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# ITIA BULLETIN

May 2010

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Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association  
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## ■ Editorial

Dear Readers,  
Welcome to the May edition of the ITIA Bulletin.

Starting work as a translator or interpreter might be challenging. Fresh graduates who embark on a career in the industry as freelancers will find themselves not only translating or interpreting, but also dealing with a whole lot of other activities such as invoicing or marketing their business. To find answers to some questions on how to set up as a translator or interpreter, come to the ITIA event on the 22nd of May. See the details below.

Also in this month's issue is the report written by Michael J McCann who has been awarded one of the first online MA's in Specialist Translation by the Universities of Bari, Genova and Pisa.

As usual, we include a selection of event announcements.

**Gosia Emanowicz**  
Editor ITIA Bulletin  
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## ■ Workshop on Literary Translation

WITH ROS SCHWARTZ

Ros will be leading a hands-on workshop exploring the intricacies of literary translation. The text will be from a French novel, but a knowledge of French is not essential as a draft translation will be provided. The focus will be on exploring the challenges raised by the text and honing the English.

### The tutor:

Ros Schwartz MITI. A freelance translator since 1981, Ros Schwartz has translated a wide range of fiction and non-fiction from French, including novels by Aziz Chouaki, Fatou Diome, Jacqueline Harpman, Sébastien Japrisot and Yasmina Khadra. She co-translated *Lorraine Connection* by Dominique Manotti which won the 2008 *Duncan Lawrie International Dagger* award. Chair of the European Council for Literary Translators Associations (CEATL) from 2001-2009, years, she has just been made a *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres*.

*Date/venue:* 20 June 2010, 10 am to 1 pm, Irish Writers' Centre, 19 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. *Cost:* €30 for ITIA members (or members of a FIT association) and €50 for non-members; €15 for ITIA student members. For booking form please see: <http://tinyurl.com/y3wownw>.

For further details please contact Annette at: [cpd.itia\(a\)gmail.com](mailto:cpd.itia(a)gmail.com)

## ■ Starting out as a Translator or Interpreter

This one-day event is aimed at newcomers to the profession and those thinking of embarking on a career as a translator or interpreter. It consists of talks, panel discussions and presentations.

You will hear about:

- ◆ the skills and knowledge required to be a professional translator or interpreter
- ◆ working freelance for a translation company
- ◆ CAT tools
- ◆ pricing / quoting / invoicing
- ◆ literary translation
- ◆ setting up as a translator or interpreter
- ◆ addressing the dilemma of no experience, no work
- ◆ and much more.....

All welcome, this event is free!

*Date/place:* Saturday, 22 May 2010, 10.15 am to 4.30 pm, IWC, 19 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. Please send an email to Annette at [cpd.itia\(a\)gmail.com](mailto:cpd.itia(a)gmail.com) if you would like to attend, as we need an idea of numbers in order to arrange refreshments.

## ■ Translators needed for research study

We are three researchers based at Dublin City University. We are seeking suitably skilled professional translators who would be interested in volunteering about 2 hours of their time to participate in a research study, which would take place at DCU. All volunteers will be compensated for their time in the form of a book voucher to the value of 75 Euro. This research will involve translating a general text from German to English using a TM and Trados 2007. While working, an eye tracker would record your eye movements. This is completely non-invasive! The eye tracker looks just like a normal computer monitor. The participants will also be asked to answer a retrospective questionnaire relating to translation preferences when using SDL Trados software. We anticipate it would take no longer

than 1.5 to 2 hours and we can accommodate different times/availabilities. Translators participating in this research should have the following skills:

- ◆ Native speaker of English
- ◆ Fluent German
- ◆ Work as a professional translator
- ◆ Have experience using SDL Trados 2007
- ◆ Have knowledge of how to use or be a user of the concordance function during translation
- ◆ Be able to touch-type (preferably - but if you look at the keyboard a little bit, this is also ok)

If you would like to participate in this research, please contact Marian Flanagan at the following e-mail address asap just to express your interest: [marian.flanagan23\(a\)mail.dcu.ie](mailto:marian.flanagan23(a)mail.dcu.ie), and we will contact you directly with further information.

## ■ Style Matters

*A WORKSHOP WITH ROS SCHWARTZ AND CHRIS DURBAN*

The ability to produce polished prose, no matter how uneven the original text, is one factor distinguishing top-end translators able to command high fees from bulk providers and bottom feeders.

Silk purse from sow's ear? Yes. With a definite payback: translators adopting this approach and honing these skills can develop rewarding, long-term relationships with loyal customers, charge higher rates and negotiate deadlines that suit them. Part of the challenge lies in winning clients' trust and having the confidence to see yourself as a writer rather than as a humble servant.

Participants in this one-day practical workshop led by Chris Durban and Ros Schwartz will tackle different types of text where the emphasis is on stylistic quality. The nuts and bolts of good writing will be examined, along with concrete suggestions for raising client awareness of this essential added value.

Most examples will come from French, but knowledge of the source language will not be required as the focus will be on writing good, clear English. NB: This workshop is aimed at practising translators translating into English.

