



APTIS 2023 Speaker Guide

Wednesday (01/11/2023)

Pre-conference Workshop One:

15:00 – 16:00

Fundamentals of Becoming a Successful Freelance Translator in the Digital Age

Speaker: Ruqaya Sabeeh Al-Taie

Abstract:

The title of this workshop indicates the fact that freelancing can be considered as a novelty for beginner translators and early graduates as they lack experience on how to start their career as freelance translators. In this interactive workshop, the presenter will share her experience as a freelance translator and mainly discuss the fundamental topics for becoming a freelancer in translation such as the role of artificial intelligence tools and technology in enhancing a translator's freelancing career, in addition to the CAT tools, professional membership benefits, voluntary work and translation experience, visibility and availability, the importance of training courses, mentorship and internship, gaining job opportunities, and discussion & Q and A. This workshop is for translation staff, translation students, and graduates who master two languages and have a desire to work as self-employed translators in the future.

Consequently, the central aim of the workshop is to equip beginners in the translation market with the necessary skills to embark on their career in freelancing as an option that can be adopted after getting their BA or MA degrees in Languages/Translation.

Moreover, the workshop will also give the participants some pieces of advice on how to enter the market of translation in line with global standards for the professional translation world. The presenter recommends that more advanced workshops on freelancing in the digital age, translation technologies, CAT tools, etc are recommended, and these suggestions promote the idea that knowledge in freelancing work will enhance translators' skills and in consequence, increase their opportunities in the translation job market.

Pre-conference Workshop Two:

15:00 – 16:00

AMF Translator Training

Speaker: Aoife Marie Fitzgerald

Abstract:

AMF Translations - Translator Training works towards making budding freelance translators "ready-for-market" through facilitating the freelancer's transition and entry into the ever-competitive



freelance translation field and to also aid in their making of a business plan, growing their brand, and how to manage the pressure of running a business. AMF Translator Training is a mentoring service provided primarily online (with the intention of developing into workshop days/training courses) for individuals intending on entering into the translation industry.

This 60 minute workshop serves as a brief introduction and overview for those who may be interested in enrolling in AMF Translator Training. The workshop will be based on Weeks 2 (Your Business & Branding), Week 3 (Client Sourcing and Management) and Week 6 (Ergonomics & Wellbeing as a Freelance Translator), serving to give the attendees a foundational knowledge of what would be expected from the course.

The below outlines the Aims and Objectives of each section of the workshop.

Week 2 Aims and Objectives: Establishing your Online Presence, Building your Branding. Marketing your Services.

Week 3 Client Sourcing and Management: Sourcing Clients, Handling Clients Requests, Implementing Feedback and Managing Project Workflow/Volume.

Week 6 Ergonomics & Wellbeing: Creating a Healthy Workspace, Managing “Feast or Famine” Workload Volume, Stress Management.

Although emphasis is placed on students being “fit-for-production” in universities i.e. students enter the employment market with the appropriate skill-set and knowledge necessary for them to be a qualified translator, further professional training is necessary for them to progress with their freelance translation profession and given the necessary professional supports, systems and reinforcements in the development of their careers. AMF Translator Training serves as a bridge in this gap, and this workshop acts a “crash course” introduction for the course in its entirety.



Pre-conference Workshop Three:

16:15 – 17:15

Action Translation: Bringing crowdsourcing and MT to the translation classroom

Speaker: David Orrego-Carmona, Margherita Angelucci, Tom Bartindale and Olga Castro

Abstract:

How to prepare student translators for the 21st-century Translation and Interpreting industry has become the question that needs to be urgently addressed by Translation Studies programmes. Educators struggle to provide sustainable, authentic learning experiences within the university context that allow students to engage with the complex realities of real-world translation practice (Orrego-Carmona 2014). While interlingual transfer skills acquired from a traditional translation class are still crucial, translators nowadays need intercultural skills, technological skills and digital literacy to be competitive in the market and to advance their careers (EMT 2019).

This workshop presents Action Translate (Angelucci et al. 2023), a translation experience programme linking NGOs and community organisations with student volunteer translators. Through this programme, translation students contribute to real-world projects, helping partner organisations to translate content that would otherwise remain untranslated. The benefits of the programme are twofold: providing students with an authentic learning experience and making NGO content more accessible to wider audiences across the world. Previous iterations of the programme were carried out in the context of the Monash-Warwick Alliance between Monash University (Australia) and the University of Warwick (UK) in partnership with large international organisations, including the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat.

