

ICTRG Newsletter

Official News Bulletin of the
International Community Translation Research Group



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Dear Community Translation Enthusiasts,

We are pleased to present the latest edition of the ICTRG newsletter. It is designed to share new information and updates on community translation, share details of upcoming events, and to introduce our newest members. It aims at fostering collaboration and enhancing community translation research skills.

In the *Around the world* section, we present the reality of community translation in various geographical areas. This feature provides valuable insights into the diverse approaches and experiences of different communities, highlighting both the challenges they face and their notable successes. This edition focuses on Hong-Kong.

Enjoy your reading!

Edited by:

Anne Beinchet, Moncton University & Katarzyna Czarnocka, Warsaw University

COMMUNITY TRANSLATION AROUND THE WORLD

In the upcoming issues of ICTRG's newsletter, we will be offering a glimpse of the latest changes or discussions regarding community translation happening in our research group members' countries of reference. If you wish to share what is happening in your corner of the world, contact the editors, who will be happy to guide you through.

COMMUNITY TRANSLATION AROUND THE WORLD: HONG KONG

Hong Kong's colonial heritage established a foundation of Chinese-English translation and interpreting that began with British rule in 1843. The early British administration of Hong Kong addressed the communication gap between English-speaking governors and Chinese-speaking citizens by initially appointing Samuel Fearon as the official interpreter, also handling translation work within their 70-person government (Kwan, 2012). Recognizing the needs of the Chinese-speaking majority, the administration later introduced bilingual education and enacted the Official Language Ordinance in 1974, which granted Chinese equal status with English. This legislation mandated that government and public information be delivered in both languages.

Hong Kong's linguistic landscape evolved from English dominance in the colonial period to the increased prominence of Chinese in the 1970s. To manage the growing translation needs, the government established a dedicated department for translation between Chinese and English. Today, the Official Language Division oversees the translation of all government offices and public information between English and Chinese in Hong Kong's Special Administrative Region. This bilingual foundation of community translation created better access to public information for the Chinese-speaking majority and eventually expanded to include other minority languages. As a global metropolis, Hong Kong's diverse population speaks many languages and represents numerous cultures. This diversity has driven the expansion of community translation services to

ensure effective communication and promote social inclusion for all residents. The need for community translation services in Hong Kong grew parallel with its demographic shifts. The settlement of Indian, Pakistani and Nepali can be traced back to the 1840s when the British government brought them to Hong Kong to assist the administration (O'Connor, 2018). In the 1970s, Hong Kong permitted foreign domestic helpers to work in Hong Kong to counter the shortage of live-in helpers. Domestic helpers from the Philippines and Indonesia account for the highest number of ethnic minorities in Hong Kong in recent years (Census, 2021), and most are Tagalog and Bahasa Indonesian speakers.

Successive waves of migration to Hong Kong—beginning with Vietnamese refugees and immigrants in the 1970s, followed by Southeast Asian immigrants in the 1990s, and later asylum seekers in the 2000s—created new demands for community translation. To help these communities access essential services and opportunities, translation services expanded to include multiple languages, including Tagalog, Bahasa Indonesian, Urdu, Nepali, Hindi, Vietnamese, Arabic, and Swahili, among others. In addition to government organized services, such as the Court Language Section of the Hong Kong Judiciary, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been instrumental in developing community translation services in Hong Kong. Two organizations have been particularly significant: the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents (CHEER), operated by

COMMUNITY TRANSLATION AROUND THE WORLD: HONG KONG (CONTINUED)

Hong Kong Christian Service, and Hong Kong Translingual Services at Lady McLehose Centre. These organizations provide essential translation and interpreting services, connecting minority communities with public institutions such as the Hospital Authority. Additionally, Justice Centre Hong Kong, which serves the asylum-seeking community, has developed a small but dedicated team of translators specializing in less common language pairs.

A recent prominent example delivered by the government together with NGO translators is the informative website on Coronavirus provided in Chinese and English, as well as Hindi, Nepali, Urdu, Thai, Bahasa Indonesian, Tagalog, Sinhalese, Bengali, and Vietnamese.

