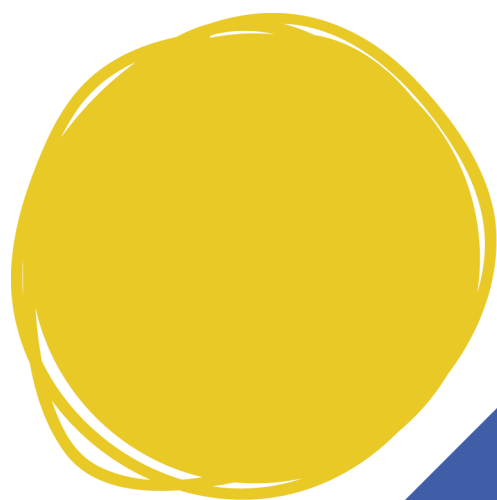


ITIA

Bulletin

2022 / 03

Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association
Cumann Aistritheoirí agus Ateangairí na hÉireann



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Editorial

After a not-too-long and, at times, very hot summer break the ITIA executive committee has resumed its activities which includes plans for the coming year.

For starters, the ITIA will hold its 36th Annual General Meeting on 8th October. It was decided to hold the meeting online for the third year running as this allows our members to attend from wherever they are based and the more participation we have the better for us all. The downside is, as with so many virtual events, that we don't get to catch up with those colleagues we already know nor do we have the opportunity to meet our new members. Let's see what next year brings.

CPD also figures high on the to-do list and our first offering on 24th September is a webinar on note-taking for interpreters with Sophie Llewellyn Smith, conference interpreter and interpreter trainer. Later on in the autumn we are planning at least three more CPD sessions covering a wide range of translation and interpreting topics we haven't offered to date: translating playable texts/video games, an introduction to using tablets for note-taking and a workshop on a free concordance software programme, given by the developer. If all goes to plan, members will be informed in advance of dates and times. All the speakers are specialists in their field with many years of experience so we would encourage all to join us for what should be time well spent. There will be no charge for members so we recommend early booking.

Our Members' Corner contributor for this issue of the Bulletin is [Penny Eades Alvarez](#), ITIA PM and CLT who translates from French and Spanish and who has just recently retired as Honorary Vice Consul of Spain for the southeast of Ireland. Penny's career trajectory brought her from Cork, to Paris, to Madrid and back to Co. Tipperary.

ITIA members and Bulletin readers will be aware that, as part of our strategy to broaden our reach, ITIA became a ratified member of AVTE in May of

this year. UCC lecturer, [Dr Hannah Silvester](#), also works in this area and among her various activities to raise awareness of AV translators, she has set up a blog/webpage to try to encourage people working in AV translation to come together. Her article should shine a light on this highly specialised area of translation.

On a different note, rather disappointingly, the ITIA executive committee has had to take action in relation to breaches of the Association's Code of Ethics. Just as in any profession, if a member does not adhere to the code of professional ethics, which they agree to sign up to when their application is accepted, this can only taint all ITIA members, to everyone's disadvantage. ITIA Chair, [Mary Phelan](#), provides an explanation of issues that have arisen in recent years in her article.

[Maya Hess](#), Red T founder, who featured in the [Bulletin](#) in 2021, has, with other translator and interpreter associations as well as representatives of the international and German language community, written a very powerful letter to German ministers about the situation for interpreters in Mali should German troops, part of the UN MINUSMA mission, leave that country.

The regular [Snippets column](#) covers an update on the 7th ITIA translation competition for secondary school students and a recent initiative for interpreters in healthcare settings to achieve micro-credentials. For those members who are considering adding to their professional credentials, read about times and dates for exams and webinars for both ITIA PM and CLT exams.

The ITIA Ex Comm looks forward to seeing you all at the AGM and wishes everyone the best for the coming autumn.

