

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 Italy.

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 offer 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: ITALY

Italy has seen a growing number of community translation initiatives aimed at bridging linguistic gaps in public services and fostering social inclusion. These efforts are particularly crucial in a country that has experienced significant immigration over the past few decades, resulting in increasingly multilingual communities. Many initiatives are driven by grassroots organizations, NGOs, and local municipalities. For example, the Mayor Migration Council[1] programs promote inclusive urban development, often incorporating multilingual communication strategies to engage diverse populations. These initiatives aim to make public information accessible to speakers of minority and non-official languages, especially in healthcare, legal, and educational contexts. Italy also hosts several professional associations that support community translation. The Italian Association of Translators and Interpreters (AITI) advocates for better working conditions, training, and recognition of translators and interpreters involved in public service work. Meanwhile, cooperatives like Alpha Beta Piccadilly in South Tyrol focus on intercultural communication and language learning, often engaging in translation projects that serve local multilingual communities. In healthcare and legal settings, organizations such as ANTIMI

(Association of Translators and Interpreters of the Ministry of Internal Affairs) provide interpretation and translation services to ensure that non-Italian speakers can access essential services. These initiatives often involve collaboration with hospitals, courts, and social services to ensure that language is not a barrier to rights and care.

On the academic side, scholars like David Katan and Cinzia Spinzi have explored this theme extensively, highlighting its sociocultural, ethical, and professional dimensions. David Katan (University of Salento) emphasizes the importance of cultural mediation in community translation, arguing that translators must go beyond linguistic equivalence to navigate intercultural nuances. In his work on intercultural communication, Katan introduces the concept of "frames" and "filters," which shape how individuals perceive and interpret messages. In the Italian context, this means that community translators often act as cultural brokers, helping migrants and minority groups understand not just the language but the underlying cultural expectations of Italian institutions. Katan's approach underscores the need for translators to be trained not only in language but also in cultural sensitivity and pragmatic competence. Cinzia Spinzi (University of Bergamo)

COMMUNITY TRANSLATION AROUND THE WORLD: ITALY (CONTINUED)

has contributed to the understanding of community translation through her research on translation in public service settings. She highlights how translation practices in Italy are often informal and under-recognized, despite their crucial role in facilitating access to services. Spinzi points out that many community translators work without formal qualifications or institutional support, which raises concerns about quality, ethics, and accountability. Her work calls for greater professionalization and institutional recognition of community translation, advocating for clearer guidelines, training programs, and ethical standards. Despite its importance, community translation in Italy remains underdeveloped in terms of policy and infrastructure. There is a pressing

need for formal training, certification, and support systems to ensure that translators can perform their roles effectively and ethically.

In conclusion, community translation in Italy is not merely a linguistic task but a deeply social and intercultural practice. It bridges gaps between diverse communities and public institutions, fostering inclusion and mutual understanding. Recognizing and supporting this work is essential for building a more equitable and multilingual society.

[1]

<https://mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/>

Giulia Magazzù

University of Rome Tor Vergata

ICTRG Research Training Programme

Last September, **Reine Meylaerts** gave a workshop on survey and interview data in community translation research.

This webinar explored the challenges of researching translation in crisis settings, focusing on the 2021 COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in Brussels and Melbourne. Despite contrasting official policies, both contexts saw a shift toward community-based translation practices—often without corresponding policy changes. These mismatches highlighted key methodological issues, including uneven language data, media influence, and conflicting community voices. The discussion emphasized the need for researchers to engage with such complexities by addressing constraints and incorporating diverse beliefs. The session offered valuable insights into how local dynamics shape—and are shaped by—translation policy in times of crisis.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uj-vvU3RPQo>

COMMUNITY TRANSLATION TRAINING NEWS

RMIT University (Melbourne, Australia) has officially launched a Ukrainian language stream within the University's Translating and Interpreting program.