The current state of community translation for minority languages reveals several challenges. While some organizations partner with academic institutions to provide occasional training, no formal, documented

programs exist for systematic translator development. This lack of standardization affects service quality and consistency. To improve these essential services, the field requires structured training programs, professional accreditation standards, and enhanced attention to cultural sensitivity in translation practice. Community translation serves a vital role in upholding the fundamental human right to information. By providing linguistic minorities with equal and timely access to public information and services, these translation initiatives help empower marginalized communities and promote social equity.

Marija Todorova, Hong Kong Baptist University

Rachel Liu, Hong Kong Baptist University

ICTRG Research Training Programme

In April 2025, Anthony Pym & Rachel Macreadie gave a workshop on survey and interview data in community translation research

This webinar discusses some of the problems encountered in a series of research projects on community interpreting and translating in Melbourne, Australia, initially with reference to changing communication policies during the COVID years. The problems include representativity when contacting and selecting participants, the relative trustworthiness of informants, the use of translation and interpreting within the data-gathering processes, and the use and misuse of research findings in public discourses (press, television, policy documents). For each step in the research process, the speakers present a problem, invite discussion of possible solutions, then present the solutions they have tried.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4x8Ji2yPyQ&t=2s>

ICTRG's new logo

Members recently chose a logo for their growing research group. Reveal:



ICTRG MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Recently, Ineke Creeze and Wei Teng shared their expertise with NRZ, New Zealand's public-service radio broadcaster, regarding court interpreting: <https://tinyurl.com/ncjarmkc>

ICTRG MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Community Translation related publications

Beinchet, A. (2024). Community Translation and Interpretation Services in Settlement Agencies: Perspectives from Translators and Interpreters in New Brunswick, Canada. *Istanbul University Journal of Translation Studies*, 21 : 1-12. doi: 10.26650/iujts.2024.1548077

Crezee, I., Julich, S. & Zucchi, E. (2024). Interpreter reports on patient and family behaviour impacting on the healthcare interpreter role. *The Interpreters' Newsletter*, 29bis, 81-104.

Crezee, I. (November, 2024). Community Translation. *European Society for Translation Studies Newsletter*.

Magazzù, G. and Sileo A. (Eds.) (2025). *Adapting Alterity in Anglophone Scenarios*. Vernon Press.

Ramirez, E. & Crezee, I. (2024). Reflective assignments in health interpreter education: Developing an awareness of intercultural capabilities and issues. *Cultus: The Journal of Intercultural Mediation and Communication*, 17(2), 86-123.

Taibi, Mustapha (2025). Community translation as social action. In S. Tyulenev and W. Luo (Eds.) *The Handbook of Translation and Sociology* (pp. 475-491). Routledge.

Teng, W. & Viselli, A. (2024) Translation and the Community: Case Studies of Contextual Distortion. *Lublin Studies in Modern Languages and Literature*, 48(4), 7-28. <https://doi.org/10.17951/lsmll.2024.48.4.7-28>

Todorova, M. 2025. Lives in Translation: Listening to the Voices of Asylum Seekers in Hong Kong. In Hanna Risku, Regina Rogl and Daniela Schlager (eds.), *Field Research on Translation and Interpreting*. John Benjamins.

Todorova, M. 2024. Cosmopolitan solidarity in crises: Volunteer translation as a prosocial collective action. *International Journal for Translation and Interpreting Research* 16(2), 36-49.

Todorova, M. 2024. Translation and Emergency. In Sergey Tyulenev and Wenyan Luo (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Translation and Sociology*. Routledge.

Community translation related conference presentations

Crezee, I. (2024). Linguistic access in primary care settings in the Netherlands: A survey involving Dutch primary care nurses. Paper presented at the 2024 AUSIT National Conference in Melbourne.

Crezee, I. and Roat, C. (2024). When Interpreting is Not Enough: Comparing Patient Navigators with Interpreters in Healthcare Settings. Workshop given at the 2024 AUSIT National Conference in Melbourne

Teng, W. (2024, November). Yes. We should work with them, but in what way? Presentation conducted at the 37th AUSIT National Conference, Melbourne, Australia.