Anne Larchet
Editor

Members' Corner



Penelope Eades Alvarez is Chair of the ITIA Certification Sub-Committee. She is an ITIA CLT, free-lance translator and language consultant (ES & FR > EN)

1. Describe yourself professionally in a few lines.

With over thirty years' experience as a freelance translator, I could probably best describe myself as a veteran of the trade! I'm an ITIA Certified Legal Translator and in addition to legal translation my areas of special interest are architecture and related fields, such as engineering, art and history. I mainly translate from Spanish and French into English.

2. When and why did you decide on a career in translating/interpreting?

Rather than a conscious decision, it was my great love of languages that guided my career-path. I can still vividly recall first-year French classes in secondary school. Our teacher was truly inspirational and she it was who introduced us to a different culture, a different world, that of 'la belle France'. I was also privileged to have parents who were convinced of the benefits of language learning, and so I was packed off on my own at the age of just 13 to spend part of my summer holidays in a large French family. That stay and subsequent exchanges opened up a new world, and I was hooked!! Not surprisingly I opted to study German when the opportunity arose the following year. Later on at university where I studied French and German, one of my favourite modules was translation. Once I finished my language studies in UCC, I lived and worked abroad for two decades. It was in Paris as a fairly recent recruit of Tourism Ireland that I had my first foray into the world of interpreting. On the occasion of the World Tourism Fair we received the official visit of a junior minister, who was to make a speech on opening day. No one had thought of hiring an interpreter, so I was elected to carry out the task. I must confess that the minister's delivery was singularly uninspiring, but I, full of youthful

enthusiasm, was determined to get a positive message across to the French audience. I believe this was my first tangible realisation of the importance and the power of being able to convey the message from one audience to another through a different language.

3. Name the most important thing you did that helped you launch your career.

In 1982, in post-Franco Spain I joined a group of some 40 foreigners with a common mission: to inform the rest of the world what was going on in Spain. To our Spanish colleagues we were 'los exóticos', the exotic ones, the translators and broadcasters of Radio Exterior de España, Spain's external radio service operating from Madrid. Working in a team alongside translators of different nationalities with a very high degree of fluency in two or more languages was an exhilarating environment and my own fluency and translating abilities grew enormously.

4. How important are training and qualifications for a career in translating?

Extremely important, I would say. In my own case there was no specific translation degree available at the time. Nevertheless, I was lucky enough to avail of an excellent training programme and expert guidance when I worked at Spanish Radio. Nowadays I would encourage all budding young translators to achieve the relevant qualifications as a starting point; however practice and experience are essential to becoming a good translator.

On my return to Ireland, joining the ITIA was hugely important. Apart from the obvious benefits of CPD, networking, professional recommendations and engaging with my peers, it also afforded me the possibility to sit for and pass the ITIA professional and certified translation exams, a welcome endorsement of my status as a translator.

5. How do you find clients?

I have a number of regular clients and through them I get a lot of referrals, so mostly they find me nowadays.

6. Do you think it is necessary to specialise?

I think it's extremely important to specialise, to have a subject area in which you stand out from the crowd. This is something that doesn't happen overnight. It requires a good deal of hard work, understanding the concepts and becoming familiar with the particular language of your chosen area.

7. What is your favourite type of text/assignment?

I started out translating for a Spanish firm of architects more than twenty years ago. I particularly enjoyed the work and began buying books on architecture and architectural terms, so I was well prepared when more work came my way. One thing led to another and I now have a large pool of clients in the field. Of course, whatever the subject, favourite texts will always be the ones that are well-written. Sadly, that is not always the case and careless writing, obscure ideas and ill-presented texts can be a real headache for a translator. In recent years I have been doing more editing and proof-reading, an area I find particularly satisfying.

8. What is the best/worst thing about being a translator?

There are so many rewarding aspects to our work, not least of which is that sense of achievement when you manage to perfectly convey thoughts and ideas that are not easily transferred from one language to

another. The craft of a good translator is creating a voice, not the author's original voice, but its equivalent and that's a challenge so many of us enjoy in our daily work. Not only that, as translators and intermediaries between different language systems and cultures, our work connects us to many and varied topics, opening the door to the understanding and appreciation of other people, other ideas and other worlds.

