



CenTraS Newsletter, March 2021



“Right, kids. Try not to disturb me for the next two hours. I’m just off to Bologna.”

“Have fun. Hope the spaghetti bolognese is good.”

I walk down the stairs and into my office, closing the door firmly behind me. Computer on, headphones on, a quick check that my son’s efforts to rename me as Majestic Pumpkin have been thwarted, and I Zoom away to northern Italy. Paratexts in Audiovisual Translation Research. What happens when the disciplines of translation studies and media studies get talking?

When 2020-21 began, I have to confess that I was nervous. Although we’d moved to online teaching in March and knew we could do it well, this was different. Back then, students and staff alike had had six months to get to know each other before we all became faces on a computer screen. Now we had a new cohort of students, many joining classes from the other side of the world. How could we create an environment where students would be willing to share their ideas or ask that question that everyone else is secretly wondering about too?



I needn’t have worried. This year’s students have been nothing short of fabulous. The discussions on the online forums and in online classes have been vigorous and stimulating. Although we haven’t been able to completely make up for the many impromptu conversations and friendships that would have sprung up in the TransCluster, students have benefitted from extra technology training, and those who did travel to London had a chance to get to know each other at on-campus enrichment sessions held before Christmas. Staff have gone above and beyond. As you’ll see from this newsletter, CenTraS remains a vibrant and exciting place to be.

Back to Bologna. There’s no spag bol, of course, but although we’re supposed to be talking about translation, much of the chat is about food. We all leave with an invitation to return in person to sample *tagliatelle al ragù* once the pandemic subsides. In a year that is one of deep personal sadness over Brexit for so many of us, our collaborations with European partners and institutions continue.

(Director of the Centre for Translation Studies)

Our MSc has a new name!

The new name **MSc in Translation and Technology** emphasises the importance of technology training within all pathways of the MSc, and the wealth of technology-related research and teaching expertise within CenTraS. It also reflects our commitment to producing graduates who can respond to and influence the fast-changing shape of the translation and interpreting industries.

MA Student [Wenze Zhang](#) reflects on his first term *As a student who transferred from a STEM subject to A&H Translation studies, I was initially afraid of being overwhelmed by the wholly new field of profession, which may require loads of background knowledge and even practical working experience. But what CenTraS offers us is a completely well-scheduled teaching scheme which combines both theoretical and pragmatic modules, giving starters like me a chance to become comprehensively engaged in the studies of translation. The contents of the modules really dig into the pivotal issues of translation studies, but they are not extremely challenging for me to understand because all the module tutors have organized the learning process from the most basic groundwork to the high-level theory or practice.*

The most impressive modules for me are Language and Translation and Scientific and Technical Translation. These two modules are representative of the combination of theory and practice mentioned above. L&T provides a picture of core issues in the field of translation studies from a generally theoretical perspective, while Sci-Tech Translation gives me a chance to apply theories to practice when rendering a specific text type (for example, using the theory of cohesion and coherence to maintain lexical cohesion). The most exciting thing is that we can select a wide variety of modules across the MA/MSc programmes based on our preference (theoretical or practical), which means being a MA student doesn't deprive you of the chance of learning technology-based lessons.

I really appreciate our department's efforts in teaching, especially during this time of crisis. Sometimes I even hope time passes a bit slower so that I can better enjoy and taste the unforgettable moments in CenTraS.

Top: Dr Geraldine Brodie shows us how to make Christmas muffins at the CenTraS Christmas Party

Centre: Chinese students host the CenTraS Chinese New Year Party

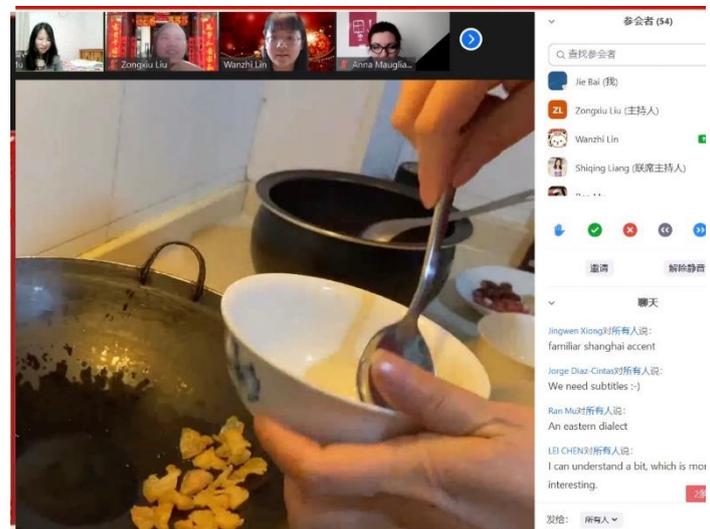
Previous page (top): Wenze Zhang with fellow students at an on-campus enrichment session in October

