyond the interlingual act of translation.

In its interdisciplinary approach (art history, film studies, theatre studies and theory), the panel aims to create a lively discussion about thinking visually in translation studies through different genres. That visuality can begin in the archive and two of the papers will focus on archival materials, the translation researcher's relationship to the archives, and the potential elucidation and/or lacunae of the translation process within and beyond the archives. In engaging with the recent archival turn in translation studies, the papers aim to connect the act, and objects, of archival research with recent research in the field on materiality, art, and performativity. The panel as a whole wants to invite discussion on broadening the text-centered focus in literary translation studies to wider notions of the translation processes on the move when other factors and agents are involved (for instance, the role of art museums, film distributors, or stage designers).

Robots in the Archives: translating the robots of *RUR* – Michelle Woods, SUNY New Paltz

In 1922, the Theater Guild produced Karel Čapek's 1920 play, *RUR: Rossum's Universal Robots* on Broadway in a hugely and surprisingly successful production that introduced the Czech word "robot" into English and international parlance. This paper uses archival research in the Theater Guild Archives at Yale and the NYPL to map the involvement of various agents in the production, including the adaptors of the initial English translation by Paul Selver, Owen Davis and Louis Untermeyer, but also the producers, the director and the set and costume designers, to investigate how these US conceptions of Čapek's play (through language and visuals) helped conceive of the "robotic imaginary" (Rhee 2018). Relying on very recent theorizations of collaborative approaches to theatre translation (Bassnett and Blumczynski 2025; De Francisci and Marinetti 2025), the paper considers the involvement of all these agents as "a journey through intersecting hermeneutic circles" (Johnston and Venuti 2025, 12) and as a "collaborative approach to translation [that] relies on the collective bodies, minds, histories, and knowledge of performers, directors, movement specialists, and designers to resituate meaning," a "meshwork" of knowledge (Marinetti and De Francisci 2025, 12).

Translating the Captions to Goya's Drawings Across Languages, Disciplines, and Time – Reva Wolf, SUNY New Paltz

The distinctive album drawings of Francisco de Goya (1746–1828) often include captions that interact with the imagery, and in remarkable ways. To best appreciate the spirit of these drawings, an understanding of how Goya's words and images come up against each other is required. Yet what the words mean is not always obvious, and English-language scholars have sometimes disagreed on how to translate them from Spanish into English. I will consider two examples from a group of drawings that Goya made later in his career, around 1819–23, proposing that both the words and the images are best understood, and, consequently, most suitably translated, in light of their associations with two by-then classic literary works: *Tragicomedy of Calisto and Melibea* (1502), known familiarly as *Celestina*, and *Praise of Folly* (1509). In each case, the understanding of Goya's allusions to and reworkings of the literature of the past—a visual variation on the practice of reinterpreting classics that was in vogue at the time—depends upon the translation/interpretation of his captions in combination with careful looking. This approach provides a way into these extraordinary if sometimes puzzling drawings through bringing their historical context into relief, which I propose, to conclude, as a fundamental and rewarding tool for translating both their words and their imagery. I present this case study as an example of how visual art fits into and can enrich and expand the discipline of translation studies.

“The Film is not On-Site.” The Adventure of a Silent Film Researcher – Dror Abend-David, SUNY New Paltz

In her article, “Harry Potter and historical consciousness” (2011), Ann Curthoys reminds us of the Joys of archival research: “...the thrill of the archive, the excitement and emotional connection that so often arise in the course of historical research.” Such joy is sometime interrupted, however, by the haphazard and adventurous nature of archival research, particularly when it comes to the study of silent cinema. At one time, I was waiting for a flight from Jacksonville, FL, to the Moving Image Research Center in Washington, DC, when I received the following email: “Due to an error on my part, DAS ALTE GESETZ did not arrive in the reading room. We are trying to get the film delivered by Wednesday afternoon, but as of now, the film is not on-site” (2021).

Research about silent film in general, and the translation of silent film in particular, is a fascinating, unique, challenging, and in many ways near-impossible task. The loss of original celluloid, archival materials, *Zensurkarten*, and even film reviews is coupled with little historical research on and interest in the translation of silent films. Archives rarely indicate the language of the intertitles in various versions of the same film, and traveling to archives

in different countries in search of a particular language version of a silent film is often a task of trial and error.

Scholars must piece together different surviving versions that are recovered and restored in different archives, with only the beginning of a unified record in sight (O'Sullivan 2019, 82). Another challenge is that there has been no awareness of the importance of translation, no clear record of subtitles (with some exceptions, one of which is the *Zensurkarte* that records the original script of films that were produced in Germany), and almost no comment in film reviews as to the quality of intertitles, and certainly not about the quality of the translation (or even an acknowledgment that a translation has taken place).

Adding to that the reluctance of university administrations to pay for travel for archival research (as opposed to conferences, which are still tolerated), I would like to combine some stories of my pilgrimages to archive on three continents with theoretical thoughts about films studies in general, and film archives in particular.

ROUNDTABLES

Learning Objectives and Outcomes for Undergraduate Translation Programs at US Universities and Colleges

Participants: Aron Aji (University of Iowa), Brian James Baer (Kent State University), Sonia Colina (University of Arizona), Christopher D. Mellinger (University of North Carolina at Charlotte) & Regina Galasso (University of Massachusetts Amherst).

In February 2025, a US-DOE funded National Resource Center at an R1 university invited 15 directors and coordinators of translation programs from as many US campuses to participate in a Directors' Summit, with the aim to draft objectives and outcomes for undergraduate translation programs. A task-force made of four summit participants have since worked on formulating the summit's recommendations which we would like to roll out for discussion and feedback at the ATISA conference. ATISA community is, of course, an ideal forum for this presentation because of the Organization's principal commitment to translation and interpreting studies. We expect the feedback we receive will be invaluable to our work as we progress toward finalizing our recommendations.

In our era of rapid globalization, the need to promote translation as a crucial global literacy skill at US universities has gained significant momentum in the past decade, actuating a steady growth in new curricula, tracks, minors, and majors at the undergraduate level. Faculty interest in supporting this growth trend has been energetic and palpable at our national organizations' annual conferences as well as at the national conferences on teaching translation, summer schools and institutes for faculty interested in curriculum and program development. The most recent summer institute for faculty, sponsored by the abovementioned NRC in June 2024, received 70 applications!

The recommendations our task-force wishes to present at ATISA conference will be significant and timely, and will provide support to our communities in the work to advance translation education at US universities and colleges

Power Dynamics in Translator Training and Professional Development

Participants: Aron Aji (University of Iowa), Brian James Baer (Kent State University), Aída Martínez-Gómez (John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York), Christopher Mellinger (University of North Carolina at Charlotte), Jeanette Patterson (Binghamton University) & Erin Riddle (moderator, Binghamton University)

This roundtable gathers faculty administrators from a number of translator education programs (some including interpreter education) to discuss the power structures and dynamics within and external to academic institutions. Participants will share their perspectives and experiences, focusing on strategies for engaging and responding to power dynamics that can support or hinder future translators in their professional development and advancement.

A frequent component of academic programs is effectively combining theoretical studies with hands-on, “real world” experience. Participants will identify ways that academic programs can cultivate opportunities for entrepreneurship and authentic experiential learning for hands-on training to learn practical business aspects. Through these experiences, translators can develop the business acumen and professional skills that go beyond the act of translation itself.

Furthermore, this roundtable will explore how entrepreneurship and authentic experiential learning can support translators as they develop confidence to advocate for themselves and their profession, given complex institutional, professional and power structures, especially when it comes to working with publishing houses, negotiating with clients, and earning a living amidst a competitive global market where the “bottom line” is a significant determining factor.

Finally, participants will share ways to advocate for translator and interpreter education and translation and interpreting studies as an academic discipline despite ongoing challenges to its validity, such as devaluing and downsizing of translation and language programs, a misperception that AI will make translators and their work obsolete, and ongoing resistance to the need for translator education and pedagogy (under the assumption that “knowing” a language is sufficient).

The primary aim of this roundtable is for translation program administrators to share their experiences in establishing and/or running translator education programs and make themselves available for a question-and-answer period to foster an exchange of ideas within a supportive community of translator educators.

President's Roundtable: Teaching Translation and Interpreting Online, LC102

Participants: Brian J. Baer (Kent State University), Loubna Bilali (Kent State University), Laurence Jay-Rayon Ibrahim Aibo (University of Massachusetts Amherst) & Jeffrey Killman (University of North Carolina at Charlotte).

This year's president's plenary addresses the various pedagogical, logistical, and technological issues involved with online teaching of translation and interpreting. The invited panelists have extensive experience designing, implementing and teaching online courses, which they will share with attendees.

INDIVIDUAL PAPERS

Alhawamdeh, Shatha

Oberlin College

Re-Presenting Arab Voices in Documentary Films through Audiovisual Translation: An Imagological Study

This study examines the representation of Arab voices in documentary films within the sphere of audiovisual translation (AVT). The growing interest of the Global North in the Global South, particularly the Arab world, since 9/11, coupled with the Arab Spring of 2011, has led to an increase in the production of documentary films about the region. These documentaries, which cover a variety of topics, are yet to be studied systematically through the lens of AVT. The present study aims to investigate how Arab voices are portrayed in these documentaries creating a particular image of the Arab world. Two corpora, one of documentaries produced in the Global South and the other for documentaries produced in the Global North, consisting of five documentary films each, were created and classified according to modality (subtitling, dubbing, voice-over) and modes, using Nichols' (2001) typology of documentary films in order to facilitate the comparative investigation. The image of the Arab world created through the representation of Arab voices in the documentary films will then be analyzed through the analytical frameworks of narrative theory (NT) and multimodality critical discourse analysis (MCDA). The findings reveal that Global South-produced documentaries are likely to construct an autoimage that emphasizes resilience, self-determination, and cultural continuity, whereas Global North-produced documentaries construct a hetero-image that tend to associate the Arab world with conflict, crisis, and oppression. AVT modalities are key in mediating these portrayals since translation strategies often neutralize culture-specific expressions or omit faith-driven discourse, which results in reshaping the perception of Arab agency by global audiences. By integrating imagological analysis with AVT, this study highlights how translation operates as a site of power that frames the Arab voice in global media circulation.

Ali, Soumaya Mahamat

University of Leeds

Toni Morrison's *Beloved* in Arabic: A Sociological and Paratextual Study

This paper forms part of ongoing doctoral research that investigates the sociocultural dynamics shaping the *Field of Arabic Translations of African American Fiction* between 1955 and 2024. Drawing on Bourdieu's theory of social practice, the study explores how field, habitus, and capital interact in the circulation of African American fiction in Arabic translation, including paratexts such as titles and covers that reframe translated works as cultural products.

The case study of Toni Morrison's *Beloved* (1987) illustrates these in interesting ways. Awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1988, the novel emerged in the Arabic field in two editions, the first in 1989 and the second in 2007. In paratextual terms, the minimalist cover of the U.S. edition relied on Morrison's established literary reputation. By contrast, the 1989 Arabic edition foregrounded racial imagery and Pulitzer recognition, thereby converting international symbolic capital into local legitimacy. The 2007 edition situated the novel within the state-affiliated Series of Literature and employed abstract imagery, reframing the work through institutional endorsement and aligning it with national publishing practices.

