Winter School in Translation Studies
3rd edition, 11th-15th December 2023

Translation Today: Technology, Trust and the Role of the Translator

Book of Abstracts

With the support of

Ca' Foscari University of Venice
Department of Asian and North African Studies

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Campus Treviso

Erasmus+

Laboratorio sulla traduzione delle lingue europee

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Translation Today: Technology, Trust and the Role of the Translator

As professionals, translators need to adapt and innovate to keep up with the ongoing technological developments in the translation services market, such as computer-aided translation services and machine translation tools. But the question is: to what extent should technology and human skills be trusted?

The aim of the School is to embrace technological advances in translation and to make the most of them. Through practical activities and theoretical lectures, scholars and professionals in the field will shed new light on technology and the role of translators today.

Programme

Monday 11 December	Tuesday 12 December	Wednesday 13 December	Thursday 14 December	Friday 15 December
9.15 Welcome coffee and Greetings				
10-11.30 Prof. **Giuliana Garzone** *Contemporary perspectives on translation and Translation Studies*	10-11.30 Prof. **Anthony Pym** *Research Methods in Translation Studies* GROUP ACTIVITY	10-11.30 Prof.**David Katan** *Translation plus: How translators are transforming their profile*	10-11.30 Prof. **Adriano Ferraresi** *Beyond CAT tools: Why you need corpora in translation*	10-11.30 Dr. **Adrià Martín-Mor** *Translation technologies: applications* GROUP ACTIVITY
	11.30-12 coffee break	11.30-12 coffee break	11.30-12 coffee break	11.30-12 coffee break
12-13.30 Prof. **Anthony Pym** *Diversification in Translation Studies: Areas/Fields in training/research*	12-13.30 Dr. **Giulia Togato** *Who is a translator? Bilingual vs. translation expertise*	12-13.30 Prof. **David Katan** *Translation plus: How translators are transforming their profile* GROUP ACTIVITY	12-13.30 Dr. **Adriano Ferraresi** *Using corpora in translation practice* GROUP ACTIVITY	12-13.30 Dr. **Adrià Martín-Mor** *Translation technologies and ethical issues*
13.30-15 Lunch	13.30-15 Lunch	13.30-15 Lunch	13.30-15 Lunch	13.30-15 Lunch
15-16.30 Prof. **Anthony Pym** *Research Methods in Translation Studies* GROUP ACTIVITY	15-16.30 Dr. **Giulia Togato** *Who is a translator? Bilingual vs. translation expertise*	15-16.30 Prof. **Silvia Bernardini** *Competences, skills and tasks in today's jobs for linguists*	15-16.30 Dr. **Adrià Martín-Mor** *Translation technologies today: an overview*	15.16.30 Prof. **Anthony Pym**. *Where do we go from here?* 17.00 Conclusions 17.30 Final buffet

DAY 1

Contemporary perspectives on translation and Translation Studies

Prof. Giuliana Garzone

My talk will explore the extensive changes that have occurred in the status of translation and in the translator's role in the contemporary world, and how Translation Studies have responded to such changes.

My starting point will be the observation that today, following the proliferation of new and old media and the ever-increasing capillarity of communication, the circulation of texts deriving from any form of translation – intralinguistic, interlinguistic, intersemiotic – has grown disproportionately. The complexity of the Web and the state of incessant evolution that characterises it also demands continuous update.

Within this context, the translator's role and professional profile has changed and diversified with the emergence of new translation (and quasi-translation) practices, e.g. various forms of multimodal translation, localisation, transcreation, etc., and with the introduction of new dedicated technologies (translation memories, machine translation technologies, remote working modes, etc.).

In Translation Studies, a discipline that in the last few decades has evolved (indeed, according to some scholars, diversified to the point of fragmentation) under the impact of various "turns" (cultural turn, empirical turn, sociological turn, etc.), these evolutions have involved an effort to respond to an increasingly rapid and disruptive array of innovations.

As a discipline that has undergone substantial transformation over the last few decades (indeed, according to some scholars, having diversified to the point of fragmentation) under the impact of various "turns" (cultural turn, empirical turn, sociological turn, etc.), Translation Studies has had to respond to numerous challenges arising from an increasingly rapid and disruptive array of innovations.

After examining these aspects, I'll discuss a theoretical framework that may help conceptualise and make sense of this extremely complex and heterogeneous picture.

