



# TRANSLATIO

No. 3, 2021 FIT Newsletter



## President's message

Kevin Quirk

### Happy International Translation Day 2021!

Congratulations to all translators, terminologists and interpreters throughout the world on this very special day. The publication date for this Q3 edition of *Translatio* was deliberately set for 30 September to coincide with your own celebrations of the brilliant and indispensable work translators, terminologists and interpreters do every day. A world without us is unthinkable!

Today is your opportunity to pause for at least a few moments to pat yourself or your peers on the back and to acknowledge the importance of the efforts we make in facilitating communication between individuals, groups or even nations.

FIT Council has chosen a very fitting title for this year's International Translation Day: 'United in Translation'. As we continue to struggle with the global pandemic and in what are trying times for many of us, it is evident from discussions with our member associations that there is an ever-greater need for national and international translators' organisations. Put quite simply: we are stronger together!

And, as I hinted at in my inaugural poem in Brisbane in 2017, language professionals

can hardly be said to be a homogenous group. We come from all walks of life, our appearances differ wildly and, in my experience, we are strongly individualistic. Nevertheless, we stand united:

**To unite all in the field of translation**

**Is a task bestowed on the Federation:**

**To work together**

**to bring together**

**both region and nation**

**By singing our praises**

**And raising our gazes**

**To highlight the plight**

**of language workers**

**Throughout the globe,**

**Be they women in burqas**

**Or a dude in a suit,**

**Or translators working from their comfortable homes,**

**And those less fortunate in conflict zones.**

As you will see, this edition of *Translatio* is filled with important information from FIT and its member associations. I would

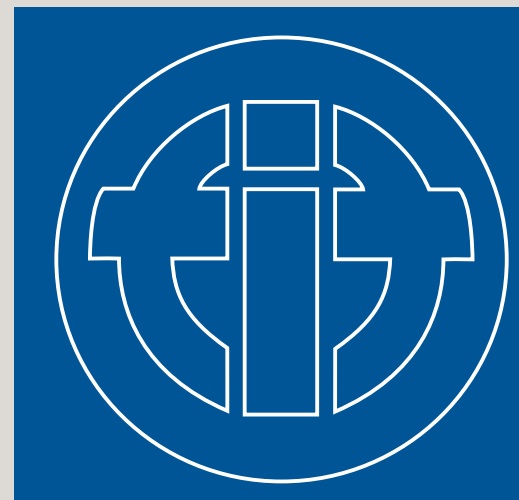
especially like to thank Argentina's Carolina Bellino, winner of this year's International Translation Day poster competition for her beautiful design. A special debt of gratitude also goes to chairperson Annette Schiller and the outgoing board of FIT Europe for the magnificent work they have done over the last four years. FIT's Regional Centres play a crucial role within FIT and FIT Council wishes the new board every success!

Happy reading and stay safe!

Happy International Translation Day 2021!

Kevin Quirk

[president@fit-ift.org](mailto:president@fit-ift.org)



# Responsible MT and an irresponsible article?

This year, the 18<sup>th</sup> MT Summit (16–20 August 2021) was organised by the Association for Machine Translation in the Americas (AMTA) and was entirely virtual.

## Historical background on machine translation

A constant over the years has been that machine translation developers and professional translators view language differently. Most developers are software engineers who may have never met a human translator. This may sound bizarre but can be explained by how machine translation is developed:

- A source text is translated by a human who has no direct contact with the software engineer
- The machine translation system is trained using a translation memory database created by anonymous translators
- The output of the machine translation system is assessed by comparing it with the human reference translation, resulting in a single number called a BLEU score
- The engineer tweaks the system, changing the training data or the software, and runs it again on the same

source text to see if the BLEU score goes up or down (higher is considered better)

Perhaps surprisingly, the engineer often does not even look at the output and may not even be able to read the target language.

## A refreshing change

Therefore, it was refreshing to find out that several of the keynote speeches at the 2021 MT Summit were delivered not by software engineers but by people who have done professional translation. Jane Nemcova, who until recently was at Lionbridge and holds a master's degree in French translation, noted that non-translators tend to think that language is "not that hard." From her perspective, there is a bright future for people with a background in the humanities and language skills. Dr Arle Lommel, who is a senior researcher at [CSA](#) and occasionally does professional translation from Hungarian to English, promoted in his keynote the idea of responsible MT, which includes making its limits known.

## A disturbing contrast

These two keynotes were in contrast with an article on the future of the

translation industry and professional translators by Jaap van der Meer, widely viewed as a thought leader in the translation industry, published in the current (July–August 2021) [issue](#) of the widely read Multilingual magazine. His article predicts a future where translators are no longer needed. FIT Council Member Alan Melby will be teaming up with Christopher Kurz, a language professional in Germany, to write a rebuttal to Mr van der Meer's article, which many in the translation community view as an irresponsible piece. Taken seriously, the vision presented in the article could result in damage from over-dependence on raw MT, and discourage talented young language students from embarking on a career in translation.