More broadly, the study argues that the Arabic translations of African American fiction exemplify how unequal fields of power reconfigure symbolic capital across cultural boundaries, highlighting the sociocultural dimensions of translation beyond mere linguistic transfer. This analysis contributes to understanding translation as a site of unequal exchange where asymmetrical power relations between literary fields shape the circulation of translated works.

Álvarez Nieves, Alejandro

University of Puerto Rico – Río Piedras

Compensating for Race: Notes on Translating Blackness in Ntozake Shange's Poetry

Can Blackness actually be translated from English into Spanish? Are the elements of race translatable? One could argue that everything is translatable. However, is it possible to render Blackness and race in an acceptable manner in a target culture? In 2017, I was commissioned to translate a collection of poems by American poet Ntozake Shange. Her use of African American Vernacular English, also known as Black English, is central to her poetic work. Other linguistic uses in her poetry include lower casing every word in her poems. The fact that Shange's work in other genres like the essay show that the use of standard English rather than AAVE indicates that the use of the latter is intentional and crucial

to her poetry. AAVE, then, provides a morphological and spelling channel for portraying Blackness as part of her work. However, can Spanish resort to morphology, spelling, or syntax—or any other aspect in terms of form—to render Blackness in the same way?

Even though there is a rich tradition of poetry written in Spanish by Afro-descendant cultures—particularly in the Hispanic Caribbean—Spanish does not seem to resort to the aspects of form to render Blackness. The main reasons can be traced to the way in which Spanish was disseminated during the conquest period, which sharply contrast the way English was taught and disseminated in the United States (Centeno: 2007). The lack of a formal Black Spanish in the Hispanic Caribbean forces translators to employ translation procedures such as compensation to render Blackness adequately. This paper will rely on the concept of *Black Latinidad* (García Peña: 2022) to trace a genealogy of Blackness in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean. As part of the research, this article will turn to the influence of identity politics in “Black translation practice” (Tachtiris: 2024) applied to our own translation of Ntozange Shange’s anthological poetry collection *Wild Beauty* (Atria Books: 2017). Can the N-word be translated? How to render common linguistic uses of AAVE, such as *da* for “the,” *‘cuz* for “because,” among others? This paper explores how each language constructs Blackness in order to create adequate translation solutions.

Arrutia, Sara

University of Arizona

Exploring Critical Language Awareness and Translation Competence in Advanced Spanish Heritage Learners through a Multimodal Translation Module

Although recent research in Spanish as a Heritage Language (SHL) education has increasingly embraced critical pedagogies and sociolinguistic awareness (Beaudrie & Wilson, 2021; Leeman & Serafini, 2016), there remains limited to no empirical evidence on how pedagogical translation can function as a transformative tool in the development of Critical Language Awareness (CLA) among advanced heritage learners. Existing studies tend to focus on linguistic outcomes or error analysis without fully exploring how translation, particularly when framed through multiliteracies and multimodal approaches, can foster critical reflection on language ideologies, power, and identity. This study aims to address this gap by examining the impact of a pedagogical intervention involving a multimodal translation module implemented in an advanced SHL course at a four-year university in the US . The module is grounded in a functionalist approach to translation (Nord, 1997; Colina, 2002, 2015), the multiliteracies framework (New London Group, 1996; Kalantzis & Cope, 2005,

2010), and draws on CLA as both a pedagogical and analytical lens (Fairclough, 1995; Leeman, 2018).

Using an explanatory sequential mixed methods design (Creswell and Creswell, 2018), the study collects quantitative and qualitative data from questionnaires, interviews, translation tasks, critical reflection assignments, and classroom observations. There were 37 participants, of which 23 were assigned to the experimental group, which completed the translation module, and 14 to the control group, which followed the regular course sequence. The main research questions guiding this project are: (1) Does a multimodal translation module impact students' development of Critical Language Awareness? If so, how? (2) Do students' translation competences evolve throughout the module? If so, how? (3) Are there changes in students' attitudes toward language varieties and their own linguistic identities?

The goal is the investigation of the effects of this module on students' CLA and translation competence. In doing so, the study contributes to advancing empirical research on heritage language pedagogy and on pedagogic translation by providing evidence of how translation can be meaningfully integrated into SHL curricula as both a linguistic and sociopolitical practice.

Arzik-Erzurumlu, Özüm

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Power and visibility in the digital era: Reconfiguring conference interpreting

Conference interpreters have long been portrayed as the “stars” of the language services field (Dam & Zethsen, 2013), enjoying symbolic capital, occupational prestige, and close alignment with international institutions. This symbolic visibility, however, has historically been framed within the professional myth of interpreter “invisibility,” a normative expectation that interpreters efface themselves in the communicative event. As Angelelli (2004) argues, such invisibility obscures interpreters' active role as co-constructors of meaning and depoliticizes their agency.

Drawing on empirical data and sociologically informed approaches to interpreting, this talk examines how the shift to remote conference interpreting has reconfigured interpreter visibility and made questions of power more explicit. The empirical data were collected through semi-structured interviews with 26 freelance conference interpreters. Interpreters' accounts point to diverging experiences. Many interpreters reported that digitalization has diminished their professional status, relegating them to “just interpreters” who are

increasingly anonymous within technological infrastructures. They described a redistribution of power in which platform providers and institutional clients exert greater control over working conditions, technological standards, and even communicative processes, thereby marginalizing interpreters' agency. In contrast, some actors — particularly language service providers and early adopters of simultaneous interpreting delivery platforms — perceived remote modalities as generating new forms of visibility. They highlighted opportunities to exert influence over platform design, advocate for professional standards, and occupy more central roles in negotiations around technology. Yet this enhanced visibility is double-edged, as it is accompanied by intensified surveillance: interpreters' performances are now more frequently recorded, monitored, and evaluated, with implications for professional autonomy.

By situating these perspectives within broader networks of technology, institutions, and professional practice, the talk underscores the contested and negotiated nature of power in the digital era. Remote conference interpreting emerges as a contested site of power, where authority, control, and agency are redistributed and continuously renegotiated.

Asadi, Shima

Kent State University

Modern Persian Poetry in Translation

This research aims to trace the trajectory of English translations of modern Persian poetry from 1963 to 2021. It examines how the translated modern Persian poetry has evolved during the pre- and post-Islamic revolutionary periods in Iran. Grounded in Descriptive Translation Studies, the research adopts a corpus-based approach to conduct a comparative analysis of historical translation practices, focusing on translator activity across time. The dataset comprises complete translations of poems by 34 modernist Persian poets, published in periodicals and books, excluding online sources. The results, presented through a timeline and lists, indicate that the pre-revolutionary era (1963-1978) was a significantly more prolific period of translation, with an average of 14.3 poems translated annually, compared to 6.7 in the post-revolutionary period (1980-2021). Key findings also highlight Forough Farrokhzad and Sohrab Sepehri as the most translated modernist poets. This study contextualizes these findings within existing scholarship on translation studies and Persian literary history, showing how shifting translation trends reflect broader cultural and political dynamics. The research highlights Karim Emami's pioneering role in initiating these translations in the early 1960s, thereby revealing a shift from classic poetry to modern forms of blank and free verse. The results of the study contribute to understanding how translations of Persian

poems across two distinct time periods, marked by a political shift, can shape the international and domestic visibility of prominent Persian poets. Further studies may focus on comparative quality assessments of several modern Persian poetry translations to determine whether the translations result in semantic reduction or high poetic readability without distorting the meaning. Such an evaluation will promote broader engagement with Persian literature and culture in literary and translation studies.

Ayyad, Ahmad

Binghamton University

Translation as a site of political contestation in conflict situations: The case of the Geneva Accord in Arabic and Hebrew

Translation and interpreting in conflict and war zones have been attracting increasing scholarly attention within Translation Studies (e.g., Baker 2006; Footitt and Kelly 2018; Ruiz Rosendo 2020; Valdeón 2023; Ayyad 2024; Todorova and Ruiz Rosendo 2025). This paper contributes to this expanding body of research through a case study of the Arabic and Hebrew translations of the Geneva Accord (GA), an unofficial Palestinian–Israeli peace initiative negotiated in English in 2003 by Palestinian and Israeli delegations. After publication, the GA was translated into Arabic and Hebrew by national campaigns to mobilize domestic support.

Although the English source text included highly sensitive political compromises—especially regarding al-Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount and the recognition of Israel as a Jewish state—these were partially obscured, reformulated, or mitigated in the Arabic and Hebrew versions. These shifts prompted public criticism and contributed to a loss of trust in the initiative.

The paper addresses the following research question: How does translation shape political perception and public trust in conflict resolution processes? Methodologically, it draws on Product-Oriented Descriptive Translation Studies and Critical Discourse Analysis. This combined framework enables a systematic comparison of the English source text with its Arabic and Hebrew translations, focusing on politically sensitive terminology and formulations and examining how each version reflects dominant Palestinian and Israeli political narratives and expectations.

By situating translation as a site of political negotiation and contestation, the paper demonstrates how translated peace initiatives can be reinterpreted, reframed, and publicly resisted. It contributes to understanding how translation shapes perceptions of legitimacy

and public trust, thereby explaining why some agreements fail to gain traction despite appearing viable at the diplomatic level. By highlighting the intersection of translation, ideology, and political trust, it offers a novel analytical lens for examining how translation mediates both domestic reception and the broader dynamics of conflict resolution.

Baer, Brian James

Kent State University

Translation and/as Diasporic Self-Fashioning: The Case of Bernard Guilbert Guerney

This paper explores the translational activity of the twentieth-century émigré to the US, Bernard Guilbert Guerney (1894-1979) for whom literary translation and retranslation, as well as the packaging and curating of translations in anthologies, played a central role in the re/fashioning of his identity in the context of diaspora. Informed by Stephen Greenblatt's notion of Renaissance self-fashioning and current trends in diaspora studies and translation studies that seek to understand migration beyond reductive binaries of home/host and source/target, the chapter introduces the concept of diasporic self-fashioning to better capture the agency and positioning of diasporic translators. Guerney's example of diasporic self-fashioning troubles simplistic notions of source and target texts and cultures, i.e., that their self-fashioning was driven by a desire either to reject or preserve a previous linguistic and cultural identity, while offering new insights into the nature of translational agency of diasporic translators.

Balzani, Alessandra

California State University Long Beach

Italian Postcolonial Voices in Translation: The case of Igiaba Scego

This paper examines the state of contemporary Italian postcolonial literature in translation, mapping how works by authors such as Amara Lakhous, Gabriella Ghermandi, Ubah Cristina Ali Farah, and Igiaba Scego circulate beyond Italy. Although postcolonial writing has become a vital part of the Italian literary landscape, the international dissemination of these voices remains uneven, shaped by colonial legacies and contemporary geopolitics. By analyzing which languages publish these works in translation, mainly English, French, and German, this study interrogates how colonial asymmetries may play a role in defining the global circulation of Italian postcolonial texts. The paper argues that the mechanisms of selection, packaging, and critical reception often reflect hierarchies of language, marketability, and

cultural capital. Certain themes, such as migration, diaspora, and hybridity, are foregrounded in translation in ways that align with publishers' expectations of "postcolonial" literature for global audiences, while others risk being muted or erased. At the same time, translation is shown to function as a potential means of resistance and social justice, making marginalized subjectivities more visible and challenging national canons that continue to privilege homogeneity. This broader survey is followed by a focused case study on the English translations of Igiaba Scego's novels. Her works, including *Beyond Babylon*, *Adua*, and *The Color Line*, offer a particularly informative example of how postcolonial Italian literature is mediated across linguistic and cultural boundaries. Through close attention to translation strategies, paratextual framing, and reception in Anglophone contexts, the paper highlights both the possibilities and limitations of translation as a means of reshaping global literary flows. Ultimately, the paper contends that examining the translation of Italian postcolonial authors illuminates how colonial legacies persist in the geopolitics of publishing, while also revealing translation's transformative potential as a practice of resistance.

