



CenTraS Newsletter, July 2023

A few weeks ago, I was taking part in a virtual reading group on the theme of translation and philosophy. One of the other participants was a professor of philosophy at a university in the USA. In a moment of somewhat startling frankness, he confessed that he'd never understood what translation studies was about. "What is Translation Studies trying to do?" he asked. "What is the point of Translation Studies?"

Somewhat to my own surprise, I had a ready answer up my sleeve. I realised that I must have been asked this question before, though perhaps never in such a direct way. This is the answer that I gave:

People tend to assume that translating is a transparent, straightforward process: even if it's done by humans rather than machines, we still think of it as input⇒output: nothing to see here. Most of the time, no-one pays any attention to translation – and that's its secret power. Translation Studies is there to tell us that when we translate, something always happens. There is always something to see. Of course, I wasn't telling the whole story. Translation Studies also has a more vocational "point" to it: it's there to train up professional translators and interpreters, equipping them with the skills and adaptability that they need to succeed in a booming and constantly evolving industry. A lot of research in Translation Studies is also about working out how to do this well, developing tools and pedagogies that don't just respond to the industry but try and shape the way we think it should be.

CenTraS reflects this diversity of ambitions. I suppose a shorter answer to the American colleague's question might have been: have a look at the research section of our website!

I hope this newsletter gives you some taste of what Translation Studies is and why it's such an exciting place to be. Thanks for reading!




Kathryn Batchelor,
Director of the Centre for
Translation Studies

Translation for the Cultural and Heritage Sectors



This year we launched a new module introducing students to translation opportunities and challenges in the museum, libraries and archives sector. Led by Dr Mariam Aboelezz, the module included visits to the British Library and UCL's Petrie Museum. Students researched recent interventions in labelling and cataloguing, looking at issues like sensitive language and decolonisation and restitution campaigns.

Translation Technology

Translation technology continues to be a major emphasis on our MSc and MA programmes. For most students, the *Translation Technologies 1* module (covering Wordfast Anywhere (WFA) and memoQ) is compulsory, and almost all students take it. Around 50% of our cohort also take *Translation Technologies 2* (covering Trados Studio, MultiTerm and Trados Live Team), and these students also take the official Trados Studio Getting Started certification exam.



CMII0162 Translation for the Cultural and Heritage Sectors has been a wonderful journey, allowing me to explore a sector that I had never encountered before and gain practical knowledge through the museum workshops. I am considering pursuing a translator job in the Cultural Heritage sector in China.

MA student

Translation technology is integral to many of our other modules, such as Subtitling and Voiceover & Dubbing. Students can also opt to follow specialist modules in Language and Automation or Localisation.

Extra-Curricular

This year's students had opportunities to gain translation experience via collaborations with the V&A Museum and the Rare Dementia Support (RDS). Dr Olivia Cockburn, who coordinated both projects, tells us more about the collaboration with the RDS:

'Run as a simulated translation agency, the RDS project gives MA and MSc students at CenTraS a unique opportunity to practise and implement the skills they learn in their translation classes in a 'real-life' scenario. Their translations into Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Japanese, Spanish, Italian, German and French will be published on the Rare Dementia Support service website this July and will help disseminate key information on rare dementias worldwide. The project was launched in November 2021 and is currently in its second year. Other CenTraS staff involved include Dr Mariam Aboelezz, Dr Caiwen Wang and David Stockings.'



The RDS project definitely helped me secure a job. Not many people have projects like this on their CV... It shows that you can organise yourself and have a commitment to the industry... But the real benefit comes once in the world of work. As an executive in a translation agency, I manage projects daily, including for medical clients, and always refer back to my experiences on the RDS project.

MSc student, 2021-22

PhD student News

Studying for a PhD can be a long and lonely road. Post-pandemic, we've been reviving our in-person programme for PhD students with an emphasis on social gatherings! It's been great to have staff and post-docs joining us too.



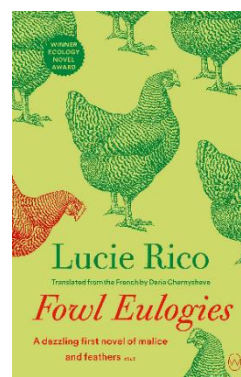
Huge congratulations to Anthony D. Mitzel, Lianda Liang, Irving Wolters, Anna Maria Cipriani and Anochao Phetcharat on the award of their PhDs since our last newsletter. Some other highlights from PhD Land:



Charlie the cat stood in for Kathryn during a remote supervision with Jing Li (writing-up year)



2nd year student Shaoqiang Zhang spent 6 months as a Visiting Scholar at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst



3rd year student Daria Chernysheva published her first full-length translation

Staff News

Welcome to Dr Xiaochun Zhang, who has joined CenTraS as Lecturer in Audiovisual Translation

Video games have become ever-present today, with thousands of deeply invested players. Localisation efforts have focused on making video games linguistically accessible to players worldwide, rather than on making games fully accessible for players with physical and cognitive impairments. Game accessibility has now become a priority in both industrial practice and academic research. Xiaochun is currently working on the **AD4Games project**, which uses audio description to make video games more accessible.



