

## *In Memoriam Katharina Reiß*

Written by Christiane Nord (to be published in the forthcoming issue of Meta)

The world of translation studies has lost one of its greatest scholars and most inspiring teachers: On April 16th, 2018, Katharina Reiß died peacefully in Munich, where she had lived for the last few decades. I received the notice by email on the 17th, the day which would have been her 95th birthday. On that day, I have a plenary talk on functionalism at a translation studies conference in Tijuana, Mexico, and when I told the audience what had happened, they were all silent. They had not known her personally, but each of them had heard at least her name or even read some of her publications.

Katharina Reiß was born in 1923. Before becoming a pioneer of translation studies, which still was in its infancy at the time, she studied Romance Languages and Literature and translated several works from Spanish into German, among them José Ortega y Gasset's famous essay on the "Misery and Splendour of Translation" (*Miseria y esplendor de la traducción*). Her practical translation work provided the material for her translation classes at the School for Translation and Interpreting at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, which I attended in the early 1960s. She was a great teacher. What she wanted most of all was to offer

students and practising translators general guidelines for their translational decisions. This was the rationale for most of her publications, first of all of her book on translation criticism published in 1971. The text typology she presented in this book is now an essential requisite in any theory class for trainee translators all over the world, although the translations into English (*Translation Criticism – The Potentials & Limitations*) and French (*La critique des traductions, ses possibilités et ses limites*) were not published until 2000 and 2002, respectively. Firmly drawing on a normative concept of functional equivalence at the text level, which she never gave up, her postulate was that the method of translating is a correlate of the text type. Later, she integrated this approach as a specific theory into the framework of Hans J. Vermeer's general theory of translational action or Skopostheorie, claiming that it accounted for those special cases in which the skopos, or purpose, of the translation is to produce a textual equivalent of the source text. Of course, as an experienced translator she knew that equivalence is not always called for or even desirable. Apart from the textual categories, therefore, her model includes a func-

tional category for those cases in which the target text is needed for another function than that of the source text. This is why she is often regarded as the founder of Skopostheorie. But for her, the source text was always the *sine qua non*, the necessary condition, of translation.

On that morning in Tijuana, I told the audience: Without Katharina Reiß I would not be here today. And that is not a phrase: It was Katharina Reiß who gave me the chance and even inspired me to become a translation teacher and, later, a scholar in translation studies. Her students will always remember her as a strict but fair teacher with a very subtle sense of humour. For me, she will always be the great person to whom I owe so much.

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### *Our new member*

*Ms. Anne Beinchet, Université de Moncton, Canada*



Anne Beinchet holds a bachelor's degree in English and two master degrees, one in French as a Second Language Pedagogy from a French university (Bordeaux III, 2000) and the other in Translation from an American university (Kent State, 2001). Upon graduation, Anne worked in the

translation industry, as a freelance translator, and as a language instructor (French, English, Spanish) in France, Mexico and now in Canada. Since 2011, she has been a lecturer in translation at the Université de Moncton (Canada). She is currently undertaking PhD research at Dalhousie University on the inclusion of community translation training in translation programmes in Canada. Her interest in Community Translation was triggered

while she was involved in helping Syrian families settle in Canada: she soon realised that the lack of training in community translation was an issue for language services in the country.

For more of Anne's and our other members' information, please visit our website at

<http://communitytranslation.net/>

## Some of our recent articles

2018 articles:

- ◇ Feng, H., **Crezee, I. H. M.**, & Grant, L. (2018). Form and meaning in collocations: a corpus-driven study on translation universals in Chinese-to-English business translation. *Perspectives*, 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0907676X.2018.1424222>

Click here to see [the article](#)

- ◇ **Rueda-Acedo, A. R.** (2018). From the Classroom to the Job Market: Integrating Service-Learning and Community Translation in a Legal Translation Course. In **M. Taibi** (Ed.), *Translating for the Community* (pp. 36–62). Bristol, UK: Multilingual Matters.