Bertacco, Simona

University of Louisville

'This is what the journey does': Travel and Translation in Diaspora Literature

This proposal considers two major motifs in the corpus of anglophone diaspora literature—travel and translation. It takes the Afro-Caribbean diaspora as an emblematic case study of the complex experience of migrancy imposed by postcolonial Empire and highlights the closeness between ideas of diaspora travel and translation in the work of some paradigmatic artists such as Dionne Brand, m. nourbeSe philip, Maaza Mengiste, as writers who have assumed a leading role to not only redefine the genres of diaspora writing, but also to establish an explicit connection between today's archives of loss, injustice, and migration and those of the past.

Primary texts

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Carr, Will & Daryl Hague

Brigham Young University

“An Epidemic of Overconfidence”? Text Type and Error Type Correlations in the ATA Certification Exam

For many years the American Translators Association characterized its certification as either “a mid-career credential for experienced, professional translators or interpreters” (Bogoslaw and Stephenson) or, more recently, “a credential for experienced translators” (“Certification”). Despite the emphasis on “experienced” and (formerly) “professional” as qualifiers, an average of 80 percent of the examinees fail the exam. This high failure rate would seem to suggest that those who take the exam have too little experience or the wrong kind of experience, i.e., relying on technologies that are either forbidden (MT, CAT tools, etc.) or highly restricted (e.g., test-takers can use Google but are not allowed to click on any of the search results) (“Online Resource List”). One experienced exam rater, in an article featured among the ATA’s exam prep pages, attributes the low passing rate to “an epidemic of overconfidence mixed, perhaps, with a lack of understanding of ATA’s certification standards” (Savorov).

This paper is a case study of the 2006 ATA exams for Spanish-to-English (n=92), using data from the ATA Exam Corpus (ATAexamcorpus.net) to analyze error patterns and correlations between error type and text type, including an analysis of the text segments whose translations had the highest rate and greatest weight of the three most frequent error types: mistranslation, wrong term, and false friend. The data suggest that many test takers were likely inexperienced or overconfident or both, with these issues compounded by the fact that the exam in 2006 was even less reflective of professional translation practices: examinees were required to write out their translations by hand, and the only permitted resources were physical dictionaries. The most common major errors demonstrate candidates’ failure to read the whole passage and/or keep the overall message and purpose in mind as they translated individual segments, as well as their failure to recognize potential terminology problems or false friends and/or to consult dictionaries when faced with these problems. The results have implications for translator and interpreter training, especially in light of recent technological advances.

Chen, Shulin

Ocean University of China

A Study on the Translation and Cross-Cultural Dissemination of English Versions of Shan Hai Jing from the Perspective of Geo-translation Studies

As an ancient Chinese encyclopedic classic, the Shan Hai Jing possesses multiple attributes such as geography, mythology, culture, and technology. The geographical spatial narrative, primitive scientific cognition, and unique cultural symbols contained in its text make its international dissemination not only involve language conversion but also concern the cross-border reconstruction of geographical knowledge and the cross-temporal and spatial interpretation of cultural significance, thus possessing significant academic research value. From the perspective of Geo-translation Studies, this study employs digital humanities methodologies to explore the patterns of cross-regional dissemination of English translations of Shan Hai Jing. It conducts statistical and visual analyses on the dissemination locations of six representative English versions of Shan Hai Jing spanning from 1978 to 2024, and divides the dissemination process into three phases—namely the “Western-Dominant Phase, East Asian In-Depth Cultivation Phase, and Technology Integration Phase”—based on dissemination data. Additionally, text mining techniques are applied to conduct in-depth analyses of the core keywords in the translations corresponding to each phase.

The findings reveal that the cross-cultural dissemination of English versions of Shan Hai Jing exhibits an evolutionary model characterized by “power-dominated dissemination, cultural negotiation, and technology-enabled barrier-breaking”. This model not only exerts a profound impact on the geographical distribution and keyword features of the translations across different phases, but also reflects the dynamic interplay between geopolitical cultural power and the right to textual interpretation.

This research aims to expand the application of the framework of Geo-translation Studies in the study of the international translation of Chinese classical texts. Meanwhile, it seeks to provide theoretical and practical references for leveraging digital humanities technologies to facilitate the cross-cultural dissemination of Chinese classics, as well as to balance cultural subjectivity with the effectiveness of dissemination.

Cheng, Xiaoyi

University of Turku

The working of affect and emotion around the retranslation and (pre)reception of Barbie on social media: a cross-platform analysis

This study focuses on the retranslation process and (pre-)reception of the film *Barbie* (2023) on two Chinese social media platforms, *Red* and *WeChat*, through the lens of affect. Due to misogynistic controversy surrounding *Barbie*'s official subtitles, the retranslation in Chinese was self-commissioned, disseminated, and promoted by TPG, a subtitling collective lauded for their female-friendly and feminist stance by the mostly female audience. Informed by a relational understanding of affect (among others, Massumi 2015), this study theorizes affect as latent potentialities and catalytic forces that shape encounters. The analysis is based on an examination of related posts and audience comments on both *Red* and *WeChat* regarding *Barbie*'s retranslation and (pre-)reception. The findings suggest that TPG's retranslation, embedded in their affective labor, intersected with audience emotion work. This intersection manifested as audiences actively acknowledged TPG's translatorial efforts through both verbal cues and less- or non-verbal expressions of appreciation. While TPG's strategic stance-taking, presentation, and promotion of their retranslation facilitated an indisputably positive pre-reception, some dissonance did emerge, prompting TPG to regulate audience responses to maintain their engagement. This study demonstrates how affect can be methodologically applied in TS, showing its operationalization and theoretical explanatory power. By foregrounding the role of affect, this research advances the understanding of feminist cybersubtitling as a social practice, revealing such subtitling as a site of affective and digital labor that is intricately shaped by the affective architectures of social media. This research also hints at the potential for further investigation into how such translation-mediated practices fit within the broader landscape of digital feminist cultural production influenced by the Web 2.0 creative economy.

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Ciller, Julio & Sonia Colina

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley & University of Arizona

Bridging the Gap: Spanish Proficiency and Curricular Alignment in T&I Education

Language proficiency lies at the core of translator and interpreter (T&I) competence models (Cao 1996; PACTE 2008; Hurtado Albir 2017; Quinci 2023) and plays a critical role in T&I education, with a specific level of proficiency typically required for admission to T&I courses

and programs (Colina and Angelelli 2024; Mellinger and Gasca-Jiménez 2019). This underscores the importance of preparing students for T&I programs and ensuring effective articulation—the alignment of curriculum, instruction, and assessment (Lange 1988)—between language and T&I courses, particularly in U.S. language departments where T&I programs often draw from language courses.

Using a mixed-methods approach, this study examines the perspectives of 26 T&I administrators and instructors across five U.S. institutions on Spanish proficiency (course prerequisites, proficiency requirements, and support for language preparedness and development) at undergraduate and graduate levels. Findings revealed a significant perceived mismatch between students' Spanish proficiency and program expectations, supported by both quantitative and quantitative data. Instructors were critical of existing proficiency requirements, and inconsistencies emerged between administrator and instructor perspectives. Participants reported that students often enter programs underprepared in Spanish, with the curriculum being insufficient to close proficiency gaps—particularly at the graduate level. The unidirectional nature of graduate programs was seen as problematic, and some administrators' view of translator education as separate from language teaching raised concerns about program identity, reputation, and adherence to “professional norms”. At the undergraduate level, misaligned prerequisites and unrealistic expectations further contribute to articulation challenges.

This study reveals that gaps in admission practices, course alignment, and language support hinder student development in T&I programs. To address these issues, we conclude by offering recommendations informed by Barrette and Paesani (2005), including: clear admission criteria (particularly regarding translation directionality), regular review of program goals, objective language proficiency assessments, differentiated instruction, and stronger collaboration among faculty and administrators.

de la Morena-Corrales, Javier

Kent State University

Queering the Translator's Archive: Manuel Puig, Mourning, and Afterlives

After the sudden death of Argentine gay writer Manuel Puig, his mother, Malé Puig, established an epistolary relation with Puig's translators (Albert Bensoussan, Suzanne Jill Levine, and Angelo Morino). For Manuel, who often described himself as an exile “read in translation” (2006, 400), the translators had long constituted a chosen, transnational family. And so, in these letters—some held in Levine's archive at the Lilly Library—Malé moves between practical matters, such as copyright, and heartfelt attempts to keep the memory of

her son alive, thus extending Walter Benjamin's (1923 [1997]) dictum of translation as afterlife to encompass how translators can also embody the author's afterlife.

This presentation reads these letters as sites where translation, mourning (Batchelor 2023), and queer kinship intertwine. Engaging with Klaus Kaindl's (2021) call to rehumanize translators and consider them as whole persons, I suggest that these letters foreground not only the central role of translation in Puig's poetics (Cabrera 2016), but also the ethical and affective dimension of the translators' lives, which exceeded the professional sphere. In doing so, this presentation ultimately employs the letters as an entry point to sketch the potentials of queering the archival turn in translator's studies (Munday 2013, Paloposki 2017, Guzmán 2020). Drawing on the work of Ann Cvetkovich (2003), Jack Halberstam (2005), and Charles E. Morris (2006), I consider the challenges of locating queerness within the archive—a space that, in the case of queer subjects and translators, has often been marked by absences and invisibility. I thus ask how we might read the archive not as an objective repository but as a fragile person-centered space (Woods 2022) where traces of queer life persist unevenly, requiring translation scholars “to wade through the material and piece together the jigsaw puzzle of queer history” (Halberstam 2005, 170) from a transnational lens.

Ding, Yuanyuan

Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey

Redefining Interpreter Competence and Curriculum Reform for Interpreter Training in the Age of AI

In recent years, AI-enabled simultaneous interpreting (SI) systems (e.g., Seed LiveInterpret, iFLYREC, Seamless M4T, and platform-based translation tools) have entered professional and educational contexts, prompting renewed questions about what these systems can do well and how their “competence” compares with that of human interpreters. Yet much of the discussion to date remains commentary-driven, with relatively few studies offering systematic, criteria-based evaluations of machine interpreting (MI) performance.

This study addresses that gap by comparing MI output with the SI performance of veteran conference interpreters across discourse types commonly encountered in professional assignments. Using blind raters, we evaluate both MI and human interpreting along dimensions central to professional quality expectations, including accuracy, completeness, logical coherence, and target-language quality. A fine-grained, transcript-based analysis further examines where performance diverges and under what conditions each mode appears to be more or less robust.

Findings show that MI systems and experienced interpreters demonstrate distinct, often complementary strengths, but also reveal competency areas where current MI remains unreliable. These results have practical implications for users deciding among interpreting modes for different use cases, and they motivate a re-examination of interpreter education priorities. We argue that curriculum reform should foreground those competencies that remain uniquely human and professionally consequential, with corresponding adjustments to material selection, classroom priorities, and drill design so that interpreter training remains future-oriented in an AI-shaped market.