Previous page (centre): Kathryn Batchelor with her feline work assistant



When I started I wasn't sure whether I'd find the technology part of the course interesting, but it's really tapped into the logical, "figure it out yourself" part of my brain. The two lecturers have quite distinct teaching methods, but they're both brilliant in their respective ways.

MA student, Translation Technologies 1



I can now see that there are so many different justifications for translating in different ways depending on the context, purpose etc. and that there are also cultural and ethical implications. In other words, there is a lot to think about before you start translating that is not just to do with the words themselves.

MA student, Language and Translation



PhD student News

Our PhD students have been busy working towards their upgrades or final submissions, publishing articles, working as part-time Teaching Fellows or Postgraduate Teaching Assistants, and applying for and taking up new jobs. Particular congratulations to those who passed their vivas this autumn:

Vincenzo Alfano, *Subtitling Gender Stereotypes into English: The Case of Comedy Italian Style*, supervised by Prof. Jorge Díaz Cintas and Prof. Frederic Chaume

Alejandro Bolaños García-Escribano, *The Didactics of Audiovisual Translation in the Age of Cloud Technologies*, supervised by Prof. Jorge Díaz Cintas and Prof. Frederic Chaume

Joana Pereira, *Signed Songs in Portugal and in the UK*, supervised by Professor Bencie Woll (UCL Deafness Cognition and Language Research Centre) and Dr Geraldine Brodie (CenTraS)

Left: Alejandro's lockdown-style viva celebrations

Below right: PhD student Lydia Hayes working from home in Ireland in good company

PhD Student Publications – A Selection

Sui He, 'Cognitive Metaphor Theories in Translation Studies: Toward a dual-model parametric approach', *Intercultural Pragmatics*

Lydia Hayes, 'Netflix Disrupting Dubbing: English Dubs and British Accents', *JAT: Journal of Audiovisual Translation*

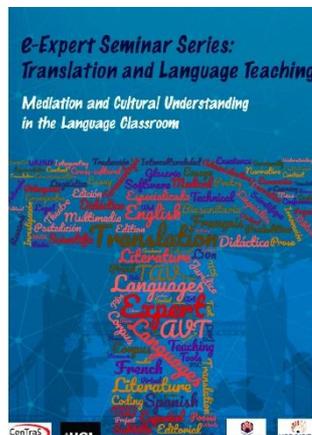
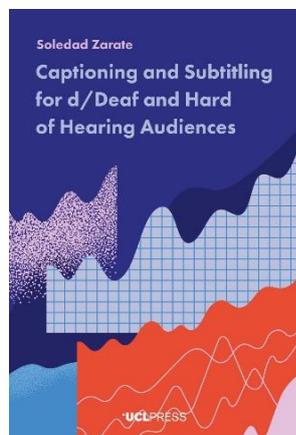
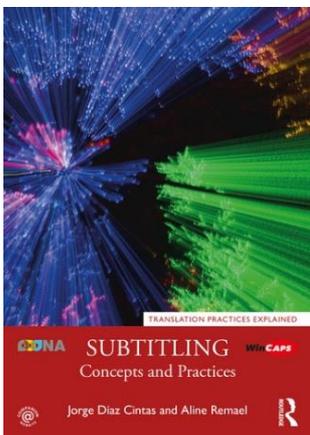
Byron Taylor, "'Untranslatable Testimony": Paul Celan in Back-translation', *Translation and Literature*

Irvin Wolters, 'Exporting the Canon: The Mixed Experience of the Dutch Bibliotheca Neerlandica' in *Translating the Literatures of Small European Nations*, edited by Rajendra Chitnis et al (Liverpool University Press)

Warm congratulations also to Callum Walker on the publication of his book *An Eye-Tracking Study of Equivalent Effect in Translation: The Reader Experience of Literary Style* (Palgrave). Callum completed his PhD at CenTraS in 2018, and is now Lecturer in Translation Technology at the University of Leeds.