Diversification in Translation Studies: Areas/Fields in training/research

Prof. Anthony Pym

Beginning from the very practical problem of which first-person pronouns to use when presenting research, this seminar will survey the various research traditions in which translation studies is embedded: anthropological and educationalist models stress the researcher's subjective involvement, whereas linguistics and cognitive studies retain implicit preferences for objectivity and distance. This range of possibilities will be investigated with respect to new translation technologies. What kind of epistemology is best suited to technological skills? What kind of doubt is involved when predicting impacts and futures?

Reading prior to the seminar: [Research Skills in Translation Studies: What We Need Training in](#) (2013).

Research Methods in Translation Studies

Prof. Anthony Pym

"Empiricism" has become a pejorative term in some recent studies. This seminar will look at definitions of empiricism, its origins in Aristotle, the Enlightenment, and nineteenth-century positivism, and its historical role as a travelling companion of European imperialist ideologies, and its role in probability analysis and complexity theory. An argument will be made that the empirical attitude need not assume neutrality or objectivity: the researcher can be personally engaged, radically non-neutral, and still produce valid new knowledge. Negative examples will be taken from the many hysterical reactions to LLM technologies and the propensity of some contemporary non-empirical approaches to produce bullshit.

DAY 2

Research Methods in Translation Studies

Prof. Anthony Pym

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Who is the Translator? Bilingual and Translation Expertise

Dr. Giulia Togato

There are substantial cognitive differences in the way professional translators and untrained bilinguals handle their bilingualism. Scholars in the field of cognitive psychology and neuroscience have robustly shown that bilingualism is differentially modulated by how the second language (L2) is used in the environment. Bilingualism is dynamic in nature and there are several factors that do exert an impact on what has been defined as The Bilingual Advantage. By consequence, the idea of Translation Expertise as an independent, modulating factor is well worth consideration and justifies the comparison to other forms of bilingualism. This seminar aims at outlining, from the perspective of cognitive sciences, the cognitive architecture of untrained bilinguals vs. professional translators. We will explore, for example, whether deliberate practice in bilingual vs. translation tasks differentially impacts the regulation of cognitive resources; whether there are cognitive mechanisms that are specific to translation expertise that cannot be detected in untrained bilinguals; and we will look at how expertise in linguistic translation tasks transfers to other non-linguistic, more general cognitive domains (i.e., memory, attention, etc.).

Reading prior to the seminar: [Bilingualism and Translation through the lens of cognition](#) (2022)

DAY 3

Translation plus: How translators are transforming their profile

Prof. David Katan

We begin with a survey of "the translators' world", particularly that of the specialised translator, which like many surveys points to a general concern with lack of status and consequent lack of pay. However, the objective of this seminar is to turn the focus on the habitus of those 10% who boast high status and pay, and whose main concern is the whinging of other translators. This group of translators report a series of "plusses" that the rest do not, occupy very different actual and imagined positions in the workplace, and clearly have a different view as to what on-the-job translating means. We will investigate these positions in terms of Bordeau's capitals and will catalogue the plusses, not so much in terms of traditional competences but in terms of non-cognitive aspects such as loyalty, beliefs, values, and crucially, soft skills, in particular emotional competences.
The second part of the seminar will focus on 3 particular of the translator plus, and will illustrate with examples the particular plusses involved in transcreation, heritage tourism translation and community translation.

Competences, skills and tasks in today's jobs for linguists

Prof. Silvia Bernardini

Recent industry-based research has consistently pointed to the need to enlarge the traditional skillset of translation graduates. In this session I will report on the results of a needs analysis conducted within the Erasmus+ UPSKILLS project, which aimed to update language, linguistics and translation education, faced with disruptive developments in artificial intelligence. After a brief overview of institutional and academic views on the subject, I will focus on a corpus-based study of job posts targeting emerging jobs at the crossroads of languages and technology. Using both corpus-driven and corpus-based methods, we were able to identify some of the jobs and the tasks which translation students with technological competencies could aspire to. Four groups emerged as central, namely data and research skills, technological skills, disciplinary knowledge, communication and organisational skills. On the basis of these findings, further extended through focus groups and interviews with industry representatives, an emerging professional profile was drafted, which we provisionally named Language data and project specialist. The typical tasks and competencies associated with the four sub-profiles we identified were turned into a self-assessment questionnaire, that participants will be asked to try out.