Donato, Clorinda

California State University, Long Beach

“Una carrera que me ayudará a ayudar a mi gente” (A career that will help me help my people): Heritage Spanish Speakers, Translation Studies, and the Power of Language Mediation

This presentation examines how U.S. heritage speakers of Spanish articulate translation and interpreting as sites of agency, responsibility, and social engagement within asymmetrical linguistic power structures. The study is explicitly situated within the “power turn” in Translation and Interpreting Studies (TIS), which reconceptualizes translation as a socially embedded practice shaped by ideology, institutional constraints, and unequal distributions of linguistic capital (Tymoczko 2003; Baker 2010; Wolf 2012).

Drawing on a qualitative discourse analysis of 35 cover letters written by heritage Spanish speakers applying to a university-based Translation Studies Internship Program, the study explores how applicants frame their motivations for pursuing translation-related careers. While recognizing that application letters are genre-constrained and institutionally situated texts, the analysis reveals recurring discursive patterns that resonate with established research on heritage language speakers and language brokering (Orellana 2009; Valdés 2018). Students frequently describe translation as a form of linguistic mediation rooted in childhood experiences interpreting for immigrant parents and community members, positioning this work as both ethically meaningful and socially necessary.

Within a power-turn framework, these narratives can be read as attempts to revalue informal and historically invisibilized linguistic labor—often unpaid and gendered—by seeking its professionalization through formal training and institutional recognition (Inghilleri 2005; Angelelli 2004). Rather than presenting translation solely as a neutral skill set, applicants frame it as a means of addressing linguistic exclusion, supporting Spanish-

speaking communities, and challenging dominant language hierarchies in English-dominant contexts.

Taken together, these findings suggest that translation education may function as a site of empowerment for heritage speakers, enabling them to convert inherited linguistic responsibilities into recognized forms of expertise and civic engagement. By foregrounding heritage speakers' own discursive constructions of translation, this study contributes to ongoing conversations in TIS and heritage language education regarding power, agency, and the social dimensions of language mediation.

El Harrak Lichioui, Bouchra & Jorge de la Hoz Leal

Texas State University & University of Arizona

Translation Quality and Functionality in the Age of AI: A Functionalist Evaluation of Machine-Generated Spanish Texts

The increasing reliance on machine translation (MT) technologies by public institutions has intensified scholarly interest in redefining translation quality assessment (TQA) for AI-mediated communicative environments, particularly with regard to how automated translations function in real-world public settings (Doherty, 2017). While extensive research has examined MT output across genres and language pairs, fewer studies have addressed how existing TQA frameworks account for functional adequacy in high-stakes public communication, such as emergency management, where translation quality is closely tied to public trust and access to services (Bromhead, 2023). This study addresses that gap by evaluating machine-generated Spanish translations published on U.S. state emergency management websites, with a focus on communicative effectiveness rather than surface-level accuracy alone.

The study adopts a functionalist TQA framework as a point of departure, drawing primarily on Colina's (2009) model, which emphasizes purpose, audience, and context, and situating it within broader debates on the limits of metric-driven approaches to evaluating both human and automatic translation (Mateo, 2014). A corpus consisting of machine-generated Spanish translations produced via Google Translate from official Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) webpages, alongside corresponding human-produced Spanish translations for comparative analysis, is analyzed. The evaluation combines qualitative textual analysis with functionality-oriented criteria, examining grammatical and lexical accuracy, semantic clarity, register appropriateness, and overall readability for Spanish-speaking audiences.

Findings reveal systematic localization issues affecting functional adequacy, particularly in the translation of preparedness-oriented content and public assistance information, suggesting that current MT deployments expose gaps in how translation quality is conceptualized and assessed in institutional settings. These results reinforce critiques of TQA approaches that privilege measurable accuracy over contextual effectiveness and indicate that widely deployed MT systems continue to fall short in localization-sensitive public service contexts when evaluated against functionalist criteria.

By applying established TQA theory to a contemporary AI-mediated public communication context, this study contributes to ongoing debates on how translation quality assessment itself must adapt in the age of automation (Doherty, 2016). It further underscores the importance of critical AI literacy in translation pedagogy and public-sector language policy, particularly in domains where clarity, trust, and accessibility are essential.

Eriss, Azadeh

Binghamton University (SUNY)

Translating Power Dynamics: Hierarchies and Stereotypes in *Babel*, a Case Study of Multilingual Cinema

Multilingual films serve as dynamic sites of translation, where languages intersect, clash, and negotiate meaning across verbal and nonverbal channels (Chaume, 2020; Khoshsaligheh et al., 2022; Mayoral et al., 1988; Monti, 2016; Taylor, 2020; Wahl, 2008). These intersections often reveal underlying power dynamics and can either reinforce or subvert cultural stereotypes (Eriss & Khoshsaligheh, 2023). This paper examines Alejandro González Iñárritu's *Babel* (2006) as a case study to explore how translation mediates power dynamics and social injustices across its globally dispersed narratives. The analysis focuses on verbal elements—dialogue, code-switching, linguistic variation, and subtitling strategies—using computational network analysis, informed by digital humanities and computational linguistics. By tokenizing the dialogues in the film's multiple languages and mapping word co-occurrences with Python, then comparing networks across different narrative contexts, the study visualizes how gendered and cultural stereotypes cluster and circulate within the film's multilingual narratives. The findings argue that *Babel* foregrounds asymmetries in global communication and exposes stereotypes. Translation here functions as more than a tool for comprehension; it becomes a mechanism that simultaneously reveals and reproduces inequalities. By analyzing cross-linguistic encounters, the research highlights both the persistence of American cultural and political dominance and the fragility of intercultural understanding. Ultimately, the paper demonstrates how multilingual films

mediate intercultural communication, expose stereotypes, and reveal asymmetries of power, underscoring the central role of translation in shaping global hierarchies.

Gentile, Paola

KU Leuven

The First Spanish Translation of *Anne Frank's Diary*: a journey through delays and missed opportunities

This paper explores the tantalizing story of the first Spanish translation of *Anne Frank's Diary*, one of the most iconic, widely translated and influential testimonies of the Second World War. Originally published in Dutch in 1947 by Contact with the title *Het Achterhuis* (*The House Behind*), the Diary's journey to global readership was shaped by Otto Frank's relentless efforts to fulfil his daughter's dream of becoming a published writer. While the first translations appeared in German (1950), French (1950) and English (1952), the Spanish version faced significant delays. Its official translation was not published until 1955, yet an unauthorized edition had already surfaced in Argentina in 1952, followed by several other editions across Latin America. This complex publication history raises questions about the factors that influenced the translation process: what caused these delays? And why were several unofficial Spanish versions of the Diary published in the same period? This study traces the lifecycle of the Spanish translation, with particular attention to language-related misunderstandings, delayed replies and Otto Frank's impatience to secure a reliable translator at a time when the Diary had already become an international success in other languages. Drawing on unpublished documents in French, Spanish and Dutch from the Otto Frank Archive at the Anne Frank Huis, this contribution examines Otto's correspondence between 1950 and 1964 with publishers, translators and intermediaries, revealing how communication breakdowns and slow negotiations shaped the eventual (late) production of the Spanish edition. The paper also demonstrates that these delays emerged not only from logistical hurdles but from asymmetrical power relations – between Otto Frank, mediating agents, publishers, translators and state censorship authorities – that shaped who controlled the translation process and whose priorities prevailed.

González Núñez, Gabriel; Leticia Valdez Gutiérrez & Elena Errico

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California & Università di Trieste

Linguistic Profile and Translator Competence on the Mexico-US Border

Translation students bring into the classroom different bilingual profiles. Inasmuch as there are such different bilingual profiles, the individual profile of translation students can be expected to differ, e.g., some may be “simultaneous or early bilinguals” while others may be “successive or late bilinguals” (see Dong, 2023:11). Whatever the case may be, such bilinguals often have previous experiences as “language brokers” (see Morales & Hanson, 2005). This experience, like their linguistic profile, may potentially affect the translation competence they bring into the classroom and their ability to develop the necessary skills. Bearing these ideas in mind, the present paper seeks to answer the question as to whether there exists a relationship between the linguistic experiences and backgrounds of bilingual students and their development of translation competence (i.e., the necessary skills to perform at the level of professional translators, see Shreve, 2012: 1). The present paper will describe and analyze a study carried out among translators-in-training at the university level in Texas and Baja California which explores such a question. Specifically, it will compare translation competence in the English/Spanish pair for two groups of translator-in-training located in border areas, namely a group in the Autonomous University of Baja California (Mexico) and one in the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (United States). Linguistic profiles will be recorded for students at both institutions, and then they will be asked to carry out different translation tasks during their first semester as translations students. By linking individual profiles to specific task performance, we hope to find patterns associated with the sociolinguistics of the border areas involved.

Hu, Yuanyuan

Durham University

From ‘Alien Cultures’ to Confucian Virtue: Translation as Ideological Taming in China’s First Elementary Textbook (*Mengxue Duben Quanshu*, 1902)

This paper examines translation as ideological negotiation in China’s first national elementary textbook, *Mengxue Duben Quanshu* (1902), compiled by Yu Fu and published by the Wenming Book Company. Drawing on Descriptive Translation Studies (DTS) and close textual comparison, the study traces the process by which the textbook’s fourth volume introduced translated moral tales into Chinese language education. The volume comprises twelve character-building stories from England, France, Japan, America, and ancient Greece, and represents one of the early efforts to deploy foreign narratives for pedagogical purposes. The study argues that these translations represent a deliberate act of ideological domestication, reframing foreign ethical paradigms through Confucian moral principles

such as filial piety, integrity, and benevolence. This strategy sought not only to reinforce domestic ethical orthodoxy but also to validate its presumed universal applicability by presenting it as inherent in foreign cultures regarded at the time as influential. A comparative reading of “Washington’s Honesty towards His Father” reveals significant editorial interventions that intensified moral sentiment and reoriented the narrative toward a Confucian conception of *xin* (信). Consequently, the textbook emerges as a key site where translation, pedagogy, and state ideology intersect, offering valuable insights into the power dynamics that shaped cultural transfer in late Qing China.

Jaradat, Deema & Shatha Al-Hawamdeh,

Kent State University & Oberlin College and Conservatory

Language on Trial: unpacking linguistic violence in five US Supreme Court language cases spanning 1921-1981

“EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW” are the words inscribed just above the entrance of the US Supreme Court Building, raising the question whether this language has held semantically reliable. On March 1, 2025, Executive Order (EO) 14224 designated English as the official language of the US, revoking EO 13166 of 2000 which made language access a civil right for limited English proficient (LEP) individuals. Research shows that language access predates 2000, as evident through several US Supreme Court language cases spanning 1921-1981. What remains unstudied, though, is how language was weaponized in the nation’s highest court to describe language difference and limited English proficiency in that period. Therefore, this article is a discourse analysis inquiry into the weaponization of words in the court rulings of five pre-2000 US Supreme Court language cases involving limited English proficient (LEP) individuals, namely *Meyer v. State of Nebraska* (1923); *Yu Cong Eng v. Trinidad* (1926); *United States v. Texas* (1972); *Lau v. Nichols* (1974); and *Casatañada v. Pickard* (1981). Our paper studies the Court opinions for what they decide and, most importantly, into why and how they said it and how limited English proficiency was framed in those rulings (i.e., as a deficiency, threat, or barrier). The outcome of this discursive work reveals a presence of “injurious speech” that pathologized the need for foreign language and by proxy, translation, and made it a basis for otherness using loaded terms that otherize or even criminalize LEP individuals. Our paper shows how policy can normalize and institutionalize “unequal justice under law,” and thus serves as a valuable resource for language policy and planning at a moment when language access protections are being rolled back through policy reform.