'I think it's extremely important to specialise'

As a freelancer, learning to cope with the ebb and flow of work can be trying. How often have we heard translators say 'it's either a feast or a famine'? Perhaps worst of all is being faced with almost impossible deadlines.

9. Is it possible to have a good standard of living?

While plenty of translators/interpreters manage to earn a good steady income, there are wide variations. As a freelance translator it can be difficult to achieve a guaranteed income, which is why many freelance translators turn to teaching to supplement their incomes. In my time I've done part-time university teaching, voice-overs (definitely a more lucrative activity!) and even accounts management, but without ever giving up on my work as a translator.

10. What advice would you give someone thinking of embarking on a career as a translator?

If you are passionate about languages, then follow your instinct! Spending time working in-house with a reputable agency may well be a good kick-start to your career. Do your research, join associations, take advice and network as much as possible. The ITIA offers an excellent mentoring programme, which is something I would have loved to have had the opportunity to avail of in my early years.

A Shared Interest in Audiovisual Translation: Building SubComm, a Global Community of Practice



Hannah Silvester lectures in French and Translation Studies at University College Cork. She researches linguistic variation, research methods, and working conditions in AVT.

The Backstory

My interest in audiovisual translation began during my degree in French with Hispanic Studies. I went on to complete an MA, studying aspects of translation more broadly, along with the theory and practice of subtitling. After that, I was still curious about the subtitling of subculture and linguistic variation in French films, and decided to study the topic for a PhD. I soon realised that I knew very little about the situation in which these films were subtitled: who translated them? How much time did they have? What guidance were they given, if any, in relation to the tricky linguistic nature of the films? What I could find in the literature varied quite a bit. I needed to go to the source – the subtitlers themselves. What I learned about the French subtitling context in general, and the ways in which translators worked on these films in particular, was quite different to other experiences I had learned of. The insight offered by professionals was invaluable, and I did not want to stop there!

Introducing SubComm

I met Dr Tiina Tuominen towards the end of my PhD, she works on subtitling in the Finnish context. We soon realised that we shared an interest in working with practitioners. We wanted to continue involving subtitlers in our research, but we wanted to do something bigger. We wanted to create something that would be beneficial for all interested in subtitling, something reciprocal and dialogic, a community in which we could all be equally invested. This is where our initiative SubComm comes in. What we want to do is form a global network of stakeholders with an interest in subtitling, so that we can all support one another in

our research and practice. For instance, what kinds of topics would subtitlers like us to research? In some cases, we may already be doing the research, but perhaps we're not very good at sharing it in a way that speaks to practitioners, or in a format with which they are able to engage. How can we find subtitlers who might be keen to

'The insight offered by professionals was invaluable'

participate in our research projects? How can we help everyone to find out more about working practices and industry standards around the globe? There is surely something to learn from how people work in different country-contexts. As academics, we have more time to dedicate to this kind of engagement, to support subtitlers in creating space for discussion and connection, and in accessing opportunities for continuing professional development.

What have we done so far?

We began with a scoping questionnaire, to which some ITIA members will have responded. We wanted to find out more about subtitlers in the UK and Ireland – what your interests were and how we could help you. We co-guest edited a special issue of the Journal of Audiovisual Translation.

'Sharing Knowledge Between Academia and the Industry: Audiovisual Translation Research for Practice' was published late last year, and with it, we tried to share AVT research in a way that might speak to practitioners. We also published an article within the issue, sharing our vision for SubComm. We launched the SubComm website, Twitter and LinkedIn pages, creating more ways for us all to connect with one another. The website features blog posts on research in AVT and on our aims and the events we have organised. Finally, we have held a couple of online events – most recently the first in our 'Subtitle Chats' series, a Friday-afternoon informal chat with a pre-agreed conversation-starter topic. These are designed to give us all the opportunity to find out more about one another and to connect.

What's Next?