## A FIT campaign

This rebuttal is part of a broader FIT-driven campaign to educate users regarding the strengths and limitations of raw (unedited) machine translation that is not revised or reviewed by a human. Council member Melby has been asked to lead this campaign and will report on it in future issues of *Translatio*.

*Alan Melby, FIT Council*

## Young Argentinian designer wins FIT poster competition

This year, FIT received 19 high-quality entries for the annual International Translation Day (ITD) poster competition. FIT Council combed through the submissions, voted, and ultimately selected the poster created by Carolina Bellino, a young designer from Argentina. We asked her a few questions about her work, her design, and her advice for young creatives. Her answers have been condensed and edited for clarity.

*Please tell us a little about yourself: who you are, where you live, and what you like to do in your spare time.*

My name is Carolina. I'm a professional

designer from San Juan, a small but beautiful province in Argentina. I'm a very active person: I enjoy going to the gym and taking dance lessons in my spare time, and I also love restoring furniture!

*Why did you become a designer? How long have you been working as a designer?*

Ever since I was little, I've loved doing things related to design: drawing, painting, collage, photography... I remember when I learned Microsoft Publisher in a computer class in school, I would spend my evenings working on brochures, cards, and certificates.



Carolina Bellino

Everything clicked when I met a professional designer and could put a name to what I enjoyed doing. Instead of just thinking about making a piece, I started to see things through the lens of design, which isn't just about what's "pretty," it also involves applied psychology, morphology, and all sorts of knowledge that designers bring together to achieve a final result. I've been working as a freelance designer since my third year of university, so for about five years now.

*What prompted you to enter this year's ITD poster competition?*

My sister is an English to Spanish translator. She learned about the contest in an email and encouraged me to enter.

*What inspired this particular design?*

I always say that every design has a process. I was inspired by the prompt, *United in Translation*, and the structure of FIT's logo, and added in elements, like the laptop and the headset, that are characteristic of professional translators and interpreters.

*Do you have any advice for aspiring young designers?*

I would encourage them to take a chance on this amazing profession. There's a myth that design is a dead-end career, but I don't believe that at all. It all depends on you. I make a living as an in-house designer for the marketing department of a well-known shopping centre in my province

and I also work for individual clients in the afternoons. When you love what you do, clients knock on your door, and both you and your work grow. I would also say that it's important to always keep learning and to work to get better every single day.

Thank you, Carolina, for your words and your beautiful and creative design. Your advice rings true for young translators, interpreters, and terminologists, too!

Readers can find the official FIT press release about Carolina's design [here](#) and view her work on her [Instagram](#) feed.

Happy International Translation Day to all!

*Marita Propato (AATI, ATA)  
and Ben Karl (ATA)*



# ABRATES' 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference

Due to the pandemic and the resulting financial and public health crisis in Brazil, ABRATES' conference was held online. What initially seemed simple to organise revealed its complexity right from the start.

Having organised an online event in 2017, we had a comprehensive and multidisciplinary view of what was involved, resulting in timely, effective conversations and discussions with immediate results.

By identifying our needs, understanding the limitations imposed, and recognising the knowledge of the teams we were working with, we were able to produce a successful event. Mutual respect was essential. Being able to express ourselves freely with the teams so that everyone could contribute with their points of view, inputs, proposals, and best practices – some unknown to a few – was essential for keeping an open line of communication.

Were we frustrated at times? Yes! Were there headaches? Yes! Were there

moments of delight? Yes, and these were prevalent. The secret was trusting and respecting our team.

Our audience, speakers, and volunteers came from many countries on four continents. We believe the main purpose of an event of this scale is to share knowledge that has an impact on the growth of all attendees, so offering interpretation was a must. The languages were English, Portuguese, and Spanish for the sessions, and additionally Brazilian Sign Language (Libras) for the keynotes and the opening and closing panels. Some interpreters worked live during the event and others worked in parallel, recording the sessions that were not being interpreted live, so the recordings can be shared later.

Our colleagues who work with Libras are skilled interpreters who need more visibility and recognition, and ABRATES is proud to be able to provide this opportunity. After all, it is our obligation, as a professional association, to provide support whenever possible, as broadly as possible, to all those we represent.