Killman, Jeffrey

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Technology and Court Interpreting: Supporting or Hampering the Practice

The topic of technology and court interpreting in the US context has received limited attention to date. On the one hand, there are technologies that court interpreters elect to use to support their carrying out a specific mode of interpreting in the courtroom, most often simultaneous interpretation. On the other hand, court interpreters now perform their services in proceedings or events taking place through videoconference technologies, where the use of simultaneous may be less than straightforward or not possible depending on the case. Both technologies afford or impose different spatial configurations that support or hinder interpreting in different circumstances. Court interpreters' use of and interactions with technology are subject to a unique set of variables that may very well distinguish court interpreting from other areas of interpreting in the community. Court interpreting combines aspects of conference interpreting and dialogue interpreting in unique ways conditioning the suitability of certain technological implementations. The procedural aspect also sets it apart in that interpreters simultaneously interpret not only formal addresses or extended discourse to an audience (e.g., opening or closing statements) but also dialogue occurring in an ongoing fashion between opposing counsel, attorneys and witnesses, and attorneys and judges. And, finally, there is the record of proceeding, which is a serious consideration when it comes to consecutively interpreting witness testimony and whether the interpreter may use sound recording technology to assist. This paper will provide an overview of different technological implementations with regard to these variables that set court interpreting apart, highlighting to what extent different implementations align with best practices, certification examination, and training traditions in court interpreting. It is hoped that an analysis of technology from these angles will provide a framework for discussing technological implementations in the context of court interpreting.

Liko, Brikena; Javier Osorio; Cameron Mailhot; Arlind Fazliu; Dagmar Heinze; Patrick T. Brandt; Vito D'Orazio & Latifur Khan

University of Arizona, University of Texas at Dallas & West Virginia University

Machine Translation as Bridge and Filter: Classifying Albanian Conflict Narratives through ConflIBERT

This study examines whether machine translation (MT) serves as a practical bridge between low-resource languages and high-performance, domain-specific Natural Language Processing (NLP) models. Focusing on Albanian, the official language of Kosovo, an active high-conflict zone in southeastern Europe (UNMIK, 2025), we investigate whether political-violence events can be automatically classified after MT into English.

Kosovo remains volatile, particularly in its Serb-majority northern regions, where unresolved disputes over independence and deep-rooted ethnic tensions continue to fuel recurrent violence. Because this conflict led to a genocidal campaign in 1999, renewed instability raises serious humanitarian concerns. Thus, accurate and timely monitoring of conflict dynamics provides critical support for international and local communities working to prevent future atrocities. Although spoken by roughly 8 million speakers worldwide, Albanian remains a low-resource language in NLP, underrepresented in multilingual corpora and large language model training data. This linguistic marginalization reinforces global information inequality.

We therefore test whether MT mitigates this asymmetry by extending English-based NLP models to underrepresented languages without retraining. We create a small, human-annotated dataset of Albanian conflict texts labeled for event type using the Conflict and Mediation Event Framework (CAMEO) (Schrodt, 2012). We translate the texts into English using DeepL, Google Translate, and OPUS-MT, and then classify them automatically with ConflIBERT (Hu et al., 2022), a transformer fine-tuned for political-violence event detection. By comparing model predictions on translated texts with human annotations in Albanian, we measure MT-mediated classification accuracy.

Our results show that MT enables reliable cross-lingual conflict analysis without retraining large models or collecting massive new datasets. MT thus serves both as a tool of technological mediation and as a mechanism of linguistic equity, advancing real-time conflict monitoring and computational peace research.

Lin, Kai

University of Alberta

Circulable Queerness: Translating Subtle Queerness in Netflix's *The Half of It* in Queerphobic Russia

My research examines how Netflix's *The Half of It* (2020), the platform's only queer-themed film accessible on Netflix Russia, circulates within an officially queerphobic media environment. Rather than being overtly censored, the Russian version of the film rearticulates queerness through linguistic and affective moderation. The study asks: What linguistic and affective features make *The Half of It* both translatable and circulable within such an ideologically constrained context? How does the Russian translation reframe the film's queer emotional register through lexical, syntactic, and tonal adjustments? And, what translation and localization strategies enable queer affect of the film to persist while remaining culturally acceptable in a queerphobic setting? Methodologically, the study adopts a comparative multimodal analysis, integrating textual, paratextual, and reception data. First, it conducts a close comparative analysis of the English and Russian versions, focusing on pivotal scenes, such as Ellie and Aster's correspondence, the lakeside conversation, and the train-station farewell. Each scene is coded for changes in key affective lexemes, emotional tone, and pronoun use. Second, the analysis extends to Netflix Russia's promotional paratexts, metadata, and audience discussions online to assess how film translation shapes reception of queerness. Drawing on queer translation studies (Baer 2020; Harvey 1998), affect theory (Ahmed 2004; Sedgwick 2003), and Russian queer scholarship (Healey 2017; Kondakov 2022), the article argues that *The Half of It* demonstrates how queer affect can persist through "unqueering the queerness" that transforms queer desire into legible empathy and "safe difference." This process exemplifies Netflix's negotiation between global inclusivity and local moral regulation, showing that in Russia's mediated queerphobia, queerness survives not by confrontation but through subtle, translatable emotion.

Liu, Nannan; Minhua Liu & Li Chen

State University of New York, Hong Kong Baptist University & Hong Kong Baptist University at Binghamton

An automated speech recognizer for English speeches in interpreting: Development and evaluation using simultaneous interpreting corpora

Automated speech recognition (ASR) is a foundational technology for computer-assisted interpreting, speech-to-text translation, live subtitling and spoken-language corpus compilation. ASR services with high accuracy may decrease interpreters' cognitive effort and boost their performance. Based on Li and Chmiel's (2024) experiment with professional interpreters using simulated ASR subtitles, we define 'high accuracy' as a below-10% word error rate (WER).

However, a recent review shows that none of 17 latest ASR models performed below this threshold on disfluent, accented and specialized speeches (Atwany et al. 2025), which interpreters often encounter (Seeber 2017). Therefore, developing an ASR system that may aid interpreters requires benchmarking existing services on and adaptation to this domain, e.g., by fine-tuning.

We respond to two research questions (RQs):

1. How accurately do seven well-performing ASR systems (e.g., Guo & Han 2024; Tan et al. 2025) transcribe English speeches in interpreting, as measured by WER?
2. How does domain adaptation affect ASR accuracy for English speeches in interpreting?

We compiled a 15-hour corpus of English speeches at the United Nations, which were simultaneously interpreted into five languages. To address RQ1, we evaluated these systems using 32 speeches selected through stratified sampling from our corpus. To address RQ2, we fine-tuned Whisper (Radford et al. 2023) with our corpus. We predicted the fine-tuned model's WERs for our corpus using speaker- and speech-related variables, e.g., accent, disfluency rate, and investigated its WERs in three additional corpora (Chmiel et al. 2024; Lobascio et al. 2024; Macháček et al. 2024).

We found Whisper to perform the best on the 32 speeches. Relative to the un-fine-tuned Whisper, our fine-tuned model achieved a below-10% WER on the four corpora, significantly reducing the bias against disfluent speeches. Nonetheless, long speeches and English accents of Asian and Germanic L1 speakers (excluding native English) continue to incur a penalty.

Llamas Molina, Macarena

University of Arizona

A Multimodal Implementation of Pedagogic Translation in Spanish as a Heritage Language Classroom in Higher Education: Enhancing Lexical Development of Intermediate Heritage Learners through *Learning-by-Design*

Research on the benefits of pedagogical materials that address the needs and lived experiences of heritage learners (Carreira, 2014; Zapata, 2017) remains limited. This study investigates whether multimodal pedagogic translation materials enhance heritage learners' acquisition of Spanish idioms and low-frequency words compared with monomodal materials.

The study addresses four core questions: (1) Do multimodal pedagogic translation activities support lexical growth? (2) How do lexical gains differ across groups? (3) Are idioms or low-frequency words more affected by multimodal versus monomodal approaches? (4) Are there observable differences in translation strategies across groups, and if so, what differences emerge?

Students enrolled in an intermediate Spanish as a Heritage Language course at a four-year U.S. university were divided into three groups: a control group (no pedagogic translation), an experimental group using monomodal materials, and another using multimodal materials. Data were collected through pre- and post-tests measuring lexical knowledge before and after the intervention.

A mixed-methods design was employed. Unpaired t-tests, percentage gains, and one-way ANOVA will be used to compare group performance and evaluate statistical significance. If the ANOVA results are significant, a Tukey post hoc test will serve to identify any specific group differences and effect size measures. Complementary qualitative analysis using NVivo will examine learners' translation strategies and their reflections on the role of multimodality in their learning.

Preliminary results will provide early insight into the impact of multimodal materials on lexical development. By empirically testing whether multimodal activities outperform monomodal ones, this research contributes to SHL pedagogy and the growing field of pedagogic translation (Belpoliti & Plascencia-Vela, 2013; Banitz, 2022). Aligning classroom practices with learners' real-world translanguaging experiences—such as informal translation and linguistic brokering (Tse, 1995; Valdés, 2003)—the study seeks to strengthen evidence-based approaches to SHL instruction across the bilingual continuum (Lynch, 2014).

Martínez-Gómez, Aída & Cristina Lozano-Argüelles

John Jay College of Criminal Justice - CUNY

Whose Bilingualism Counts? Rethinking Interpreting Curricula for Heritage Speakers

Translation and interpreting (T&I) programs in the United States have largely adopted curricular models developed in European contexts, which were designed for traditional students, i.e., late elective bilinguals with clearly defined L1 and L2 languages. Yet many U.S. programs now serve a markedly different student population: early circumstantial bilinguals, often heritage speakers, whose formative language practices include extensive child language brokering (CLB). This mismatch raises questions of pedagogical power: whose linguistic trajectories are centered, and whose are marginalized, in the classroom?

This presentation reports on the redesign of a university-level interpreting course to better align with the backgrounds and needs of heritage learners and former child language brokers. The revised curriculum introduced four key innovations: (1) original YouTube lectures within a flipped learning model, supported by weekly practice and guided discussion; (2) a collaborative book-length reading project to strengthen Spanish proficiency; (3) interpreting assignments that explicitly incorporated CLB scenarios; and (4) targeted activities engaging recurrent themes from students' reported brokering experiences.

Two cohorts in an undergraduate interpreting program at a large urban U.S. university were compared: Group 1 (2023–24, N=23) followed the traditional curriculum, while Group 2 (2024–25, N=22) completed the redesigned version. Data collection included ACTFL's OPIc in English and Spanish, an EN–ES liaison interpreting test, and a questionnaire on language background and CLB experiences. All instruments were administered pre- and post-semester.

The presentation offers a comparative quantitative analysis of the two groups' language proficiency, interpreting performance, and reported affective responses to CLB. Preliminary findings suggest mixed outcomes: while the redesigned curriculum supported measurable linguistic and interpreting gains, students' emotional responses to their CLB histories became more conflicted. These results highlight both the pedagogical potential and the affective risks of centering heritage bilinguals' lived experiences in interpreting training.