### The tutors:

*Chris Durban* FITI is a freelance translator based in Paris, producing publication-level texts for the foreign

shareholders, customers and partners of French corporations and institutions. Her client-education column "The Onionskin" runs in the ITI bulletin and she co-authors a business advice column (Fire Ant & Worker Bee) in the online Translation Journal. Chris is a member of the American Translators Association and has recently stepped down as president of the Société française des traducteurs.

*Ros Schwartz* MITI. A freelance translator since 1981, she has translated a wide range of novels and non-fiction works from French as well as running a translation company specializing in marketing and promotional literature. She frequently publishes articles and gives workshops and talks on the art of translation. She was Chair of the European Council of Literary Translators Associations (CEATL) from 2001-2009 and of the British Centre for Literary Translation Advisory Panel. She has just been made a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

- ◆ *Date/venue:* 19 June 2010, 10 am to 5.30 pm, Irish Writers' Centre, 19 Parnell Square, Dublin 1
- ◆ *Cost:* €70 ITIA members (and members of FIT associations); €90 non-members; €35 students/concession. Includes lunch and refreshments.
- ◆ For booking form please see: <http://tinyurl.com/y3wownw>
- ◆ For further details please contact Annette at: [cpd.itia\(a\)gmail.com](mailto:cpd.itia(a)gmail.com)

## ■ 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
- ◆ Corporate
- ◆ Institutional
- ◆ 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* is available to translators and interpreters who are starting out on their careers and to those who do not work full-time as a translator or interpreter. Many members avail of Associate Membership until such time as they have acquired the requisite experience and/or qualifications to apply for Professional Membership. Associate Membership is also availed of by people with a professional interest in the professions of translation and interpreting (e.g. terminologists, translation/interpreting tutors etc.) and by those who have a general interest in these professions.

*Corporate Membership* is available to translation companies. As this category is currently under review, we are not accepting applications at the moment.

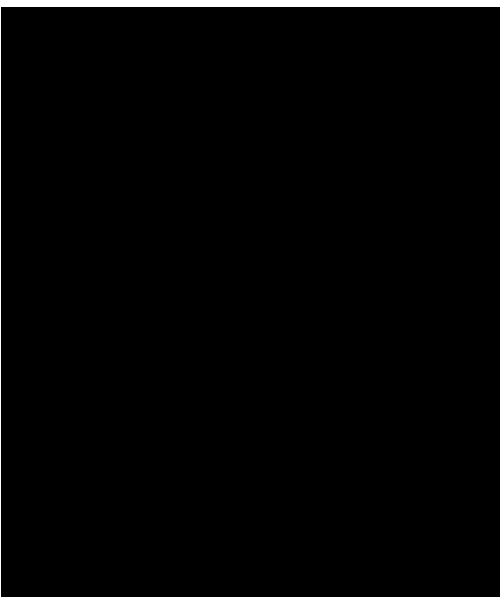
*Institutional Membership* is available to bodies that do not function as commercial agencies, for example university centres for translation and interpreting studies or cultural institutes. Application documents for Institutional membership are currently being prepared.

*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 or interpreting.

For further details and application forms, please see our website at <http://tinyurl.com/y65bgtb>

## New Associate Members



4 Rinawade Rise



## ■ New Italian MA in specialist translation

In late 2007, an Italian consortium — *ICoN* — (Italian Culture on the Net) — with the assistance of the EU Commission put together an online masters in specialist translation. Originally the thought was, it appears, to offer the course over 1 year, as a full-time course, and over 2 years part-time. The original course was to be offered from German, French and English to Italian, and specifically for Italians living outside the patria, but not aimed at excluding foreigners who might have a fluency in the language. The final MA degree would be awarded jointly by the Universities of Bari, Genova and Pisa from where 16 lecturers and 4 outside specialists were drawn and assigned as tutors to the course. *ICoN* provided the backup secretarial and administrative staff.

However, commercial realities prevailed and with insufficient numbers applying on that occasion for the 1-year course, or for the translation courses from German or French to Italian, it was only the English into Italian course which started in March 2008. Over the following 2 years comprising 6 terms, the course was entirely online, save for 3 weeks *in presenza*, twice in Pisa and once in Brussels.

The next issue of the ITIA Bulletin will be out next month. If you have any contributions, suggestions or scandals that you would like to share with over 1,000 subscribers worldwide, send them to Gosia Emanowicz at [theitiabulletin\(a\)gmail.com](mailto:theitiabulletin(a)gmail.com).

### Subscribing to the ITIA Bulletin

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Assignments were posted on the ICoN website and tasks returned against generous deadlines. Queries were raised both in a common online forum – a sort of online mailing list for those taking the course, and also on specific forum mailing lists for the 6 specific domains of Economics, Law, Biomedicine, Computers/ Localisation, Environment/Energy, and Technology. Most surprisingly the computer system, designed by an Italian firm *Synthema*, performed admirably throughout and proved to be most flexible.

We started some 18 students in all — myself being the only non-Italian — and all the others bar one, were female. Over the two years, we lost six of the starters: two through illness, two through changed local working conditions, and two who found the course too much on top of their family and own professional work. A further two, through changed family commitments, had to reduce their course workload and became auditors.