Teng, W. (2024, October). An Island of Crisis – Multilingual Services for Non-Mandarin Speakers in Taiwan during the Pandemic. Presentation conducted at Crisis Roundtable, Christchurch, New Zealand.

You may want to know...

Funding opportunities

National Geographic grants: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/society/grants-and-investments/>

International Foundation for Science awards: <https://www.ifs.se/ifs-programme/basic-research-approach/>

ERC grants: <https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant>

NIH grants: <https://grants.nih.gov/funding/nih-guide-for-grants-and-contracts>

Royal Society grants: <https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/catalyst-fund/>

Upcoming events

Conference CfP:

Conference on PSTI in Spain organized by FITISPos. Deadline: September 15, 2025.

Fellowship in New Zealand

Share your expertise in New Zealand: <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/about-uc/what-we-do/teaching/erskine-programme>

ICCT4 at Université de Moncton (Canada)

The **ICCT4 Call for Proposals** is now open. You can find more details on the event's website: [ICCT4 Website](#). The conference will be held from October 1-3, 2026. For any inquiries, please contact Anne Beinchet at anne.beinchet@umoncton.ca.

A publication related to ICCT4 has been confirmed with *Translation & Interpreting*. The Call for Proposals (CfP) is available on the ICCT4 website. Abstracts will be sent to the editors, Anne Beinchet (anne.beinchet@umoncton.ca) and Marija Todorova (marija.todorova@gmail.com).

The submission deadline for both projects is **October 30, 2025**.



WELCOME TO NEW ICTRG MEMBERS



Dae Young KIM is an Associate Lecturer in Interpreting and Translation at Western Sydney University (English-Korean). He completed a PhD on Sight Translation as an integral part of community interpreting in Australia, which has international applications (He was supervised by Uldis Ozolins and myself). He also holds a B.A. in TEFL and an M.Ed. in TESOL from the University of Sydney. He is a former high school teacher both in Australia and overseas, and a practising interpreter and translator since 1999 with a wealth of experience in the public and private sectors. He has translated a dozen books into Korean. He has been a T & I educator in several institutions since 2005 and is now based at Western Sydney University. He is also a NAATI examiner involved in various aspects of both interpreting and translation certification. His research interests include interpreting service quality assessments, interpreter certification systems, community translation and community interpreting.

Two incredible new members joined ICTRG in the last weeks. We would like to welcome Dae Young KIM and George de Bruin.



George de Bruin completed a PhD degree in Applied Linguistics at the University of Johannesburg (thesis title: Towards improved, patient-centred medicine information leaflets in South Africa through plain language). The South African Translators' Institute awarded him the first prize for his master's dissertation (2018), which explored the lexical activation patterns of ordinary bilinguals, professional translators and professional interpreters in the English/Afrikaans combination. George is currently a full-time senior language practitioner (editor, translator and interpreter) at the NPO AfriForum. He serves on the Language Commission of the Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns (SAAWK) (South African Academy for Science and Arts), of which he is also a member. Apart from Afrikaans and English, he studied German at school, and Afrikaans, Classical Greek and Classical Hebrew at the University of Pretoria as an undergraduate student. His recent publications include:

- "Gewone taal", in Toegepaste taalkunde in Afrikaans (Applied linguistics in Afrikaans) (2023, co-authored with Eleanor Cornelius; Carstens and Van Dijk (Eds.); Van Schaik)
- "Self-translation of an Afrikaans short story by SJ Naudé", in African perspectives on literary translation (2018, co-authored with Eleanor Cornelius; Innings and Wehrmeyer (Eds.); Routledge)

He is especially interested in psycholinguistics and plain language, and how knowledge of these fields can be applied to benefit the ordinary person.

ICTRG Mission

The International Community Translation Research Group aims to promote research and training in Community Translation (also known as Public Service Translation) as well as provision of quality community translation services in different parts of the world. Its specific objectives are the following:

- 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.

[Click here](#) to visit ICTRG website