McInerney, Delia; Aida Martínez-Gómez; Rebecca Weiss; Stephany Betances; Yareli Perez & Marianny Arias

John Jay College of Criminal Justice - CUNY

Negotiating Power in Mental Health Interpreting: Decision-Making and Agency in U.S. Clinical Encounters

In mental health settings, the interpreting process is shaped by multiple layers of power that influence communicative, clinical, and institutional dynamics. Although the role of power relations in dialogue interpreting has been widely recognized (e.g. Alexander, 2025), comparatively less attention has been directed toward how such dynamics operate before interpreting begins, especially in the processes determining whether, when, and by whom interpreters are engaged.

Using the perspectives of clinicians participating in an interdisciplinary study on interpreting practices in U.S. mental health services for Spanish-speaking populations, this presentation examines patterns of decision-making and power in interpreter engagement through questions such as: Who holds decision-making power over the use of interpreters in mental health care? Who selects the interpreter, if one is engaged? And what do these dynamics reveal about the autonomy of clinicians and clients? Data was collected from eight focus groups with 30 English-speaking clinicians and analyzed using grounded theory principles, yielding 149 firstlevel codes (of 1,189) related to the research questions. These codes converged into three overarching categories: prioritizing interpreting over other forms of communication, determining factors influencing interpreter use, and interpreter selection.

Preliminary findings reveal an imbalance in decision-making power favoring clinicians over clients, as well as a significant influence of third parties such as attorneys involved in care, administrative staff, and automated interpreter-assignment systems—over both groups' decisions regarding interpreter use and selection. These external parties often shape communicative arrangements in ways that limit the agency of primary participants. Yet, the data also highlights collaborative encounters where institutional authority is exercised collectively to meet shared communicative and therapeutic goals. These findings invite reflection on how institutional structures and everyday practices jointly configure power, agency, and access in interpreter-mediated mental health care, and may inform guidelines that promote autonomy and a more equitable distribution of decision-making power.

Mellinger, Christopher D. & Thomas A. Hanson

UNC Charlotte & Butler University

Power Dynamics in TI Research Methods: Quantitative Synthesis and Qualitative Reviews

Conducting research involves reviewing current scholarship in order to seek commonalities across published literature and to motivate the need for further study. For authors hoping to contribute meaningfully to ongoing conversations, reviewing literature to identify gaps and align theoretical frameworks, research paradigms, and methodologies is a requirement (Gambier, Schaeffner, & Meylaerts, 2019; Gile, 2001). Several approaches exist for synthesizing current studies, with recommendations published to establish credibility and to maintain rigorous and ethical standards for research (Gile, 1999). In many cases, these approaches are divided into quantitative and qualitative approaches to reviewing literature, with proponents of each advocating for their preferred approach on the basis of comprehensiveness, systematicity, and bias mitigation.

This paper examines the shifting power dynamics in the field with respect to the methods used to synthesize TI literature, focusing on the bifurcation of quantitative and qualitative approaches. On the one hand, qualitative literature reviews have a longstanding tradition in the field, being valued for nuanced readings of the extant scholarship to identify emergent themes and establish conceptual links across authors and areas of inquiry. On the other hand, quantitative research is recognized for its systematicity and potential to reduce bias by pre-determining specific variables for synthesis. By reviewing three quantitative approaches (i.e., meta-analyses, bibliometric studies, and corpus studies), this paper challenges the power dynamics that pervade TI scholarship with respect to this methodological dichotomy. Each method is addressed from the perspective of common critiques of TI scholarship (e.g., small sample sizes, limited generalizability, and methodological fragmentation), while still recognizing the challenges of conducting this work. The presentation argues that embracing methodological pluralism redresses the power imbalances enacted by TI researchers in order to build cumulative knowledge and establish TIS as a mature empirical discipline capable of informing evidence-based practice.

Molnár, Ondřej

Palacký University Olomouc

Micro-Power in Practice: Traces of Unequal Exchange in English–Czech Literary Translation

This paper explores how global asymmetries within the World System of Translation (WST) become inscribed in the microstructure of literary texts through translators' stylistic and strategic decisions. Building on Heilbron's model and Zehnalová's macro-level analysis of linguistic and cultural diversity in the Czech book market, the study examines two case studies: *Philip Roth's The Human Stain* (trans. Jiří Hanuš) and *Bohumil Hrabal's I Served the King of England* (trans. Paul Wilson). Both works, translated between a hypercentral and a peripheral language, provide a fertile ground for observing how condensation, omission, and the modulation of figurative language reproduce or resist systemic inequalities. Quantitative indicators (changes in sentence and paragraph length, frequency of repetitions, omission ratios) are complemented by qualitative textual analyses to reveal patterns of domestication and foreignization in both directions. The findings suggest that translation into Czech tends to preserve stylistic density and cultural specificity, whereas translation into English shows tendencies toward levelling and simplification, reflecting divergent expectations and power positions in the global literary field. By foregrounding textual evidence of such micro-negotiations, the paper links structural asymmetries to the material practice of translation, showing how the "power turn" in Translation Studies can be re-examined at the level of the translated sentence.

Morán-Vallejo, Alberto

Kent State University

Educating for Empathy: Theoretical and Pedagogical Implications of Relational Humanism in Medical Interpreting

This presentation explores the integration of humanism into medical interpreting education through a pedagogical framework grounded in humanism and *relationship-centricity*—a commitment to prioritizing interpersonal dynamics in healthcare encounters. It responds to a broader critique of the biomedical model's tendency to overlook emotional and relational dimensions of care (Konner, 1993; Siegler & Epstein, 2003; Weatherall, 1996). Drawing on humanistic approaches in the philosophy of medicine (Marcum, 2008; Pellegrino & Thomasma, 1981), the study positions interpreters as more than linguistic intermediaries; it argues for their role as co-constructors who contribute to relationship-building, empathy, and meaning-making in clinical interactions (Angelelli, 2004; Hsieh, 2016).

The concept of relationship-centered care (RCC) serves as a key theoretical foundation, extending beyond patient-centered models by recognizing the presence and humanity of all

participants, including clinicians and interpreters (Beach & Inui, 2006; Ratanawongsa et al., 2018). Using a mixed-methods approach, the study examines the extent to which existing pedagogical practices in medical interpreting education reflect relational values and humanistic orientations. The analysis incorporates perspectives from interpreting educators collected through surveys and interviews, alongside a theoretical exploration of pedagogical models such as culturally responsive pedagogy (Ladson-Billings, 1995), the pedagogy of care (Noddings, 2018), and flux pedagogy (Ravitch, 2020). Insights from medical humanities, health communication, and bilingual health literacy (Montalt et al., 2025; Hsieh, 2009) further inform the framework, and the aim is to develop a curriculum model that promotes interpreters' relational competence within an interdisciplinary, ethically grounded, and humanistic paradigm, contributing to more equitable and emotionally responsive interpreting education.

Murphy, Helen

University of Washington

À Rebours: Joris-Karl Huysmans' Aesthetic Poison and Retranslating the Decadent Body

This project explores the hermeneutic potential of retranslation through a case study of Joris-Karl Huysmans' 1884 novel *À Rebours* and a new retranslation of the work. Since John Howard's first English language version in 1922, *À Rebours* has undergone four successive translations, translated as *Against the Grain* or *Against Nature*, by Robert Baldick in 1959, Margaret Mauldon in 1998, Brendan King in 2008, and Theo Cuffe in 2019. *À Rebours* presents a singular example of retranslation due to the rationalisation of Huysmans' structure in each translation. This project argues that it is the structure, rather than the style of the text by which Huysmans defines his idea of decadence: not as a celebration of the senses, but the disintegration of the body. In rationalizing the text, *À Rebours'* extant translations characterize Huysmans' decadence as the triumphal parade rather than the funeral march of an individual rotting in his own luster. This project applies the hermeneutic circle in translation studies to the retranslation of *À Rebours* in considering the effects of each translation on the next. In following how the translational deformations of the decadent body mutate in each translation, the project moves beyond the conception of retranslation as a return to the source text from a rationalizing first translation. Rather, it examines how, in the case of *À Rebours*, retranslation has perpetuated these rationalizing tendencies by attributing them to the source text. In retranslating *À Rebours*, this project applies Berman's practice of literal translation to the foreignness of structure. This project also takes into account the context into which *À Rebours* has been rationalized by its translators. Thus, the

project turns to the transtextual relationship between each translation and its paratexts and publication history, giving consideration to each retranslation as a unique cultural fact.

Okul, Mertcan

Kent State University

Uncovering Queer Identity: Translating Queer Non-Fiction Book Covers to Geopolitical Crossroads

By merging queer translation studies and multimodal studies, this study presents a framework for analyzing book covers, and it applies this to queer non-fiction books. The corpus of this study comprises fifteen queer non-fiction books that clearly address queer themes that are included via keyword search on online archival catalogues. This study aims to analyze the textual and visual categories that shape queer identity on queer non-fiction book covers imported to Türkiye, which holds a strategically significant geopolitical position, connecting Europe and Asia and acting as a nexus between the Middle East, the Balkans, and the Caucasus. The methodology of the study is based on a comparative, qualitative, and multimodal analysis on both synchronic and diachronic levels. The study includes the examination of the different editions of the book covers of each research object. The analysis explores the book covers of the source and target texts across their editions, focusing on the framework of intra-semiotic translation. The study observes that of the fifteen examples that have been analyzed, seven (46.6%) expand queer representation in translation, six (40%) preserve it from the source text, and two (13.3%) eliminate it. These data suggest that queer culture has attained a level of visibility that is undeniable, especially in an Eastern country such as Türkiye. Moreover, given that the proportion of individuals who exclude queer markers from the source text book covers in the target text book covers is rather minimal, it can be asserted that queer aspects are infrequently omitted in book covers imported into Türkiye. In this context, the study contributes to translation studies by presenting a multimodal analysis framework and strategies explicitly developed for book covers in the context of the importation of Western queer non-fiction books into an Eastern country.

Palumbo, Giuseppe

University of Trieste

Translation Rediscovered: How the US and UK market are paying renewed attention to translated books – and an attempt at explaining why

Translation and translators are receiving renewed attention and visibility in the US and UK publishing markets, as confirmed by both impressionistic accounts and analyses of published translation titles (Büchler and Trentacosti 2015; Palumbo 2021). Translated fiction is increasingly present in the “culture” or “books” sections of newspapers and magazines, with reviews, interviews with authors and translators, and dedicated “listicles.” Special prizes recognize translated literature (e.g. the National Translation Award in the US and the International Booker Prize in the UK). Translated titles now also include more non-fiction, traditionally a stronghold of English-language publishing. Several small publishers (e.g. Graywolf Press, Archipelago Books) specialize in translations, while large conglomerates are incorporating more translated titles in both literary and genre catalogs. This trend has led to the emergence of sub-genres (e.g., “Nordic noir”) and propelled some foreign authors onto national best-seller lists. This paper provides an overview of these scenarios and suggests possible explanations through an analysis of the discourse on translation and translators’ work as found in US and UK news media outlets and specialized digital magazines. Results show that while smaller specialized publishers present translation as defiant resistance to an industry still dominated by English-speaking authors, large publishers adopt two strategies to maximize the commercial potential of translations: emphasizing the “foreignness” of an author, or – particularly for genre titles – making translated books visually indistinguishable from domestic ones (e.g. in covers and paratextual material). The renewed interest in translation in English-speaking markets is also linked to the increasingly disembodied nature of communication. As content circulates through digital networks, readers grow more attentive to cultural products from “abroad.” This shift is likely to prompt a revision of current models of cultural and translation flows at global and regional levels.