In relation to Ireland specifically, Mariana Ciocca Alves Passos and I have been discussing how we can work together, and how I can support her in her new role as ITIA rep to AVTE. In the first instance, we are keen to make contact with ITIA members who work with AVT. I am hopeful that we can have an in-person event in the not-too-distant future, so that we can meet and discuss our goals and interests over a cup of coffee. For SubComm more broadly, our next 'Subtitle Chat' will take place on Friday 21st October, and Tiina and I will be sharing our plans and looking for feedback at the *Languages and the Media* conference in Berlin in November. If you're planning to attend, do come and say hi!

How can you get involved?

Follow us on [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#)
Check out the [SubComm Website](#)

Join the mailing list by contacting projectsubcomm@gmail.com.



Red T Open Letter



OPEN LETTER

PROTECTING TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS WORLDWIDE



August 2022

Ms. Christine Lambrecht, Federal Minister of Defense
Ms. Annalena Baerbock, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Ms. Nancy Faeser, Federal Minister of the Interior and Community



Re: A Beacon of Light for Interpreters in Mali

Dear Ministers,

The undersigned representatives of the international and German language community, together with their humanitarian partners, are deeply concerned about the safety of our colleagues in Mali. Engaged locally to provide a critical service as civilian interpreters/cultural liaisons for German troops of the UN MINUSMA mission, they worked at great personal risk to themselves and their families. Now, with the withdrawal of French peacekeepers and the seemingly imminent withdrawal of your country's soldiers, this risk rises exponentially as regional volatility and security challenges mount.



Local insurgent groups affiliated with al-Qaeda and Islamic State are active in central and northern Mali. With the majority of your troop contingent based in Gao, leaving the local personnel behind would endanger their lives. We understand that your country is currently employing 59 interpreters/ Locally Employed Civilians (LECs - Ortskräfte). To guarantee their safety, we urge you to extract all of them and their families prior to full withdrawal.



It is imperative that the chaotic exit from Afghanistan not be repeated; a speaker of the Bundeswehr operational command has expressed a similar sentiment. The lives of all LECs must be protected. Moreover, we believe that exhibiting duty of care, coupled with an actionable plan for resettlement, will serve as a beacon to other MINUSMA troop-contributing countries.



Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Maya Hess, President, Red T

Jennifer Fearnside-Bitsios, President, International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC)

Linda Fitchett, Chair, AIIC Conflict Zone Group

Alison Rodriguez, President, International Federation of Translators (FIT)

Aurora Humarán, President, International Association of Professional Translators and Interpreters (IAPTI)



Cont'd

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New York

OPEN LETTER

PROTECTING TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS WORLDWIDE

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aiic

aiic.org
Geneva

Angela Sasso, President, Critical Link International (CLI)

Christopher Stone, President, World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI)

Bart Defrancq, President, Conférence Internationale Permanente d'Instituts Universitaires de Traducteurs et Interprètes (CIUTI)



fit-ift.org
Paris

Sue-Ann Harding, President, and Cristina Marinetti, Chair of the Executive Council, International Association of Translation and Intercultural Studies (IATIS)

Lucio Bagnulo, Head of Translation and Language Strategy, Language Resource Centre, International Secretariat, Amnesty International

Romana Cacchioli, Executive Director, PEN International

Urtzi Urrutikoetxea, Chair, Translation and Linguistic Rights Committee, PEN International

Genny Brusegan Conte, President, European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters (EFSLI)

Daniela Perillo, President, European Legal Interpreters and Translators Association (EULITA)

Lieven Buysse, President, European Network for Public Service Interpreting and Translation (ENPSIT)

Anne Berres, Regional Secretary, AIIC Deutschland

Norma Kessler, President, Bundesverband der Dolmetscher und Übersetzer e.V. (BDÜ)

John O'Shea, Chair, FIT Europe

Marcus Grotian, Chair, Patenschaftsnetzwerk Afghanische Ortskräfte e.V.