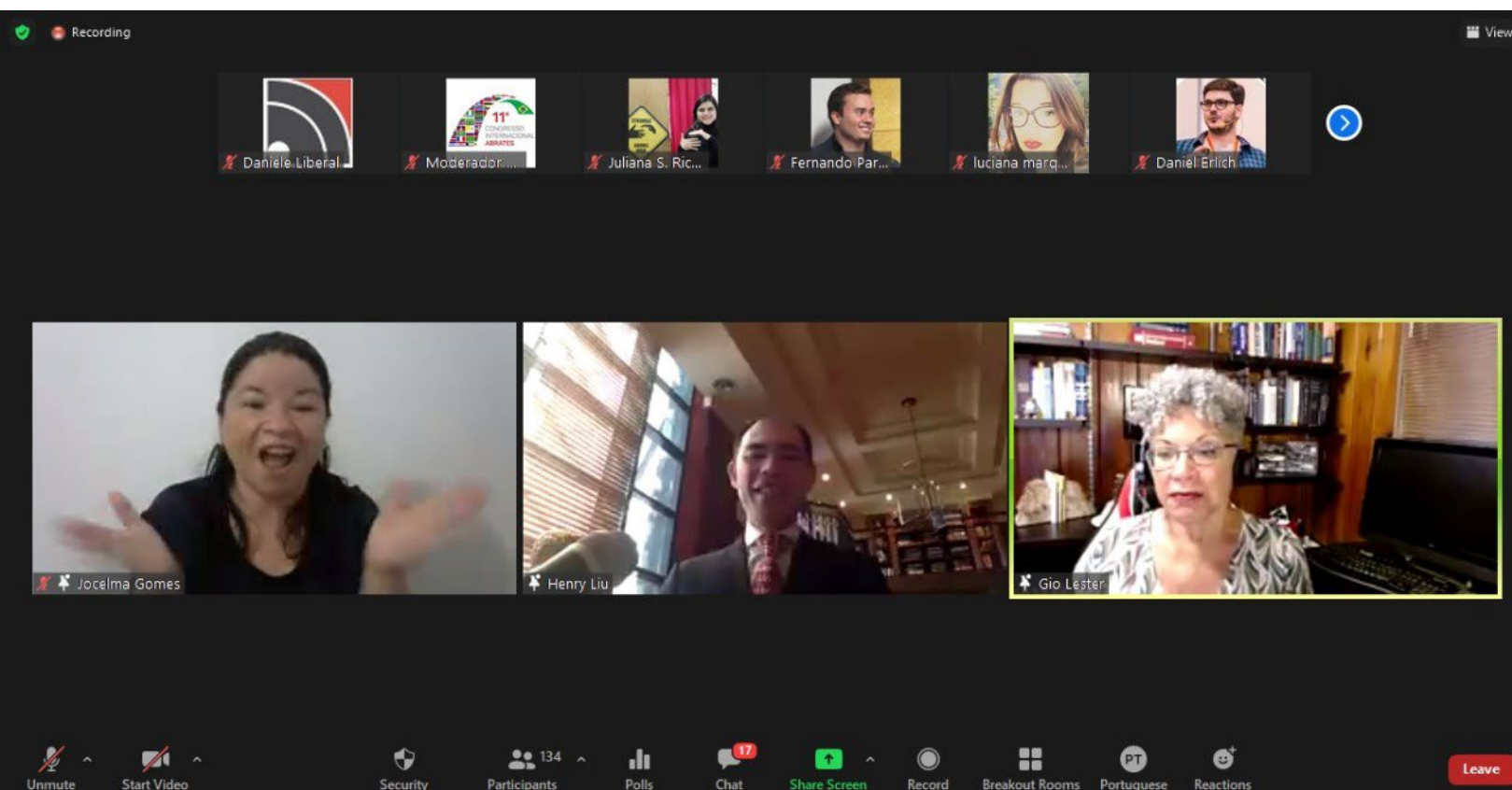
We received so many proposals that choosing among them was difficult. We want to extend our thanks to all our speakers, who so generously shared their knowledge and are often the teachers and trainers of an entire generation of professionals, and many more yet to come.

Capital is a multidimensional element that is essential for impactful activities. We often speak of human and cognitive capital, but without financial capital, contributed directly or indirectly, this conference would never have been a reality. We are grateful to our sponsors and supporters.

One of the benefits of virtual events is how easy it is to record sessions. Within a few days, recordings are available, and participants can re-watch the sessions they enjoyed and those they missed, all interpreted into their language of choice, of course!

This event taught us many lessons that we will apply to our next one in 2023, which will most likely be a hybrid event. Preparations are already underway, so stay tuned.

*Giovanna Lester (ABRATES)*



Jocelma Gomes, Brazilian Sign Language Interpreter, Henry Líu, and Giovanna Lester during the closing keynote

# Chronicles of a committee:

## Standardising and disrupting the rules of the game in Costa Rica

In the beginning, there was the standard, and it was the beginning of a great story – not to mention an arduous task!

In August 2020, a group of industry experts, consumers and representatives were summoned by Costa Rica's National Standards Body (INTECO) to form National Technical Committee CTN INTE 67. Under the leadership of its chairwoman and project initiator, Adriana Zúñiga Hernández, the Committee has been reviewing the procedures and terminology used in the translation and interpreting sectors, by translating, revising, adapting – and adopting! – existing international standards.

It has been a year now since the Committee began working on this project... but whom and what is this project for?

The goal of adopting international standards is to create a national reference framework to better describe and define the methods, procedures and modus operandi of the translation and interpreting sectors, and to establish the quality criteria that must be met for certification.