Based in Canada, Chile, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Mexico, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the USA, we quickly formed internet friendships which would be cemented later on by personal meetings in Brussels and Pisa. We soon fell into an average two-hour daily pattern of work, first in general areas of automatic analysis of texts, contrasting linguistics, EU translation principles, intercultural communication, linguistic resources, research instruments, specialist translation, and terminology extraction. This was all undertaken before entering into the six specific domains mentioned above.

The fact that the course was part-time and online meant that those doing it were able to choose their own times and place of work, were able to fit the course in and around family and professional work commitments. Strangely enough, this online camaraderie was a great support when facing those intellectual brick walls which pop up unexpectedly for everyone in both life and work. A full-time course would have been impossible time-wise for any of us, and seeing now the level of work done over the past two years, its absorption in a single year, to my mind, would have been nigh impossible had all the hours of the day been available. Two years' study, 108 uploaded assignments and a 60,000 word thesis submitted, saw 10 of us present ourselves on a Monday in March, two in person in Pisa and eight by video web conference from Italian locations around the world, each to defend his or her thesis. I must say that the *Istituto italiano di Cultura* in Dublin was most efficient in my regard.

As this was the first time in Europe that such a degree was being awarded in such a manner — we even had the specific and pertinent Italian law being read out to us over the airwaves — everyone including the president of ICoN, four examiners in one's specific domains, two course administrators and a person from the secretariat wanted to be in on the act for the defence of each thesis — all being in recorded glorious technicolour. Two years' work finally paid off. Europe's and Italy's new Master in *traduzione specialistica* was conferred, for the first time on 22 March 2010, on one Irish and nine Italian graduates.

**Michael J McCann**

MITIA and certified translator, AFEPI PhB (Gregorian), BA Mod (Dublin), MA (Dublin, Bari, Pisa and Genova)

## ■ Why translators deserve some credit

The Observer features an interesting article by Tim Parks on literary translators. Parks notices that “While a fine work of literature never needs updating, a translation, however wonderful, gathers dust. Reading Pope's Homer, we hear Pope more than Homer. Reading Constance Garnett's Tolstoy, we hear the voice of late-19th-century England. We need to go back to the great works and bring them into our own idiom. To do that we need fresh minds and voices. For a few minutes every year we really must acknowledge that translators are important, and make sure we get the best”. The full article is available here (<http://tinyurl.com/35f4rf3>)

## ■ Interpreters challenge process that certifies skill

It was reported recently by Dana Littlefield in the San Diego Union-Tribune (April 5, 2010) that “Some court interpreters in California who specialize in Mandarin, Russian and Armenian say they are getting squeezed out of long-held jobs because of a certification process they believe is flawed. Many say they have taken the state-mandated written and oral tests several times but were unable to pass despite having demonstrated fluency and skill. The issue has created professional problems for some, and it could have broader implications as the courts' ability to find qualified interpreters becomes further strained”. For the full article, see <http://tinyurl.com/39454zt>

## ■ Conferences, Calls and Courses

### Harvill Secker young translators' prize

In honour of Harvill Secker's centenary in 2010, celebrating 100 years of publishing quality international writing, including internationally acclaimed works by the likes of Japanese genius, Haruki Murakami, double-Booker winner JM Coetzee and Nobel Laureate, Jose Saramago. Harvill Secker and Waterstone's have teamed up to recognise the achievements of young translators at the start of their careers. This is an annual prize, which will focus on a different language each year. To tie in with Argentina's role as guest of honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair, the inaugural prize will centre on Argentinian writer Matías Néspolo's short story, *El hachazo*.

Matías Néspolo was born in Buenos Aires in 1975, but grew up in a small village of the same province "whose name I don't want to remember". He studied literature in Argentina and went on to write for a variety of magazines, publishing a collection of poems, *Antología seca de Green Hills* (Dry Anthology of Green Hills), in 2005 and a few short stories here and there. He has recently published an anthology of new Argentinian writers with his sister Jimena with the Argentinian publisher Adriana Hidalgo. Making his living as well as he can as a cultural journalist for the newspaper El Mundo, Matías Néspolo has been living in Barcelona since 2001. His first novel, *Seven Ways to Kill a Cat*, appeared in Spain in 2009, and will be published in English by Harvill Secker in 2012.

The winning translator will be awarded £1,000

Deadline for entries: 31st July 2010

For details see <http://tinyurl.com/3azq3nl>

**EU translator competition**

The European Personnel Selection Office will most likely launch a competition in July to recruit English-language translators for the European Union institutions. Applicants must be citizens of any EU Member State, have a bachelor's degree in any discipline and be able to translate from two EU official languages into native-speaker-standard English. A competition to recruit English-language translators will be launched in July 2010. Apply online at <http://www.eu-careers.eu>

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## ■ Contacting The ITIA

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## ■ ITIA Resources for Translators

For more information about the *Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association* and its activities, please visit our website at [www.translatorsassociation.ie](http://www.translatorsassociation.ie).