Patterson, Jeanette

Binghamton University

Translation and Power in the Medieval French *Life of the Evil Pilate*

The biblical figure of Pontius Pilate inspired numerous antique and medieval apocrypha, both capital-A New Testament Apocrypha such as the Gospel of Nicodemus and the small-a apocryphal legends that snowballed into countless localized versions. Drawing on multiple sources and adding fictionalized embellishments to fill in gaps in a sparse official record, these resulted in wildly varied readings of the figure as an evil psychopath, a cowardly and corrupt leader, an unwilling pawn of more powerful forces, or even a saint redeemed

through conversion and repentance. One medieval French version of Pilate’s story, “The Life of the Evil Pilate,” mostly translated from the Latin *Golden Legend*, was included in Guyart des Moulins’ 1295 French Bible translation known as the *Bible historiale*. Its assessment of Pilate’s character is more complicated than its title lets on, resulting in more ambivalence about the (a)morality of power than in its main source text.

Translation Studies can shed light on not only how this version relates to its direct and indirect sources, but also the causes and effects of its transformations in its historical, textual, and hermeneutic contexts. In this talk, I intend to show how the French version’s translation choices refigure Pilate as an agent of state power in relation to a target audience of aristocratic readers in positions of power themselves, closely affiliated with the French monarchy and church leadership. My analysis will rely on a variety of medieval and modern theories of translation as well as research on medieval vernacular translation.

Pomerleau, Marc & Marie-Hélène Girard

McGill University

Access to Justice, Translation, and Interpretation in Canada’s Official Languages

In the Canadian legal system, individuals are entitled to legal services—including access to original or translated documents—in the official language of their choice, English or French, in areas under federal jurisdiction and in certain provincial and territorial domains. However, findings from a recent study we conducted among stakeholders from official language minority communities (OLMC) in Canada’s legal sector indicate that access to these services remains unequal. Members of both English and French minority communities generally report being dissatisfied to moderately satisfied with the services they receive in their language. Furthermore, according to OLMC stakeholders, many individuals perceive themselves as being at a disadvantage when using legal services in their minority official language.

Our results nonetheless reveal a more complex and nuanced landscape than the traditional “French outside Québec and English in Québec” dichotomy. Some provinces and territories have adopted policies and practices that actively support the provision of high-quality legal services in both official languages, including translation and interpretation for minority-language users. While the legal framework, the official status of languages, and provincial or territorial bilingualism rates all influence the delivery of such services, the engagement of legal professionals and community-based organizations also emerges as a key determinant. In short, although Canada recognizes two official languages—and each finds itself in a

minority position in one or more jurisdictions—the reality of access to justice, translation, and interpretation varies significantly across the country.

Qian, Ming & LuYi Yang

Charles River Analytics & Independent researcher

Cultivating Critical Thinking Collaboration between Humans and LLMs

Collaborative intelligence between humans and AI leverages their mutual strengths to achieve optimal outcomes. Educating translators to apply prompting and augmentation strategies effectively requires a deeper understanding of the critical thinking processes involved in translation and AI algorithms.

A critical point (Munday, 2012) in translation typically is a local stretch of text (a clause, phrase, or sentence) where several features converge to make the translator’s decision especially consequential. These features often include evaluative lexis, metaphor, evidential or modal markers, and interpersonal or ideological load. These points mark moments of heightened translator visibility, where decisions on aspects such as attitude, politeness, emphasis, or interpersonal alignment diverge from straightforward equivalences and instead encode the translator's interpretation of the source text's interpersonal or ideological dimensions. Critical points demand reflective analysis, problem-solving, and decision-making supported by reasoning central to critical thinking.

Chain-of-Thought (CoT) (Wei et al., 2022) is a core reasoning mechanism for large language models (LLMs) that decomposes complex tasks into intermediate steps. Incorporating AI- or human-generated critical point analysis as a CoT step can act as a point of reflection to guide and refocus subsequent task decomposition and individual step execution.

The "power turn" in Translation and Interpreting Studies shifts focus of translation from linguistic equivalence to ideology, politics, and culture (Aydin, 2024; Bassnett & Lefevere, 1998). This perspective emphasizes translators' roles as co-constructors of meaning instead of a neutral player.

Translators engaged in the “power turn” in translation need skills in critical analysis, cultural mediation, and strategic positioning to actively negotiate power imbalances, ideologies, and cultural asymmetries. We present examples demonstrating how human–AI/LLM collaborative critical thinking can effectively support human translators as active co-constructors of meaning.

Riddle, Erin

Binghamton University

Subaltern as cultural commodity: Rigoberta Menchú in translation

The testimonio of Rigoberta Menchú has become an iconic text of the Latin American subaltern studies movement that emerged in the 1990s, and Menchú has become a global figure for indigenous rights and resistance. The attention to *testimonio* in English translation primarily focused on the translator's failure to reproduce an assumed "original" and the way Menchu was transformed into an authoritative, metonymic figure speaking on behalf of a population. This paper places Menchú's testimonio within the context of the "culture industry" to argue such transformation is an inevitable consequence of translation within capitalist market forces, a commercialization of life that results in her testimonio becoming a commodity for consumption. This happened even as it was published by a press that also publishes authors who critique modern forms of capitalism and colonialism, illustrating the influence of market forces that, according to Horkheimer and Adorno's theory, inevitably transform the human experience and imagination. The genre *testimonio* in English translation provides ample opportunity for critical inquiry when examined through the critical lens of Horkheimer and Adorno's cultural commodity theory alongside Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak's critique of postcolonial theory and Jacques Derrida's observation about the im/possibility of translation. *Testimonio* in translation is a text built from inherent contradictions: intended to resist power structures; produced across cultures, languages, and power dynamics; and embedded with multiple layers of intervention. My critical inquiry into Menchú's testimonio argues that it is both possible and impossible for a subaltern woman from Guatemala to "speak" to English language readers as she is re-colonized by capitalist commodity structures. However, such texts must continue to be read, taught, and discussed, as they offer space for understanding the power of the culture industry, the transformative power of translation, and the extent to which the "voice" of the subaltern is and is not accessible.

Roberts, Trask

Kent State University

Pseudotranslation, Disnarration, and All That Could Have Been (but wasn't)

This paper brings together pseudotranslation, texts presented as translations for which no source text exists, and disnarration, "terms, phrases, and passages [in a narrative] that

consider what did not or does not take place ('this could've happened but didn't'; 'this didn't happen but could've')," (Prince 1988), to examine how both forms challenge conventional ideas of authorship, narrative authority, and the boundaries of both translation and narration. Though phenomena both have deep roots, they only began undergoing systematic study in the 1980s: disnarration by Gerald Prince and pseudotranslation by Gideon Toury and Julio César Santoyo. Building on recent work by Louis Watier, Emily Apter, Robyn Warhol, Brigitte Rath, and others, this paper argues that both strategies construct narrative and translational value from absence. They create space for imagining alternative outcomes—whether events that never occurred or texts that were never written—while still presenting them as narratively or culturally plausible. Importantly, these forms have long served as tools of literary innovation and resistance. Pseudotranslation has been used by writers excluded from literary institutions to gain access under the legitimizing guise of translation. Disnarration, similarly, can expose the limits of genre or ideology by highlighting what cannot be said or shown. In line with the conference's focus on power and inequality, this paper explores how both practices offer critical strategies for navigating cultural gatekeeping. By narrating the untold and translating the non-existent, disnarration and pseudotranslation allow authors to reimagine the rules—of narrative, of translation, and of who gets to speak.

Rosman, Emily

Binghamton University

Transnational Digital Feminist Communities as Sites of Negotiation: Resistance, Solidarity, and Collective Healing

After the #MeToo Movement erupted in October 2017, it had a significant impact on the book publishing industry in the United States, creating an entirely new literary genre. #MeToo literature grew increasingly popular, from memoirs such as Chanel Miller's *Know My Name* to fiction such as *The Whisper Network* by Chandler Baker and *Women Talking* by Miriam Toews.

Discussions surrounding these books moved online, whether through article roundups of 'must-read' #MeToo literature; the adaptation of #MeToo literature into film or TV, like Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*; or the circulation of #MeToo stories published online, like "Cat Person" by Kristen Roupenian in *The New Yorker*. Online discourse surrounding #MeToo literature helped proliferate the #MeToo movement and create feminist connections, whether through related Reddit threads, Facebook Groups, or Goodreads comments.

This research posits that the creation of these digital feminist communities hinges on the translation of affectual triggers in #MeToo literature, motivating women to connect online. Through abbreviated examples from a textual analysis of works published during the #MeToo movement, I argue that violent and sexualized imagery acts as an affectual trigger, implicitly recalling both #MeToo themes and the reader's own experience with sexual violence, motivating readers to connect with other women online and create transnational feminist communities, which, research shows, promotes self-disclosure, healing, and subsequent political and/or legal mobilization. By noting several examples where this imagery is *not* translated in the French, I've identified a missed opportunity for transnational feminist digital connections between France and the United States, thereby decreasing opportunities for sexual assault survivors to heal and engage in local and global feminist activist efforts. This has significant implications for the translation of imagery and calls for a transnational feminist lens in the translation of #MeToo literature.

Saarenmaa, Annukka

Tampere University

Interpreter-initiated multiple repair sequences in mediation discussions

The study examines interpreter's repair-initiation during mediation discussions. Mediation in criminal and civil cases is a public service where volunteer mediators facilitate discussion between the parties to a crime or a dispute (L 1015/2005). If a party does not have sufficient language skills in Finnish or in Swedish, the authority must provide interpretation free of charge (L 423/2003). Thus, the interpreter acts as a linguistic mediator for these often vulnerable parties in a conflict situation.

A previous study (Saarenmaa, in revision) on this setting showed that interpreter's repair initiations in the form of specifying and inferring candidate understandings serve either to maintain or to elaborate information in relation to its expression in the original utterance. This study expands the analysis to instances in which repair is extended beyond the first repair sequence. The research method is conversation analysis (Sacks et al., 1974). The data (~7 hrs) consist of six authentic video-recorded mediation discussions interpreted between Finnish and Arabic, Dari or Russian. Transcripts include English translations.

Multiplied repair can emerge from one initial trouble source, e.g., when a trouble source is targeted by more than one repair initiation or when the solution becomes a new trouble source (Skedsmo, 2020), or separate repair initiations can target different trouble during rendition or a lengthy telling turn. Previous research (e.g. Vranjes & Defrancq, 2024) shows that multiplied repair is complex to interpret as it causes long interruption in the main

discussion and burdens the interpreter's memory. The rendition is generally not an exact but a summary and/or a zero translation (e.g. Bolden, 2000; Määttä & Wiklund, 2024). The initial analysis suggests that the interpreter's rendition can also be a combination of a summary translation and interpreter's confirmed inferences in the repair sequences (Saarenmaa, in prep.).

Shread, Carolyn

Mount Holyoke College

Where is Power in Eco-Translation?