Action Translate utilises a purpose-built digital infrastructure that leverages CAT tools and neural machine translation to translate both text-based and multimedia content. The platform incorporates collaborative features such as a live chat, shared glossaries and comment functionality. Content is segmented using a CAT tool and then machine translated. MT outputs go through a two-step verification process, where two different volunteers check them for accuracy and other issues.

Participating students are provided with initial training on basic translation approaches, machine translation post-editing, collaborative translation practices, localisation and subtitling, which is tailored to their level and pre-existing knowledge. Playing different roles in the workflow, students can be actively involved in all phases of the programme, from sourcing and importing the source content to MT post-editing, revision and exporting the final translation. Deeper student involvement serves to maximise the authenticity of the learning experience and makes the programme more sustainable and less dependent on staff.

The use of an existing purpose-built online platform makes the model easily adaptable and enables students across institutions in different countries to work together remotely, replicating collaborative work models used by language professionals in the T&I industry.

The programme can be set up in different configurations to suit diverse contexts and pedagogical goals. It can be used as a volunteering experience, as an introduction to translation or to consolidate language skills. Action Translate can support translation technologies, collaborative translation, and



project management skills, and it is effective in Collaborative International Learning (COIL) projects to support cross-cultural exchange and professional development.

This workshop offers an opportunity to explore how Action Translate can support authentic learning in translation training and how educators can integrate it into their educational programmes to better equip student translators with the essential skills required to thrive in the modern language industry.



Pre-conference Workshop Four:
16:15 – 17:15

Inclusive Translation: Strategies for the cultural heritage sector

Speaker: Mariam Aboelezz

Abstract:

As front-facing cultural institutions in a globalised world, galleries, libraries, archives and museums, cater increasingly to multilingual audiences. There is a translator behind every multilingual museum sign we see; every audio description in another language; every bilingual library catalogue. However, there is a significant gap in translator training programmes for the unique challenges faced by translators in the cultural heritage sector.

The translations that, say, a museum goer encounters are layered texts that carry several levels of interpretation. The primary object or material itself – be it a painting, a sculpture, or an archival record – is an interpretation of the world that is situated in a certain culture and historical period, and intended for a particular audience. When deposited in a museum, these objects are decontextualised and it is left to the museum curator to interpret and recontextualise them. This curatorial interpretation is also culturally, historically and linguistically situated, as is the ultimate translation into another language. Understanding this mediated nature of translation in the cultural heritage sector, particularly the gatekeeping implications, must form a central part of translator training.

Another crucial part of preparing translators for work in the cultural heritage sector is introducing them to the ethical considerations of the process. Many cultural heritage institutions in the global north are entangled in a colonial legacy which has deposited into the care of today's museum curator artefacts whose very presence there is testament to material or symbolic violence inflicted against other peoples. Likewise, it has passed down into the hands of the library archivist supremacist narratives which unashamedly document these acts of violence. The ethical responsibility to decolonise such collections has become an increasing expectation in the UK and beyond (Bennett 2020; Chilcott et al. 2021).

Over the past few years, political events and campaigning have given impetus to efforts to interrogate long-accepted historical narratives and framings of cultural heritage in collections held by former colonising countries. Efforts to confront colonial legacies in descriptions of cultural heritage collections have come to be known by many names, most notably inclusive description (Perera 2020).

The linguistic considerations of inclusive description are equally relevant for translation; translators can no longer afford to be left out of this conversation. This workshop will introduce participants to the concept of inclusive translation, and equip them with some discourse analytical tools to critically and consciously approach the process of translating texts from the cultural heritage sector. Using samples from catalogue descriptions and museum labels, I will be drawing on my experience in developing guidance for inclusive translation at the British Library (Woodbridge et al. 2022), and convening a module on translation for the cultural and heritage sectors at University College London.



By the end of the workshop, participants will have a better understanding of the ethical responsibilities of mediators in cultural heritage institutions and a heightened awareness of their own agency as translators. They will also be able to critically evaluate linguistic choices, both in English and in their working language(s), and to apply these skills to their translation work.