<https://www.rmit.edu.au/news/all-news/2025/sep/ukrainian-language-offering-rmit>

MEMBERS' RESEARCH PROJECTS

Wei Teng is running a new project titled *Algorithmic Empathy? Assessing the Clinical Viability of AI-Translated Mental Health Tools with a Multidisciplinary Lens* (Sept. - Dec. 2025). The project was funded by the Faculty of Arts Seed Funding at the University of Canterbury, it engages a multidisciplinary network of stakeholders to address the mental health challenges experienced by Asian New Zealanders through the adoption of ChatGPT as a translation tool. The project is designed to facilitate pilot data collection and foster stakeholder collaboration, establishing a foundational framework for a subsequent large-scale study on multilingual healthcare communication.

Esther De Boe is running a project titled *Using Translation technology in chat support*. The 1-year project is financed by the Flemish government (Department Care), Belgium. The project aims at investigating to what extent neural machine translation (MT) can support emotionally charged conversations in real-time chat support. In the first phase of the project, the team investigates the quality of MT (by means of DeepL) of existing chat counselling transcripts and transcripts of live conversations with clients in the language combination Dutch-French/Arabic/Turkish, combined with user perceptions. In the second phase, CLB and CAW will develop a professional action framework and appropriate training on how to use translation technology in chat support. The results from the project will provide important insights into the advantages and the limitations of the use of translation technology in chat support.

Anne Beinchet has launched a project titled *Training of Non-Professional Translators and Interpreters within a Newcomer Settlement Agency in New Brunswick*. Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, this participatory research project runs until the end of 2026. It aims to develop non-language-specific training modules on community translation and interpreting for non-professional practitioners. The project also integrates a specialized training component, created by a criminologist, to equip participants with skills to support clients who are victims of intimate partner violence.

ICTRG MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Community Translation related publications

Beinchet, A. & Rueda-Acedo A. (2025). La traducción comunitaria y el aprendizaje-servicio como herramientas de justicia social para migrantes del Sur global en Canadá y EE. UU. *Mutatis Mutandis. Revista Latinoamericana de Traducción*, 18(2), 434-457.

<https://doi.org/10.17533/udea.mut.v18n2a08>

Felberg, T. R., & Šarić, L. (2025). Crisis Translation in the COVID-19 Context in Norway: The Case of Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (BCS). *Scando-Slavica*, 71(1), 173-190.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00806765.2025.2478551>

Taibi, M.; Kenawy, A. & Antoniou, M. (2025). Healthcare translations for Arabic speakers in Australia: Impact of language variety and dissemination medium. *Translation and Interpreting Studies*, 20(1), 105 - 128. [https://www.jbe-](https://www.jbe-platform.com/content/journals/10.1075/tis.24022.tai?crawler=true)

[platform.com/content/journals/10.1075/tis.24022.tai?crawler=true](https://www.jbe-platform.com/content/journals/10.1075/tis.24022.tai?crawler=true)

Wallace, M. & Monzó-Nebot, E. (eds) (2024). Gender and ethnolinguistic lawfare. *Special issue, Just. Language Rights & Minorities, Revista de Drets Lingüístics i Minories*, 3 (2).

<https://doi.org/10.7203/Just.3.2>

Monzó-Nebot, E. & Wallace, M. (2024) Gender and ethnolinguistic lawfare: Weaponizing the law. *Just. Journal of Language Rights and Minorities, Revista de Drets Lingüístics i Minories*, 3(2), 7-59.

<https://doi.org/10.7203/Just.3.29384>.

Invited keynotes

Taibi, M. (2025). *Inclusivity through Language Services: Where professional translators and interpreters make a difference*. Keynote address at The 10th International Language Learning Conference, Penang, 3-4 September 2025.

Wallace, M. (2025). *Partners in research: Professional associations and academia*. Invited at RTI (Research in Translation and Interpreting) Conference Series, Universitat Jaume I, Spain, 8 May 2025

Wallace, M. & Gilbert, D. (2025). *SSTI Research and writing workshop: Researching and writing for action!*. Invited presenters at the 46th Annual Conference of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators. Indianapolis, Indiana, 6 June 2025

Community translation related conference presentations

Teng, W. & Viselli A. (2025, September). *Working with Lay readers: Host-Guest Dynamic in Community Translation*. Presentation at the 2025 NZSTI Conference, Wellington, New Zealand.