The lengthy process for adopting ISO 17100:2015 (Translation services – Requirements for translation services) is bearing fruit, and other standards are currently in the pipeline. Although interconnected, each standard has its own specific features, and each Committee member has made a different contribution to build what I consider to be the new Tower of Babel. For example, the Costa Rican Association of Professional Translators and Interpreters ([ACOTIP](#)) is pulling its weight and is actively involved in proofreading the standards as they are approved by the Committee, among other things.

For local translation agencies applying for certification, standardisation may prove to be a godsend. The process should involve consolidating their organisational charts and structuring their teams so as to keep pace with global markets.

For freelance translators and interpreters (classified as TSPs, i.e., translation service providers, or ISPs, i.e., interpreting service providers), certification represents an opportunity to climb the ladder, but

it comes at a cost. Adhering to standards is, of course, a voluntary process, but every good professional should be aware of their industry's technical standards – whether or not they wish to comply with them. "Ignorance of the standard is no excuse," one might say! Shutting our eyes to these quality tools would be to ignore our collective expertise and a reference framework for good practices in our profession.

Negotiating and reaching a consensus within a committee is never an easy task, but when those involved come together, there is no shortage of enthusiasm and team spirit. Defining, analysing, translating, commenting, sharing, exchanging, clarifying, arguing, revising, and localising terms, concepts and practices: there is a lot to be done to achieve standardisation – starting with getting things down in writing! The current pandemic has given us the opportunity to set the groundwork for us to act, defend the interests of our profession, and open our window on the world.

*Nathalie Le Coutour, ACOTIP, ANTIO, SFT*

## Preview of ATA's 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the American Translators Association (ATA) is set for 27–30 October 2021 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Last year, ATA61 went completely virtual and welcomed over 1,500 attendees. This year, we are trying something new again: a hybrid event attendees may participate in virtually or in person.

While we encourage attendees to participate in person, we know some might not be able to travel or do not feel comfortable meeting in person just yet. ATA hopes to see you there, no matter how you choose to attend.

All attendees will have access to the 120 educational sessions covering 30 language and specialisation tracks. The educational sessions will be recorded and available for all attendees, so if you were unable to attend a session live, you can

watch the replay later at no extra charge. In addition to the educational sessions, the conference opens with Advanced Skills and Training (AST) Day on Wednesday, 27 October. AST Day features fifteen three-hour, in-depth workshops by subject matter experts. Some of the topics include *Direct Client Marketing for People Who Think They Can't*, *Automating Translation Tasks to Maximise Efficiency*, and *Supercharge Your Simultaneous Interpreting Skills*.

Aside from the top-level professional development opportunities, the conference will feature several networking events. We will have a networking event each night, plus many opportunities to talk to fellow attendees during breaks between sessions. While we have all made the best of Zoom meetings, there is no question networking at in-person meetings is more effective. For

those attending virtually, we have planned some virtual networking sessions as well.

ATA takes the health and safety of all attendees very seriously. Recognising the dynamic situation with the pandemic, we continue to monitor US government recommendations as well as those of our host, the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis Hotel. As of press time, we are requiring proof of vaccination for all attendees. Those who are not vaccinated will need to provide proof of a negative Covid test within three days of the start of the conference.

ATA62 promises to deliver the education skills you want and the networking you need. We hope to see you in Minneapolis! For more information, visit the conference site [here](#). Register for the standard conference rate before 15 October.

*Walter Bacak, CAE (ATA)*

# Conference for Mexican indigenous-language interpreters

The expansion of technology in our field has opened up the possibility of interpreting for languages that have not traditionally been included in conference settings. The 5th Forum of Indigenous Language Interpreters – organised by the group *Interpreters and Translators in Public and Community Services* (ITSPyC) with the support of the Italia Morayta Foundation (FIM) – took place online for the first time in February. This new format gave indigenous language community interpreters a chance to become familiar with remote simultaneous interpretation. After a brief introductory training, those attendees who wanted to try the booth were able to practise simultaneous interpretation from Spanish into their own indigenous languages throughout the event.



FIM and CMIC were invited to give these interpreters feedback, and we came up with the idea of organising some practical training sessions for Forum participants who were interested in pursuing a career in simultaneous interpretation. For six months, CMIC conference interpreters worked with indigenous-language interpreters, sharing their knowledge, guiding their practice, and commenting on their delivery. The final project was a successful conference, *Reflections on the Indigenous Situation in Mexico Today*, where nine

speakers shared, in their own indigenous languages, their points of view on very diverse topics, from the living conditions of indigenous women to the historical background of today's territorial divisions. Our trainees interpreted from nine different indigenous languages into Spanish, and CMIC members took relay to interpret into English for a large international audience. In the years to come, we will refer to these former trainees as the pillars of simultaneous indigenous language interpretation in Mexico.