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- ◇ **Teng, W.**, Burn, J. A., & **Crezee, I. H. M.** (2018). I'm asking you again! Chinese student interpreters' performance when interpreting declaratives with tag questions in the legal interpreting classroom. *Perspectives: Studies in Translation Theory and Practice*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0907676X.2018.1444071>

Click here to see [the article](#)

2017 articles:

- ◇ **Cornelius, E.**, & Pienaar, M. (2017). Die vertaling en lokaliserings van Terminologie van het toekennings vir 'n Suid-Afrikaanse teikengesprek. *Stellenbosch Papers in Linguistics*, 47, 181–201. <https://doi.org/10.5774/47-0-270>

Click here to see [the article](#)

- ◇ **Gregorio-Cano, A.** (2017). Diseño de una guía de evaluación para asignaturas de traducción: una propuesta práctica. *Revista Digital Palabra*, 2(1), 38–47.

Click here to see [the article](#)

- ◇ **Gregorio-Cano, A.** (2017). Problemas de traducción, detección y descripción: un estudio longitudinal en la formación de traductores. *Revista Digital de Investigación En Docencia Universitaria*, 11 (2), 25–49. <https://doi.org/10.19083/ridu.11.552>

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- ◇ **Faiq, S.** (2017). Neither Morpheme Nor Transleme ... Revisiting the Unit of Translation, Semiotically (2017). *AWEJ for translation & Literary Studies*, 1(1), 144-157.

Click here to see [the article](#)

- ◇ Gibello, L., & **Lesch, H.** (2017). A Descriptive Study of Howard Goldblatt's Translation of Red Sorghum With Reference to Translational Norms. *Language and Semiotic Studies*, 3(2), 67-109.

- ◇ **Ozolins, U.** (2017). It's not about the interpreter : objectives in dialogue interpreting teaching. In L. Cirillo & N. Niemants (Eds.), *Teaching Dialogue Interpreting: Research-based Proposals for Higher Education* (pp. 45-62). Retrieved from <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/uwsau/reader.action?ppg=60&docID=5103898&tm=1525224298024>

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"Translation quality is multi-faceted, needs to be addressed at different stages (before, during and after the actual translation process) and must involve the different stakeholders in community translation (e.g. institutions providing training, public services working on original materials and consulting language experts, translators and translation agencies consulting and negotiating with commissioners, community members providing advice and feedback on translations, etc.)." (Taibi, 2018, p. 23)

## Forthcoming conferences in late 2018 & 2019

Late 2018:

- ◇ 1st International Conference: Cross-Linguistic and Cross-Cultural Communication for Asylum Seekers and Refugees (CICAR)

Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Sevilla, Spain

10th-11th October 2018

Plenary speakers:

- Simo K. Määttä (University of Helsinki)
- Mariachiara Russo (Universidad de Bolonia)
- Raquel Lázaro Gutiérrez (University of Alcalá)

For details, please [click here](#)

- ◇ IAPTI Conference Valencia 2018

Valencia, Spain

29th-30th September 2018

For details, please [click here](#)

- ◇ 1st International E-Conference in Translation: Translation in Society and for Society. Investigating Sociological and Cultural Aspects in Literary and Specialised Domains

The University of Córdoba, Córdoba, Andalusia, Spain & KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

26th-28th September 2018

For details, please [click here](#)

2019:

- ◇ EST Congress 2019 — Living Translation

Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa

9th-13th September 2019

For details, please [click here](#)

More 2019 conferences to be included in the next issue of *ICTRG Newsletter*



## ICTRG MISSION STATEMENT

- ◇ *To create an international research community capable of leading and conducting quality research into Community Translation;*
- ◇ *To facilitate cross-fertilization of ideas and international research partnerships;*
- ◇ *To raise awareness of Community Translation needs in different countries;*
- ◇ *To promote professionalized Community Translation services;*
- ◇ *To produce and disseminate quality research outputs that inform training, policymaking and professional practice.*



**[ICTRG WEBSITE!](http://communitytranslation.net/)**

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**We make community translation accessible and understandable to communities!**