Beinchet, A. (2025, June). *AI and community translation and interpretation services: The case study of volunteers training in a Canadian NGO*. HuMaLa Conference, Granada, Spain.

Erazo, A. & Beinchet, A. (2025, May). *An exploratory study of language discordance in healthcare among Spanish-speaking patients in New Brunswick*. 92e Congrès de l'ACFAS, Montréal, Canada.

Wallace, M. (2025). *Book clubs, community building, and language access: Collective reading for disruption in uncertain times*. NAMS-MOLA Annual Conference: Transcending Borders. University of Texas at San Antonio. November 6 - 7, 2025.

Wallace, M. (2025). *Community translation, translating in community: A local case study and a conversation*. TexLER 2025: Reclaiming community narratives in the 21st century. University of San Antonio. October 18, 2025.

Wallace, M. (2025). *LGBTQ+ Forced Migrants and the Intersectional Failure of Language Access in US Detention Centers*. At the University of Houston-Downtown Second Language and Health Symposium, Houston, Texas, 1 October 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

Conferences CfPs:

ENPSIT 5 - Oslo, Norway - December 10/11, 2026

Deadline for submission of abstracts:TBD

Human and AI Translation: Coexistence and Beyond - South Korea

Deadline for submission of abstracts: December 7, 2025

<http://itri.hufs.ac.kr/notice/view.php?id=3426>

SubComm Symposium 2026 - University College Cork, Online

Deadline for submission of abstracts: November 28th, 2025

<https://subcomm.co.uk/events/subcomm-symposium-2026/>

Translation at the Crossroads of Ideologies and Cultures - Lithuania

Deadline for submission of abstracts: February 16th, 2026

<https://www.vertimas.flf.vu.lt/en/about>

Publications CfPs:

FITISPos, vol. 13 (Spring 2026)

<https://fitisposij.web.uah.es/OJS/index.php/fitispos/announcement>

ICCT4 at Université de Moncton (Canada)

The **ICCT4 Call for Proposals** is extended to **January 15, 2026**. 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.



WELCOME TO NEW ICTRG MEMBERS



Esther de Boe, holds a PhD in Translation Studies. She is a professor at the University of Antwerp's Department of Applied Linguistics, Translation and Interpreting Studies, where she teaches interpreting theory, techniques, and practice for French-Dutch. Her research examines how technology affects language mediation in various contexts, including remote dialogue and conference interpreting and real-time translation in public service communication.

She has published widely on technology-mediated interpreting and multimodality and co-edited the 2024 Routledge volume *Interactional Dynamics in Remote Interpreting: Micro-analytical Approaches*.

At the University of Antwerp, she is part of the TricS research group and actively participates in international expert networks such as the Knowledge Centre on Translation and Interpretation, ENPSIT, the European Society for Translation Studies, and the ELC Special Interest Group on Artificial Intelligence in Translation and Interpreting Studies.

Previously, she worked as a sworn interpreter and translator (French-German-Dutch) in the Netherlands.

Two new members joined ICTRG in the last months. We would like to welcome Esther de Boe and Jaime Fatás-Cabeza.



Jaime Fatás-Cabeza is an Associate Professor of Practice in Translation and Interpreting in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Arizona. He is also a United States Court Certified Interpreter (English/Spanish) and a professional healthcare interpreter. He holds a Master of Musical Arts from The Boston Conservatory-Berklee College of Music and is pursuing a PhD at the University of Alicante. In 2006, he founded Arizona's undergraduate program in healthcare and legal translation, focusing on community translation, service learning, and language equity.

He has taught at several universities, worked as a translator, editor, and interpreter in legal, healthcare, and consular contexts, and overseen interpreting operations at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Jaime has published various translations, and has contributed to translations studies exploring how linguistic equity can improve healthcare and legal outcomes, the development of professional competence in translation and interpreting, the standardization of medical Spanish education, and the ethical and practical implications of remote and technology-mediated interpreting.

He maintains an active practice in legal and healthcare interpreting and consults as an expert witness in legal proceedings. His current research projects explore the role of the expert translator in U.S. courts and the ethical and pedagogical implications of AI technologies in translation and interpreting.

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