Gonzalo Celorio Morayta (CMIC)



**Reflections on the Indigenous Situation in Mexico Today**

**PROGRAM**



	SPEAKER	SUBJECT	LANGUAGE	INTERPRETER
14/08/2021 09:00-11:00 (CDMX)	Irla Élda Vargas del Ángel	Linguistic rights and the work of the interpreter/translator	Nahuatl	Martha González Olivares
	Miguel May May	The Mayan Train from the perspective of indigenous communities	Maya	Ermilio López Balam
	José Jiménez Luna	Challenges of translation and interpreting in indigenous languages	Tojolab'al	Angélica Gómez
	Basilía Cardoza Sánchez	Discrimination against indigenous women	Chinanteco	Basilía Cardoza Sánchez
	Reyna Antonio Miguel	The importance of preserving our cultures	Chinanteco	Reyna Antonio Miguel
	Diego Méndez Guzmán	Presentation of the book <i>Teatro comunitario de los volcanes</i> . (Community Theatre of the Volcanoes)	Tzeltal	Jonny Abisaí Méndez
BREAK				
14/08/2021 12:00-14:00 (CDMX)	Bonifacio López Bothó	The Ñhañhü peasant farmer	Ñhahü (Otomí)	Abel Cayetano Huizache Roque
	Ubaldo Pedro Mariscal	Criminalization of migrant women	Mazateco	Florencio Ronquillo Alejo
	Miguel Hernández Díaz	The value of indigenous languages in Mexico	Tsotsil	Alberto Gómez Gómez
	Miguel Sabido	Closing ceremony	Spanish	

Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/RealidadIndigena>. Registration closes 24 hours before the event begins. The lectures will be delivered in indigenous languages with interpretation into Spanish, English and Mexican Sign Language.

# International protections in conflict zones?

Although translators and interpreters have served in conflict settings over the centuries, they have recently gained heroic status among language professionals around the world. Such is the case of those who served as language mediators during the war in Afghanistan. Their invisible role has given true meaning to the real purpose of interpreting, even though many of them lack formal training. Because they are native speakers of the local languages and can speak the language of a foreign army, international aid organisation or NGO, they are usually hired to provide their language services in a dangerous environment that could compromise their safety and that of their families. They may have been compelled to serve by their allegiance to a cause, the security of a well-paying job in US dollars, or perhaps the dream of a better future and a free country. The Afghan interpreters took sides with the US, UK, and other western countries, which are now pulling out and leaving them behind to their fates. What will become of them? Sadly, reports suggest that dozens have been executed, injured, or threatened by the Taliban for having collaborated with the enemy. Why were they not given protection?



Despite the risk and exposure of interpreters in conflict or emergency settings, they [lack](#) the protection given to other professionals, such as journalists and medical personnel, under international law. Perhaps the reason is that interpreters and translators are still not considered essential workers.

“Effective communication is an essential service, reducing friction in critical systems such as in healthcare, immigration, emergency response and diplomacy. Because of their role in facilitating effective communication – especially in urgent situations – interpreters and translators should indeed be classified as essential workers. In emergency situations, effective communication can literally mean

the difference between life and death.” [\(Whyte, 2020\)](#)

What would the foreign troops, international aid personnel, journalists, and NGOs have done without these communication facilitators? “The role of interpreters and translators in conflict zones is absolutely vital but is poorly understood and rarely acknowledged. They are unsung heroes. They are often the victims of distrust, discrimination and threats from all sides [...] Yet their linguistic skills and the cultural knowledge that goes with them are often the very things that enable the uniformed troops to do their job.” [\(Coussins, 2015\)](#)

The work of these fellow interpreters, with or without the necessary skills, accredited or not, must not go unnoticed. All translators and interpreters of the world must raise their voices and stand united in support of these Afghan language mediators who risked their lives and the safety of their families to assist foreign armies, journalists, and NGOs. Interpreters and translators in any conflict or emergency setting should be entitled to international protection due to the essential nature of their work and the risks they face in the performance of such work.

*Luisa Serpa de Vollbracht  
(President, CONALTI)*

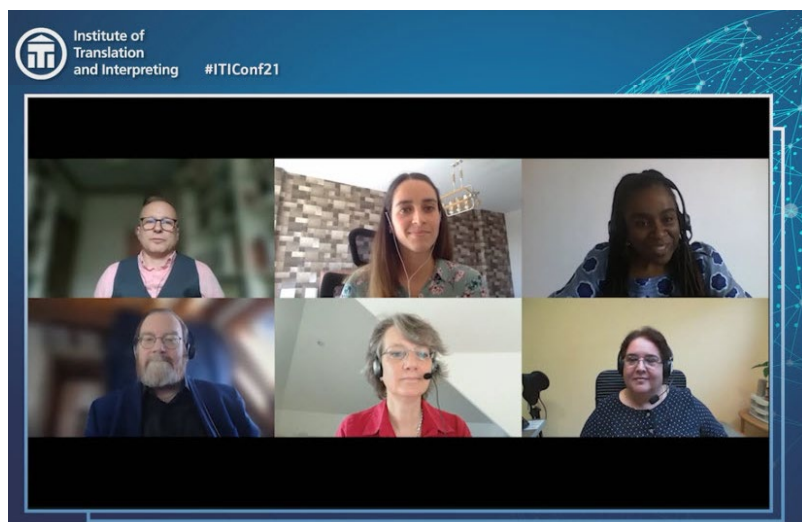
## ITI Online Conference, May 2021

More than 400 translators, interpreters and language professionals gathered online in early May for the conference of the Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI), the UK’s main professional association for the language services industry.