DAY 4

Beyond CAT tools: Why you need corpora in translation

Prof. Adriano Ferraresi

Proficiency in the use of CAT tools has become part and parcel of the skills that are expected of translators. Translation memory and terminology management systems have long featured prominently among these tools, and Machine Translation (MT) is bound to quickly follow suit, as post-editing of MT output is already a viable alternative to "traditional" translation. Corpora, i.e. collections of more or less specialized texts, have remained somewhat at the margins, possibly due to factors such as the time and effort needed to build them, and the perceived difficulty of drawing evidence from them to support the decision-making process in translation. Yet all practitioners would probably appreciate the advantages of having high-quality, coherent reference texts at their disposal when translating or revising. This session aims to show that the advantages offered by corpora are largely unmatched in other CAT tools, and that their shortcomings can easily be overcome. By adopting a practical, problem-based approach, it will focus on translation problems that are not easily solved if one is to rely on translation memories only. These include identification of terminological equivalents, understanding of creative expressions, as well as the search for appropriate phraseology.

Using corpora in translation practice

Prof. Adriano Ferraresi

In this session, you will experience first-hand how corpora can be used for different translation-related tasks (translation proper, revision and terminology work) involving different types of texts (technical and creative). You will learn how to consult corpora using freely available software, progressing from simpler searches to more sophisticated ones. Focus will be placed both on the technical skills required to use corpus query tools, and on the interpretation of corpus-derived language data. The final part of the session will be devoted to providing hints on how to develop corpus resources for individual research or translation practice needs.
For this session you will need to install the AntConc corpus query tool: https://www.laurenceanthony.net/software/antconc/

Translation technologies today: an overview.

Dr. Adrià Martín-Mor

This session will provide participants with an overview of the digital process of translation, the phases in which it can be divided, the tasks associated with every phase and the tools that can be used. The session will also make reference to the different professional roles that translators can take on, depending on their interests and skills.

DAY 5

Translation technologies: applications

Dr. Adrià Martín-Mor

This hands-on session will allow participants to become familiar with tools used for translation at different levels, with a focus on Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS).

Technologies and ethical issues.

Dr. Adrià Martín-Mor

While translators used to be reluctant to technology, nowadays most training programs across the globe include contents about translation technology. Notwithstanding, translation trainees may at times feel overwhelmed at the different narratives revolving around the use of technology. This session will try to provide elements that can help make informed technological decisions from a critical standpoint.

Where do we go from here?

Prof. Anthony Pym

One of the apparent consequences of new translation technologies is the employment of translation graduates in a wide range of occupations, many of which go beyond narrow conceptualizations of the term "translation". This has been leading to wider definitions of the term and/or to more generalized concepts such as the "mediator" or "multilingual communicator" (cf. the seminar on Translation Plus by David Katan). This seminar will review the terminological quandary in the light of the employment patterns of translation graduates, particularly the presence of translation as an activity done as a second or third occupation or in the gig economy. Should our research follow our graduates into these varied fields, all with their justifying academic disciplines? Or are the data telling us that translation is no longer the property of one profession or industry, and that our research and training should now be addressing a general social activity?

Reading prior to the seminar: [Where do translation students go? A study of the employment and mobility of Master graduates](#) (2022).

BIO NOTES

Prof. Silvia Bernardini holds a degree in translation (Laurea, Bologna), an MPhil in English and Applied Linguistics (Cantab) and a PhD in Translation Studies (MDX). She is professor of English linguistics and translation, and former Dean of the Department of Interpreting and Translation of the University of Bologna, Italy, where she teaches translation from English into Italian and corpus linguistics. She has published on corpus use in applied linguistics, particularly translator education, and on corpus use in translation practice and research. Her current research interests include the investigation of translation as constrained language production, encompassing written translation, interpreting, and non-native writing, along with several other modes of mediated bilingual language use. She has coordinated the Bologna unit of the recently concluded UPSKILLS Erasmus+ project.

Prof. Adriano Ferraresi is Associate Professor in English Language and Translation at the University of Bologna, and the Coordinator of Master's in Specialized Translation of the same University. He has a Doctorate in English for Special Purposes from the University of Naples "Federico II". His research interests are in the field of construction of linguistic resources, and he has been involved in several collaborative corpus construction projects, including the WaCky and EPTIC initiatives and the Eurolect Observatory. On the more descriptive side, his work focuses on corpus-based investigations of phraseology and terminology in native, translated and lingua franca varieties of English. He teaches MA modules on translation technologies and terminology, and has given invited seminars on corpus linguistics and statistics at various Italian and European universities. He is the Principal Investigator of the recently-funded PRIN project "UNiversally Inclusive Technologies to practice English".