Josef Haslinger, President, and Claudia Guderian, Secretary, PEN-Zentrum Deutschland

Günter Burkhardt, Executive Director, PRO ASYL



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Ethics and the ITIA



Mary Phelan is director of the Centre for Translation and Textual Studies at Dublin City University and chairperson of the Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association

When new members join the ITIA, they sign a declaration stating that they agree to abide by the ITIA Constitution and the ITIA Codes of Conduct. The ITIA Constitution includes a section on Sanctions which gives the Executive Committee authority to impose a verbal warning, a written warning, suspension of membership or expulsion from the Association. Whenever a serious matter comes to the attention of the Executive Committee, in accordance with our Constitution, the Chairperson convenes a meeting involving three members of the Executive Committee and invites the member to attend, usually online, on their own or with another ITIA member. The member has the opportunity to explain themselves at the meeting. Members also have a right to appeal. The focus is usually on complaints about translators' work, something that we take very seriously.

The ITIA Executive Committee has put a lot of work into setting up annual examinations (a) for professional membership and (b) for professional members who wish to become ITIA certified legal translators. We encourage Associate Members to apply to take the examinations for professional membership, and if interested in legal translation, to apply to take the examinations to become ITIA Certified Legal Translators. We find it most disappointing that some Associate Members are willing to provide certified translations to clients and in some cases even claim to be 'certified translators' or 'sworn translators' when this is not in fact the case.

'Complaints have focused mainly on certified translation'

In recent years, the complaints we have received have focused mainly on certified translation. For example, a very dissatisfied client wrote to us about the translation of a university transcript provided by an ITIA Associate Member. We contacted a professional translator based outside

Ireland who worked in the same language combination. That translator submitted a detailed report highlighting issues such as omissions, untranslated information and poor translation. We found that the complaint was totally justified and the Associate Member in question was expelled from the Association.

In another case, the client did not actually complain but queried the translator's membership category and sent an example of a certified translation provided by the ITIA Associate Member. We were shocked to see a translation that looked to all intents and purposes as if it had been provided by the ITIA itself. The document was on what looked like headed ITIA notepaper with an array of stamps, something that involved preparation and expense. Once again, the Associate Member was expelled from the ITIA.

Applications for membership are carefully read. Anyone applying for membership of the ITIA is asked to provide an up to date CV. We are often surprised to read that applicants, according to their CV, are already ITIA members. We find this unacceptable and do not grant membership in such cases.

We note that ethics is also an issue for some translation companies. One translation company continues to claim to be a Corporate Member of the ITIA even though this particular membership category was terminated eight years ago in 2014. The ITIA has no Corporate Members. Some clients have contacted us because they have been told by particular translation companies that the companies are recognised by the ITIA and the clients want to verify if this is the case. The ITIA does not 'recognise' any translation companies.

To sum up, the ITIA Executive Committee takes ethical matters seriously, investigates complaints, and when necessary imposes sanctions up to and including expulsion from the Association.

Snippets

ITIA Translation Competition

The ITIA 7th annual translation competition for secondary school students' entry deadline closed on 4th May. For some as yet-to-be-established reason, there were only 49 entries for this year's competition, compared with 191 entries in 2021 and 112 in 2020, much to our disappointment. In 2020, Chinese, Lithuanian, Polish and Portuguese were added as curricular languages for those taking the Leaving Certificate in 2022. With this in mind, we introduced Portuguese for the first time but didn't receive any entries for this language nor for Polish.

The breakdown by language for the 2022 entries were:

Chinese: 4
French: 12
German: 7
Irish: 10
Italian: 6
Japanese: 1
Polish: 0
Portuguese: 0
Spanish: 9

Training for interpreters in a medical setting

Much has been written in both the national and international press in recent years about the varying standards, and indeed lack of standards, of interpreters who work in community settings, courts and hospitals. As a first step in trying to tackle this issue, the University of Limerick has set up a course in [Communication and Interpreting in the Irish Healthcare System](#). It is part-time over 6 weeks, with the first session in person and the rest online and offers micro-credentials at NQF Level 7. The course will provide specialist knowledge for interpreting in healthcare settings and the specifics of the Irish health care system with attention to refugees and migrants' entitlement to healthcare.

ITIA exams

It's that time of year again and the ITIA subcommittees are busy preparing for the Professional Member (PM) and ITIA Certified Legal Translator (CLT) exams.