The conference is a highlight in the ITI calendar, when members come together to learn, share ideas, think about future initiatives and celebrate member achievements through, among other things, the ITI Awards. The global pandemic inevitably resulted in a very different format to previous conferences, but this didn’t stop these aims from being achieved.

The 2021 conference theme was *Evolving in changing times*, and the programme covered topics such as new ways of working for interpreters, the challenges of online networking, race, identity and translation, and MT in the EU, to name just a few.

In keeping with the theme, the programme format also evolved and included more international speakers than ever before, with contributors from all over the world, including the US, Italy,



The interpreting panel featured interpreters from four continents and many different interpreting backgrounds

# SSPOL member publishes research in new book

Canada, Peru, Argentina and Ghana. There were also six panel sessions, something often hard to achieve at a face-to-face event due to the logistics, covering topics as diverse as dealing with imposter syndrome, the value of the language service industry, and health and wellbeing for freelancers.

One of the most popular components of the three days were the translation slams. Three slams (one each from French, German and Spanish into English) saw two seasoned translators tackle the same text and then go head-to-head to defend their choices, highlighting the complex decisions involved at every step of the process.



Raising a glass to the ITI Awards winners

Of course, no conference would be complete without the opportunity to network. While nothing can quite replace bumping into an old friend during the coffee break or discussing the last session over lunch, the equivalent, delivered via the dedicated online networking platform Wonder, came very close.

Plans are already well underway for the next ITI Conference, taking place from 31 May–1 June 2022 in Brighton. And, in another first for the Institute, this will be a hybrid event, so those not able to make it in person will still be able to attend virtually.

Emma Cull (ITI)

## ITI publishes position statements

In July, the Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI) published two important position statements to help support the mental health of interpreters and translators.

In the first, *Vicarious trauma in interpreters*, ITI recognises that secondary trauma in the case of interpreters is a real risk, and the ITI Board proposes a series of recommendations to help support them.

The second position statement, *Translators' mental health and wellbeing*, acknowledges that translation can be a lonely and stressful job and that there is a lack of awareness among many translators around mental health risks. The position statement puts forward recommendations to support translators in maintaining good mental health.

ITI is grateful to Maha El-Metwally FITI and Dr Séverine Hubcher-Davidson for their support in drafting these statements. Read more about them [here](#).

Paul Wilson (ITI)

SSPOL is thrilled to highlight the publication of a new scientific monograph written by Olga Wrede, an SSPOL member, sworn translator, and professor of translation studies in Slovakia. This new book will be of particular interest to sworn German translators and interpreters working to and from Slovak.

Entitled *Theoretisch-pragmatische Reflexionen zur interlingualen Übersetzung ausgewählter Textsorten des Strafprozessrechts* (for reference, *Theoretical and Pragmatic Reflections on the Interlingual Translation of Selected Text Types of Criminal Procedure Law*), the 390-page publication provides a unique and multidimensional view of translation issues between German and Slovak in a very specific area of legal translation – criminal procedural law.

The book is a treasure trove of information. Starting by underscoring the importance of legal translation in a globalised world, it goes on to define key terms, concepts, and procedures, such as what a “law” is, strictly speaking, how courts, experts, lawyers, etc. fit into the Slovak and German legal systems, how these systems differ, and how criminal law contrasts with other areas of the law in both countries.

The author continues by providing a structured categorisation of various text types and functions, offering a typology of both general and legal texts, and then compares and contrasts the different types of texts in criminal procedural law. She provides a large number of unique examples of terms and collocations in German–Slovak, which are of particular interest from the point of view of translation practice, taken from an analysis and comparison of the macro- and microstructure of common legal texts, such as indictments, criminal orders, and sentences.

The work concludes with an overview of the types of criminal procedural law texts following their application in translation practice. For example, some selected types of texts from Slovak and German courts are listed in the appendix.

This remarkable book is a valuable tool for teachers, lawyers, translators and interpreters, students of translation or philology, as well as beginning translators who aspire to become sworn translators one day. The author’s experience as a sworn translator and university professor is reflected in the quality of the research and the teachings she provides to a new generation of would-be translators.

This work opens up a number of opportunities for further research in other areas of legal translation, and invites experts to work together to deepen the research and practice of translation, which need to be developed in partnership rather than in isolation.



Olga Wrede

Jozef Štefčík (SSPOL)



# UiC summer academic activities

Without a doubt, most of our daily activities depend on technology and how well we use it. While computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools have existed for decades, it is always a good idea to give both established and up-and-coming translators a refresher on the most in-demand software in the industry. This not only helps them meet the expectations of clients contracting services, it also helps them translate more quickly and accurately. Another advantage of CAT tools is helping translators realise the full scope of a project, so they can charge fair prices.