Scholars analyzing the functioning of power in translation and interpreting have generally not questioned an assumed border that distinguishes the human from the more-than-human, limiting discussions of power to the human and disenfranchising the more-than-human. This paper argues for an expansion of existing paradigms in translation studies by considering power relations within the broader framework proposed by researchers developing the area of eco-translation initially posited by Cronin (2017). As Susam-Saraeva (2025) has argued, questions of translational justice are particularly acute when expanded to include inter-species translation rights. For instance, she asks what are the rights of a whale whose communications are recorded using new bioacoustics technologies? In other words, what power does a whale have in a translational scenario? Marais (2019) has mobilized a critique of the linguistic bias of translation to demonstrate the ways climate crisis demands we attend to other translational modes. Moreover, current debates about how Artificial Intelligence is impacting translation too often neglect the ways that these new power prostheses are predicated on ecological oppression, not to say annihilation. This paper therefore argues critically for an acknowledgment that power issues in translation are not limited to the Anthropos and generatively that the long tradition of feminist and queer translation has already developed valuable tools for engaging the new questions eco-translation presents to power. With reference to Fatima Ouassak's *Pirate Ecology – So We Can Be Free!*, it concludes that drawing on feminist and queer insights and practices in mediating power in translation is essential as the discipline moves beyond a human-oriented transnationalism into an all-Earth transcontinental vision of translation forces.

Škrabec, Simona

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)

Translating Trauma

When cultures are recognized as comparable, translation works at a level that includes both cultures, the original and the receiving culture (Jakobson 1959; Bergman 1985; Lotman 1990; Nelson 2002). However, the possibility of the translator intending to put themselves in a neutral space, in a no-one's area, does not exist (Tymoczko 2014). In the context of weaknesses or wounds, it is the translator who must assume on his own the creation of a possible new system, where a marginal culture can interact with others on an equal footing (Williams 1995; Thoury 2000; Spivak 2000; Thoury 2012; Walkowitz 2015). In addition, the possibility of multiple allegiances must be admitted (Benveniste 1966; Austin 1968; Hoopes 1991). No one can be caught «in between» languages or cultures because this third distressing space is just a fantasy of colonial divisions (Baker 2006; Inghilleri 2003; 2005; 2010; 2011). Translation and testimony are united by the commitment of transmission (Amery 1977; Levi 1988). Testimonial literature depends more on «we» than on «I», as someone's confessions can be transmitted, and someone else can make them their own (Hirsch 2012; Samoyault 2020).

After the theoretical introduction, the analysis of some literary translations of Balkan authors, related to traumatic experiences, into Catalan demonstrates the capacity of the periphery to communicate directly with the periphery (Šalamun 2016; Vojnović 2017; Pahor, 2020; Kiš 2021; Simić 2023). In Bosnia commemorative work has been done to provide a space for the troubling accounts from victims, the broken and disengaged voices (Illeri 2019). A space must be made for a discourse that is not wholly moderated or consistent. Wanting to understand in these cases has nothing to do with being on the “inside” or on the “outside”, of understanding one language or another. However disengaged a voice may be as the result of a trauma, the human condition of the witness can never be questioned. The responsibility for creating a world in which communication is possible lies with the people who want to listen and learn.

Soldat-Jaffe, Tatjana

Florida State University

From Transfer to Flow: Reconceptualizing Translation in Digital Networks

Within the power turn in translation studies, translation flow emerges as a critical framework for investigating how translation functions as a site of cultural negotiation rather than mere linguistic transfer. This approach examines not only how translation serves different interests and who controls translation processes, but specifically focuses on the patterns and directions in which translations move between languages and cultures. Research

reveals that translation patterns frequently demonstrate one-way movement from powerful languages into less widely used languages, creating imbalanced exchanges instead of balanced bidirectional transfer. By studying these circulation patterns, researchers gain insight into the power dynamics that shape global communication.

The emergence of digital platforms featuring automatic translation capabilities has fundamentally disrupted these conventional patterns, challenging established approaches in translation studies. While traditional cultural and linguistic theoretical orientations have long shaped academic discussion by positioning meaning within language systems or cultural contexts, translation on digital platforms operates according to distinct principles that current theoretical models struggle to adequately explain. This technological shift has exposed the limitations of existing frameworks when applied to translation as dynamic circulation. Where traditional models emphasized static cultural boundaries, contemporary translation operates through directional patterns, velocity constraints, and relational networks in constant flux. This research therefore investigates translation practices across digital systems where continuous circulation creates entirely new forms of intercultural transmission. Central questions emerge from this shift: How do we identify translational agency when circulation mediates communication? What constitutes the "target community" within fluid directional streams? How do social norms function in flow networks that lack fixed cultural anchors? To what extent do circulatory principles supersede cultural expectations in translation movement?

Wei, Sophie Ling-chia

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Jesuit Botany as Brokerage: Unequal Exchanges and the Politics of Translation in Seventeenth–Eighteenth-Century Sino-European Contacts

Building on the “cultural turn” in translation studies (Bassnett) and recent work on the political economy of knowledge, this paper reinterprets Jesuit renderings of Chinese botanical lore as agency-laden interventions within asymmetric circuits of exchange. Rather than neutral vehicles for scientific facts, these translations operated where missionary ambition, courtly patronage, and state interests converged—sites where language work redistributed symbolic capital and material advantage.

Focusing on two nodal figures—Michał Boym and Pierre-Martial Cibot—I show how translators leveraged Chinese plants and pharmacologies to negotiate position and resources in European power centers. Boym’s *Flora Sinensis* is read as a petitionary text crafted to win imperial attention from Leopold I, while Cibot’s essays on gardens and materia

medica in the *Mémoires concernant les Chinois*, composed under the aegis of Henri Bertin, exemplify how selection, taxonomy, and framing converted Qing-era practices into forms legible (and valuable) to French administrative and scientific regimes. Across both cases, terminological choices, image–text pairings, and citation practices reveal patterned asymmetries: epistemic extraction with uneven credit flows; moralized filters (“orthology”) that disciplined vernacular knowledge; and the repackaging of Chinese expertise to serve European commercial, medical, and diplomatic agendas.

Methodologically, the paper integrates paratextual analysis with network and patronage mapping to trace how translation functioned as negotiation, advocacy, and gatekeeping. By foregrounding translators’ institutional attachments and the secular powers underwriting their projects, I argue that Jesuit botanical translation materialized “unequal exchange” while also granting translators tactical leverage—a limited “return to power” achieved through brokerage. The study thus reframes early modern Sino-European knowledge traffic: not simple transfer, but contested reconfiguration in which translators actively shaped what could circulate, who could speak, and who would benefit.

Wu, Yan

University of Massachusetts Amherst

From Angel Island to Chinatown: The Interpreter as the Hinge of Hospitality

Interpreters, as agents of social (in)justice and subjects of (mis)trust, tend to occupy a space of tension when ethical demands are high in communicative encounters. This paper asks: how do the interpreters as socially embedded agents adjust their ethical positionalities and claim their responsibilities in between the dialectical oppositions of hospitality and hostility, inclusion and exclusion? Drawing on historical and literary representations of Chinese interpreters working at Angel Island Immigration Station and San Francisco’s Chinatown in the Exclusion Era (1882–1943), I examine these interpreters’ ethical responses and moral proximities in and beyond their interpreted interactions. Through the confluence of historical storytelling and literary refiguration, I conceptualize the interpreter as a hinge figure who provides a flexible interface for negotiating moral ambiguities and extending various degrees of linguistic hospitality. The broad category of Chinese interpreters in the Exclusion Era allows for an expanded analytical scope that renders visible not only interpreter-brokers who speculated on the risks and gains of their intermediary positions, but also those who were employed or volunteered to interpret and whose lives were more closely bound to the needs and vulnerabilities of Chinese migrant communities. The moral proximity to the Chinatown communities of these interpreters propelled them to take a more humanistic approach to

interpreting which unlocked their potential to act as ethical agents in more proximal social settings. Positioned at thresholds shaped by law and bureaucracy, interpreters bear the weight of hospitality's paradox. Understanding interpreters as hinge figures moves us beyond static notions of institutional gatekeeping toward a more dynamic, ethically attuned account of how degrees of hospitality are produced in practice—often unevenly and contingently, and with high personal and moral stakes for those who choose to interpret.

Yang, Yang

Binghamton University

Translating Gender: Ideological Gatekeeping and Institutional Power in Early Twentieth-Century China

This paper examines how translation functioned as a key ideological mechanism in the transnational circulations and localized constructions of gender discourse in early twentieth-century China. Building on scholarship that positions translation as a site of contested power dynamics, I shift attention beyond textual transfer to the materiality of translation in print culture — its layout, format, paratext, and visual representation—through which it operated as an institutional tool for appropriating, regulating, and reframing feminist ideologies. I also foreground what was deliberately left untranslated, revealing how translation served not only as a conduit of transnational exchange but also as a mechanism of ideological gatekeeping for suppressing overtly radical feminist positions.

The analysis draws on *The Ladies' Journal* (婦女雜誌, 1915-1931), one of the most commercially successful women's magazines in China. Focusing on translations of writings by the Japanese socialist feminist Yamakawa Kikue, it examines how this magazine, as a cultural institution, shaped which feminist discourses could be introduced and how they were reframed through strategies including textual selection, visual representation, paratextual framing, and editorial tactics such as layout, format, and spatial placement. In contrast, the near absence of more militant voices, particularly those associated with the feminist magazine *Seito*, reveals how translation also functioned as a mechanism of ideological gatekeeping to exclude subversive discourses. Through the concerted interventions of translators and editors, the journal constructed a sanctioned vision of the New Woman—modern, educated, politically active, and internationally minded, yet stripped of its more radical dimensions including class antagonism, bodily autonomy, and political urgency.

By foregrounding translation's role as a mechanism of ideological regulation exercised through institutional power, this study illuminates how translating gender into China was a

selective process of appropriation, reframing, and exclusion of diverse gender discourses to align with various reformist agendas.

Zehnalová, Jitka

Palacký University Olomouc

The Geo-Politics of Publishing and the Transfer of Cultural Values: The Linguistic and Cultural Diversity of the Czech Book Market and Literary Translations from English into Czech

The contribution examines the linguistic diversity (LD) of the Czech book market and the cultural diversity (CD) of literary translations from English into Czech. It considers the implications of these factors for the transfer of cultural values and the profession of literary translators. Adopting the perspective of the *World System of Translation* (WST), it uses the concepts of *linguistic* and *cultural diversity* and the notions of *fiction*, associated with cultural values such as aesthetic effects and complexity, and *popular fiction*, associated with readability and comprehensibility. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches are applied; the latter relies on statistical surveys and databases made available online by Czech institutions.

LD is defined as the number of translated languages and the number of translations from them, and its analysis demonstrates the geopolitical influences on translation flows as explained by the WST. It shows that, although LD is relatively high in numerical terms, an overwhelming majority have translations from central languages, with the hypercentral English accounting for 52.9% of all translations in the Czech book market between 2000 and 2023. Against this backdrop, the cultural diversity of literary translations from English is examined, defined as 1) the number of countries and regions of origin and their respective translation shares, 2) the proportion of fiction and popular fiction. The results, namely the prevalence of translations of US authors and of popular fiction, are discussed in terms of their implications for the transfer of cultural values. They are also put into the context of the profession of literary translators as currently impacted by generative artificial intelligence (GAI) technologies. These achieve different levels of quality in the translation of fiction and popular fiction, and therefore different modes of collaboration between humans and machines are required for these two genres. Although GAI technologies can be useful for specific tasks in translating fiction, it is argued that this should remain a human domain. In contrast, GAI technologies can be used more systematically in the translation of popular fiction. This insight can be effectively applied in professional and educational practice.

The presented findings deepen the understanding of literary translation from the hypercentral English into the peripheral Czech; however, to some extent, they may also be applicable to translation into other peripheral languages.