New Books by CenTraS Staff



ALUMNI NEWS

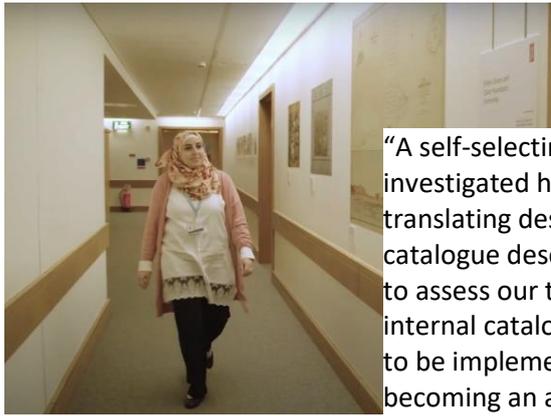
Alumni are warmly invited to CenTraS lectures and events, and are also eligible for discounts on our Short Courses (CPD). See our website for details, or follow us on Twitter.

The fast-growing CenTraS alumni network on LinkedIn is a great way to connect with peers and with fellow alumni from other years. Do join us!

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>



Dr Mariam Aboelezz is a Lecturer at CenTraS and a Translation Support Officer at the British Library. She recently won a **British Library Labs Staff Award** for a project inspired by research on decolonising the archive.

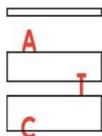
"A self-selecting team from across the [British Library / Qatar Foundation Partnership](#) investigated how we have been addressing problematic terms when cataloguing and translating descriptions in the [India Office Records](#). We created Python scripts to search catalogue descriptions and used our translation memory (in memoQ) as a bilingual corpus to assess our translation practices. This ongoing project has resulted in revising our internal cataloguing and translation guidelines. We are now aiming for the new guidelines to be implemented more widely within the British Library as part of its commitment to becoming an actively anti-racist organisation."

Dr Christophe Declercq was co-investigator for 'Tracing the Belgian Refugees', a project telling the unheard stories of Belgian refugees in the UK during the First World War, the largest influx of refugees in Britain. The work is part of the exhibition [Forced To Flee](#), currently showing at the **Imperial War Museum** (until 23 May). Records and traces of the refugees can be accessed via a [free-to-use online database](#) hosted by project partner University of Leeds. Read an Open Access article on the subject in [Refugee in a Moving World](#) (UCL press, 2020).



Belgian refugee women and girls in Croydon, no date, est. late 1914

The Crisis Translation team at CenTraS has teamed up with **YMCA Sierra Leone** to support the creation of additional translation capacity from English into Mende, Themne, Krio, Limba, and Kono. Supported by the **UN Development Programme**, the International Federation of Translators (Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs, FIT), and UCL Grand Challenges programme, the project involves an MSc graduate and two current students on the MA and MSc programme. The project aims to develop a local association of translators and interpreters to support professionalisation and enhancement of the social profile of translators, while increasing capacity to communicate risks in formats and languages that are accessible to all the communities of Sierra Leone by means of translation.



Dr Geraldine Brodie has recently been appointed Chair of [Actors Touring Company](#). ACT is a British theatre company committed to producing international plays, including plays in translation; and to touring the work of those global voices throughout the UK and beyond.

Getting to know Dr Victoria Solomonidis-Hunter

We extend our warm congratulations to **Dr Victoria Solomonidis-Hunter**, Lecturer in Translation History at CenTraS, who was elected **Fellow of the Royal Historical Society** in November 2020.

Victoria enjoyed a long and distinguished career in the Greek Foreign Service and now focuses her energies on research into the 19th c Hellenic Necropolis at West Norwood Cemetery, currently under restoration through the National Heritage Lottery Fund. Victoria recently featured in a [BBC Online documentary about the Parthenon marbles](#), recalling her work as cultural attaché alongside Melina Mercouri in 1983. Mercouri's formal demand to return the marbles to Greece forced the issue into the spotlight.