Teaching Awards: Congratulations to Prof Jorge Díaz-Cintas for winning a Provost Education Award in 2022! Congratulations also to Dr Alejandro Bolaños (Faculty Education Award, 2022). Special mention to Daniela Ford, who perhaps holds the record for being shortlisted the most times for awards of various kinds but never winning!! Colleagues who have recently gained recognition as HEA fellows include Dr Alejandro Bolaños (SFHEA), Dr Tzu-yu Lin (FHEA) and PhD student Huihuang Jia (Associate Fellowship).

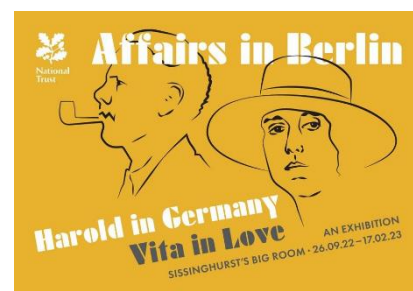
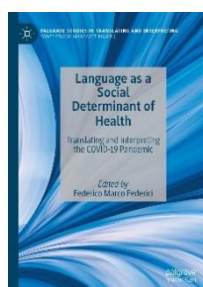
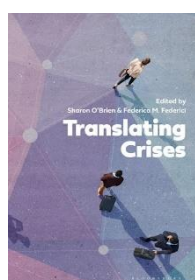
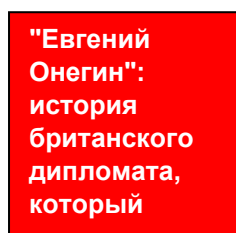
Leeideilee Ayns Cooishyn Cairys! Daniela Ford recently translated a short document from English into German for a translation agency. She writes: *'The document concluded with the words "Leeideilee Ayns Cooishyn Cairys". What language was this? I became curious. I discovered that the words are in Manx, the native language of the Isle of Man, and mean 'The Vanguard of Justice'. Pronounced a "dead language" in 1974, technology has been crucial to Manx's*

revival. Have a listen for yourself here: <https://www.globallanguageservices.co.uk/manx-language-return/> Gura mie ayd!'

Research News

Research in CenTraS reflects the breadth and variety of Translation Studies as a discipline. Whilst some of us work on history, philosophy and fairly abstract theory, other colleagues are investigating new trends in the translation of audiovisual content or researching how translation can promote inclusion in COVID vaccination campaigns (see notably Prof Federico Federici's British Academy-funded project, [STRIVE](#)). UCL is generous with 'seed' funding, i.e. smaller pots of money for developing early-stage research ideas or small projects, and these have enabled some really exciting initiatives. Most recently, Dr Rocío Baños-Piñero and Prof Jorge Díaz-Cintas have been awarded Knowledge Exchange funding from UCL's Higher Education Innovation Fund to work with [ZOO Digital](#), a UK-based provider of localisation services to the entertainment industry.

I haven't left enough space to sum up all our research here, so I'll try and give a taste with some pictures – do click through using the hyperlinks if you're interested, or have a look at the [research section of our website](#).



Alumni News

A number of alumni got in touch after receiving our 2021 newsletter (on which note, no you didn't miss one in 2022 - our students made a Yearbook instead!). It was wonderful to hear from everyone and fascinating to see how people's careers have developed. One of our alumni kindly agreed to share a more detailed update.

Maria Smulewska-Dziadosz, MA Translation Theory and Practice 2005-6



When I enrolled on UCL's MA Translation Theory and Practice in 2005 as a young translator, I was looking to gain more theoretical insight into a process I had known from the practical perspective. At the time, I had three book translations published. While studying I was also teaching Polish as a foreign language, simply as a way of supporting myself in London. Soon I realised that teaching a language and translating are linked in many ways and that experience in one of them improves my practice of the other. I guess that is why in my dissertation I explored the theme of self-translation, trying to dig into the intersection of translation theory and the question of how a multilingual mind works. Researching these topics was an unforgettable adventure.

After graduating from UCL, I went back to translating, and continued to teach Polish. I have worked for a number of Polish publishing houses and have had the pleasure of translating over 60 books. I love working with children's literature and was thrilled to be commissioned to translate *The Time-Traveling Caveman* by Terry Pratchett. I also really enjoyed working on *Moonflower Murders* by Anthony Horowitz (and I do hope Polish readers will have as much fun reading this unusual book as I had translating it). Most recently, I have been busy working on Robin Cook's medical thrillers (while gradually developing medical phobias) and tackling the even more shocking *A Molecule Away from Madness* by Sara Manning Peskin.

LinkedIn CenTraS Alumni Group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13699508/>

Twitter: @CenTraS_UCL

Website: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/european-languages-culture/research-centres/centres/translation-studies>