To keep improving professional practices, the Translation Department of Mexico's Intercontinental University – known by its Spanish acronym, UiC – designed a thirty-hour course on the practical study of CAT tools and the XTRF translation management system for its personnel and for the teaching staff from other Mexican universities. Last June, the course, called *Translation and Localisation Technologies*, familiarised them with these different

platforms, which can offer practical solutions for their translation work.

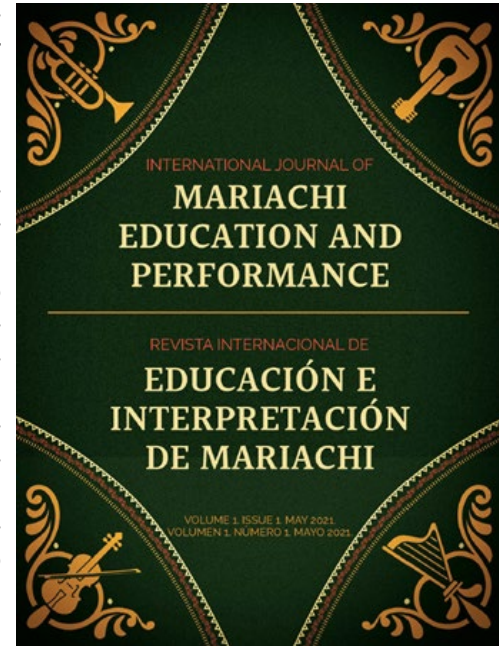
UiC also provides students with both the knowledge and skill they need to become outstanding professionals in and outside the classroom. It has set up several local and international alliances with leading innovative and ethical companies and organisations so that the community can take advantage of their expertise by enrolling in their internship programmes.

## New partnership

As of July 2021, UiC welcomed a new partnership with the International Mariachi Education and Performance Foundation, a nonprofit organisation based in Texas whose primary goal is to preserve the music and culture of mariachi, and promote education in the US and beyond. The publication of a free journal twice a year is the first step that this nonprofit has taken toward achieving said goal. Providing a wide range of materials related to mariachi music, such as instrumental pedagogy, repertoire analysis and discussion, as well as general articles about mariachi, the *International Journal of Mariachi Education and Performance* is offered as a [bilingual journal](#) written in English and translated into Spanish.

Working with several universities across the US and other countries, the Foundation has established internship programmes so that translation students can put their knowledge and skills to the test by working with texts that use terminology specific to music analysis and commentary. UiC is happy to have a few students already collaborating with the Foundation that will surely be an invaluable addition to their translation team.

Frida Amaro and Isidro Portillo (UiC)



The advertisement features a woman in a grey blazer sitting at a desk with a laptop, smiling. The background is a collage of text in various languages including Spanish, English, and Tamil. The text reads: 'La División de Ciencias Sociales, por medio de la Licenciatura de Traducción, Localización e Interpretación invitan al Curso de verano para Docentes Tecnologías de la traducción y localización'. At the bottom, there is a green banner with a calendar icon and the text: '14 al 18 de junio 10:00 a 14:00 h'. The UiC logo and 'UNIVERSIDAD INTERCONTINENTAL LICENCIATURAS' are also present.

# Professional development: a top OTTIAQ commitment

All professionals, regardless of their line of work, know how important it is to continuously grow their knowledge and acquire new skills. Doing so allows them to maintain the quality of their work and better serve their clients. Professional development and continuing education can also be leveraged as marketing tools. After all, it is the hallmark of a professional

to stay abreast of the latest developments in their field and showcase their accomplishments.

With this in mind, the Ordre des traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes agréés du Québec (OTTIAQ) embarked on a major project this year to improve and expand its continuing education programme.

The process of updating the programme began in the fall of 2020, with the launch scheduled for September 2021. The goal is to meet the community's professional development needs when it comes to practising their craft, everything that providing a service entails, and professional obligations. The new programme centres around four key themes:

**Linguistic development and translation**, which includes training on syntactic and stylistic challenges and language transfer issues.

**Specialisation**, which includes basic and more in-depth training on concepts and terminology specific to the most common areas of specialisation in the industry.

**Professional practices and management**, which covers the regulatory aspects of the profession and various aspects of business management and client relations.

**Tools and expertise**, which consists of training and talks on relevant new technologies and on the expertise inherent to the work of translators, terminologists, and interpreters.

This year, training will be provided in French and English only. However, the team plans to enrich its programme in the future and add other languages and areas of specialisation. The instructors are all seasoned professionals in their

respective fields, and some of them teach at major Canadian universities.

#### Commitment on both sides

The update to the continuing education programme is based on a simple premise: being a professional means being committed to continuously growing and learning. The alternative – as any true professional knows – is falling behind. This, of course, hinges on training opportunities being available. OTTIAQ is committed to making this happen, both for its members and the wider community.

Further, to allow language professionals to showcase their professionalism and dedication to their clients, OTTIAQ created the emblem shown here. Everyone who completes a training programme can proudly display it in their electronic signature or on social media as proof of their commitment to continuous professional development.