The mandatory online workshop for those considering applying for the PM exam will take place on the 5th November 2022 and the applications should be sent in by 25th November 2022. The exams are scheduled for the 17th and 18th February 2023. Any member interested in learning about the exam process is also welcome to attend the workshop free of charge.

The CLT online workshop, which is mandatory for all exam applicants (and not open to all), will be held on the 22nd October 2022 with the exams taking place on the 3rd November 2022.

Members will receive notification over the coming weeks.

As always, we encourage members to consider taking the step to further professional qualifications and by attending the workshops, any questions or doubts will be addressed.

What's HOT

Thursday 7th July 2022 marked Kiswahili Language Day, a UN organised language celebration of an African language, now one of the world's 10 most spoken languages with 200 million speakers. Many Africans speak a number of languages, most commonly their own tribal language, the language of their coloniser and another more broadly spoken language, such as Swahili. Literary prizes, university courses, government policies and UNESCO recognition in particular have all contributed, in this instance, to a rosy future for the language.

Worth-a-click

Following on the African theme, [this link](#) is a podcast/interview in Asymptote, with the Ethiopian translator and interpreter Bethlehem Attfeld who talks about how her career path brought her to literary translation. Her post-grad university studies showed up the paucity of Amharic supervisors to correct her work and also how very little translation of vernacular African literature there is. [Asymptote](#) is an award-winning journal covering all aspects of world literature in translation which publishes a daily updated blog, a fortnightly newsletter and a monthly podcast.

The Chartered Institute of Linguists produces a very fine bimonthly [journal](#) covering translation, interpreting, language teaching and learning and many other language related topics. The article on page 20 of the latest issue is written by the Nigerian translator and interpreter, Kólá Túbosún, who tells readers about his translation of Murakami poems into Yorubá via English. Maybe relay translation has a place?

What's NOT HOT

CEATL (Conseil Européen des Associations de Traducteurs Littéraires) recently published a [legal survey](#), mapping the legal situation of literary translators in Europe. Among its many very interesting results was the sad fact that, despite the Digital Single Market (DSM) directive coming into effect in 2019, many literary translators still have to battle for fees and royalty percentages and other rights. Fees vary widely and wildly in Europe with literary translators in Romania being offered €3.26 per 1,800 keystrokes compared with their colleagues in Iceland who can be offered up to €35.25 for the same amount of work. Oh dear!

In line with the news in the What's Hot feature, it is fitting that the African Union, which represents 55 African countries, has finally added an African language, Swahili, to the other official AU languages - Arabic, French, Portuguese and Spanish. The author, Victor Oladokun, offers seven suggestions for combatting linguistic genocide in his article in [New African magazine](#).

New Members

New Associate Members (June to August 2022)

Paola Bigli

English into Italian

Andrea Brown

English into Irish
French into English

Erin Burns

English into Irish
Irish into English

Aoife Fitzgerald

English into Irish
French into English

Kseniia Magan

English into Russian
Russian into English

Victoria Moroz

English into Ukrainian
Ukrainian into English

Liping Xiong

English into Chinese (Mandarin)
Chinese (Mandarin) into English

New Student Members (June to August 2022)

Anne Mozzato

Xinsun Wang

Joining the ITIA

The Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association is pleased to welcome new members to the association. We currently have the following categories of membership:

- Professional
- Associate
- Student
- Honorary

Professional Membership is awarded to translators or interpreters who meet the strict criteria of the ITIA based on qualification and level of experience.

Applicants must also achieve a PASS in the annual Professional Membership Examination (translator or interpreter) set by the ITIA.

Associate Membership may be granted to holders of a third-level qualification in translation and/or interpreting and/or languages or to holders of a third-level qualification with relevant experience.

Student Membership is available to persons undertaking undergraduate studies in any discipline or those undertaking postgraduate studies in translation or interpreting.

Honorary Membership is awarded by the ITIA AGM to persons in Ireland or abroad who have distinguished themselves in the field of translation and interpreting.

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