Prof. Giuliana Garzone is *Professore Onorario* (Professor Emeritus) of English, Linguistics and Translation at IULM University, Milan. She formerly taught at Milan State University where she directed the PhD Programme in Linguistic, Literary and Intercultural Studies. Her research has mainly focused on two main areas: English linguistics, and especially the textual and pragmatic aspects of specialised communication, and Translation and Interpreting Studies. She has published over a hundred and fifty book chapters and journal articles and has authored or (co-edited) more than fifty books, focusing in particular on legal, business, scientific and media discourse, and on translation and interpreting. She has coordinated various local and national research projects. She is co-editor-in-chief of *LCM Journal*, which she founded in 2014. In 2018 she received the Francis W. Weeks Award of Merit from the Association for Business Communication, and in 2019 she was awarded a Doctorat ès Lettres honoris causa by McGill University, Montréal.
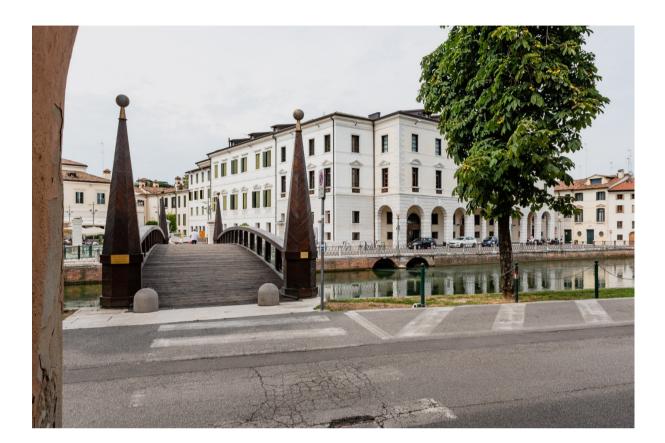
Prof.David Katan is professor of Translation at the University of Salento (Lecce) and visiting professor at the University of South Africa (UNISA). He has published widely on intercultural communication, tourism translation, transcreation and translator status, including contributions to the Routledge Encyclopaedias of translation, entries for the Benjamins Handbook of Translation Studies series, and to two editions of the Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Applied Linguistics. The 3rd edition of his book Translating Cultures: An Introduction for Translators, Interpreters and Mediators, was published in 2021. His translations of museum guides have now led him to research on heritage translation and translation as narrativity. He is editor-in-chief of Cultus: the Journal of Intercultural Mediation and Communication.

Dr. Adrià Martín-Mor is a musician, translator and professor of Translation Studies at California State University, Long Beach. He has directed translation technology programs in Europe in the past, and his current research interests encompass minoritized languages, translation technologies and the political dimension of translation. He is a founding member of Sardware and a member of Softcatalà, two non-profit associations of activists that localize software into and create resources for the Sardinian and the Catalan languages. As a literary translator, he has recently published Sardinian author Sergio Atzeni in Catalan. He is also the author of "Beni cun me" ('come with me', in Sardinian), a TV program about the languages of Sardinia broadcast by Italian TV channel RAI. As a musician, he wrote and composed the soundtrack of the program, in Catalan and Sardinian, and released it as his latest album, "Lo somrís de la magrana" ('the smile of the pomegranate', in Algherese Catalan).

Prof. Anthony Pym is currently Visiting Scholar at Università Ca' Foscari, Distinguished Professor at Universitat Rovira i Virgili in Spain, and Professor of Translation Studies at the University of Melbourne. He was President of the European Society for Translation Studies from 2010 to 2016, when the European Doctorate in Translation Studies was established. He holds a doctorate in sociology from the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris. He has authored or edited some 30 books and more than 230 articles and book chapters in the field of translation and intercultural studies. He has supervised or co-supervised 34 doctoral students to successful completion of the thesis. He is working on a book with the provisional title Language skills+. Translation technologies in language learning and translator training.

Dr. Giulia Togato is Assistant professor of Translation Studies and Psycholinguistics at California State University Long Beach (USA). She has recently started The Think2Talk Lab, where she investigates topics in psycholinguistics of translation and bilingualism. Her research interests include cognitive and emotional aspects of figurative language processing in translation and bilingualism, embodied cognition in the first and second language, automaticity and cognitive control in translation and bilingualism. She obtained her PhD in Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of Granada

(Spain), where she also served as a postdoctoral researcher. Dr. Togato has fifteen years' experience as a professional translator and consecutive interpreter; her field of special knowledge is the translation of scientific/ psychology texts from English and Italian into Spanish.

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