All courses are held online and are open to all language professionals who want



to refresh or deepen their knowledge, pick up practical tips and tricks for their work, or learn about the newest technologies in the industry. No matter where you live, you can now access OTTIAQ's professional development offerings. To learn more, visit <https://ottiaq.org/grand-public/formation/>.

## Fighting for Russian linguists' rights

Russia still lacks a certification procedure for translators and interpreters working in the courts. Judges or investigators assess the competency of court translators and interpreters on a case-by-case basis. Formal qualification assessment usually involves simply checking academic and professional credentials. When a particular linguist passes the formal assessment yet lacks the skills to do the job, such a procedure can lead to miscarriages of justice.

The Union of Translators of Russia (UTR) is investing a great deal of time and effort into changing this situation. A UTR working group has drafted amendments to the procedural legislation and proposed them for public discussion. The draft document proposes creating a single database containing information on individuals who have successfully passed a qualification examination, thereby confirming their translation or interpreting skills.

The database would be available to judges, prosecutors, lawyers, investigators, and officials of other law enforcement agencies. It would contain the up-to-date information needed to find linguists with the necessary qualifications. The draft document also details the rights and obligations of court translators, including those required to ensure high-quality work (for example, the right to demand that court and law enforcement officials give the necessary time to complete a translation). Such a system would reduce the risk of a court error due to a poor translation and generally make court proceedings more efficient.

This work has been ongoing for some time already. On 8 June



From L to R: Vadim Sdobnikov, Alexander Larin, Liudmila Obidina

2020, the UTR gathered lawyers, judges, court translators and interpreters from different countries for a discussion around the future of court translation and interpreting in Russia. The meeting was opened by FIT President Kevin Quirk.

The team behind the project would appreciate any suggestions from fellow FIT members around the world that would help support this initiative.

*Vadim Sdobnikov, Alexander Larin, Liudmila Obidina (UTR)*

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# FIT Europe going forward!

**E**lections for the new Board of FIT Europe took place on 9 September 2021, marking the end of a four-year term; one year longer than normal due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While the term of the FIT Europe Board normally coincides with that of FIT Council, it was decided that a new board in 2021 would bring renewed energy to our work, especially as Europe is slowly emerging from the pandemic.

Some of the outgoing Board's key successes and issues likely to be of continuing interest are outlined below:

The Board organised two face-to-face conferences, one on copyright and intellectual property rights for translators, another on translation and interpreting (T&I) in crisis settings. Recordings of the proceedings of the latter are available on the FIT Europe website and a chapter offering an overview of the event and the role of T&I associations in crisis settings is set to appear in a book by Bloomsbury Press later this year. While many planned events had to be cancelled due to the pandemic, the Board was quick to adapt, organising a series of webinars for translators and interpreters, and specifically for

association boards too. The topics included toxic sound and RSI, machine translation and its impact on the profession, and hype about MT and how to address it.

One event that was sadly cancelled was the launch of guidelines for continuing professional development (CPD) marking the culmination of a project with input from all associations. The annual European Language Industry Survey (ELIS), conducted in partnership with FIT Europe, has consistently highlighted the importance of CPD for our professions, and, as our professions change and develop, how cross-border, multilingual, and multi-disciplinary CPD will continue to be a key aspect of the work of T&I associations.

Over this past term, FIT Europe developed closer ties to major stakeholders in the industry: a guide on aspects of GDPR was produced in cooperation with EUATC and was launched at a joint webinar; the Chair of FIT Europe was on the organising committee of the ELIA Together conferences to ensure the voice of freelancers was represented at the events; and FIT Europe was chosen as one of the 12 select members of the newly formed European Commission Language Industry Group (LIND), which advises the Commission on T&I policy matters, proposes ideas and speaks for the Translating Europe Forum and operates as a vehicle for closer collaboration between all stakeholders in the industry. GDPR and its impact on our professions has also been a key topic for the Board since 2018. Two major surveys provided a picture of how freelance professionals and associations were implementing the Regulation; in partnership with EUATC



The new board of FIT Europe was elected on 9 September 2021. Two members of the former Board stood again for election and were re-elected (John O'Shea, Chairperson, from PEM, and Gabriella Vanzan, Vice Chair, from Assointerpreti). They are joined by Sandra Mouton, Secretary General (SFT), and Maria Galan Barrera, Treasurer (ASETRAD). Wanda Ruiz-Brunelot (SFT), who also served on the last Board, has been co-opted as President of FIT Europe Soutien for one year. Andre Lindemann (BDÜ) has been co-opted for the remainder of the current term.



and the Freeling Foundation, FIT Europe responded to the European Data Protection Board's consultation on controller and processor, highlighting the many grey areas that exist in relation to our professions. Last but not least, European Commission funding for a Translating Europe Workshop to progress this project has been obtained. The workshop will be held in early 2022. Stay tuned!

*FIT Europe* ([www.fit-europe-rc.org](http://www.fit-europe-rc.org))

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