

AUSIT

Volume 32 < Number 3 > SPRING 2024

IN TOUCH

MAGAZINE OF THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS



Culinary translation

Why you need more than a recipe and a dictionary

< pages 16-17

A full life

Sarah Jane Walls remembered

< pages 8-9

Pioneer women translators

An AUSIT member is bringing their work and names to light

< pages 18-21

Sight translation

A lawyer's perspective

< pages 10-11

Plus more ...

... including an AUSIT member shortlisted for a prestigious national award; the AUSIT Student Excellence Awards 2024; and more reports on recent research projects that AUSIT members were invited to participate in

< In Touch

Spring 2024

Volume 32 number 3

The submission deadline for the Summer 2024 issue is 20 October
Read our [Submission Guidelines here](#)

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We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community.

We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to Elders past and present.

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Letter from the editors

Welcome to our third issue of 2024. As this one gets printed out to be distributed at the annual AUSIT National Conference, we work especially hard to make sure its engaging content and high production standards represent AUSIT well and show the organisation in its best light – with the help of a team of generous AUSIT members who volunteer to

each proofread a few articles per year.

One of our proofers is so busy in retirement, she's recently left the team (thank you for many years of assistance Betty Gracias!), and sadly, another has died (we're grateful to Sarah Walls too – see Yveline Piller's tribute, pages 8–9).

So if you have an eye for detail and an hour or so to spare every few months, contact us [here](#), and volunteer to be an *In Touch* proofer.

Happy reading!
Hayley and Helen

Are you attending the National Conference?



The Victorian Branch is hosting the AUSIT National Conference 2024 (Melbourne, 21–23 November), and we need volunteers to assist in all areas.

Whatever your skillset and however much time you have available, your contribution will be invaluable. To register your interest / find out more about the roles available, fill in this [EOI form](#).

Image: [iStock.com/Wavebreakmedia](https://www.istock.com/Wavebreakmedia)

Contributions welcome

Do you have a T&I-related experience, idea or tip you'd like to share with your peers, a book you'd like to review, or ... whatever it is, get 'in touch' and we'll take it from there:

- take a look at our [Submission Guidelines](#) *
- email any questions to the editors or an Editorial Committee member *
- check the submission date for the next issue *
- go for it! * this page, first column



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News in brief

(a review of T&I-related items that have appeared in the media since the last issue of *In Touch* went to press – plus a few we missed in that issue):

26 Apr: Interpreting Shōgun Was More Than Just Translation [vulture.com](https://www.vulture.com)

30 May: 2 star translators discuss doing acclaimed historical novel [Mater 2-10] [korea.net](https://www.korea.net)

4 Jun: Translation institute raises 'grave concerns' with IOM police [manxradio.com](https://www.manxradio.com)

12 Jun: As Bay Area Cities Adopt Real-Time AI Translation for Public Meetings, SF Abstains [sfpublicpress.org](https://www.sfpublicpress.org)

21 Jun: Translation duo reveal the opportunities for UK publishers within Chinese publishing [thebookseller.com](https://www.thebookseller.com)

25 Jun: Who Needs Human Interpreters When You Have Google Translate – Instant Artificial Intelligence Translation? [ictworks.org](https://www.ictworks.org)

27 Jun: DeepL goes global, bringing innovative Language AI solution to 165 new markets [Australian Associated Press](https://www.australianassociatedpress.com)

28 Jun: Indonesian boys jailed by Australia claim no translation provided in court [The Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com)

29 Jun: Translations Are Transforming India's Reading Landscape [Free Press Journal](https://www.freepressjournal.com)

30 Jun: Could AI save Europe's rare and endangered languages from extinction? [Yahoo News](https://www.yahoo.com)

1 Jul: Fitzcarraldo Editions Makes Challenging Literature Chic [The New Yorker](https://www.thenewyorker.com)

3 Jul: Harry Potter fans thrilled by 'greatest-ever' translation of the beloved books [express.co.uk](https://www.express.co.uk)

5 Jul: An Increase in Forged Interpreter Certificates Calls for Higher Security Measures [PR Newswire](https://www.prnewswire.com)

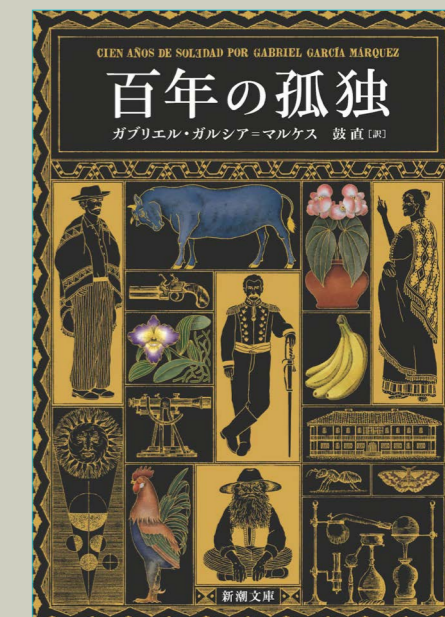
5 Jul: New paperback edition of Marquez's 'One Hundred Years of Solitude' sells fast across Japan [The Mainichi](https://www.themainichi.com)

15 Jul: Govt to address court interpreter shortage [freemalaysiatoday.com](https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com)

19 Jul: Three-quarters of freelance parliamentary interpreters let contracts lapse [Ottawa Citizen](https://www.ottawacitizen.com)

30 Jul: You feel me? Auslan interpreters prepare to strike over dud government pay [themandarin.com.au](https://www.themandarin.com.au)

9 Aug: Committee launches probe into Interpreting [sic] and Translation services in the Courts Service [committees.parliament.uk](https://www.committees.parliament.uk)



The cover of Shinchosha Publishing's Japanese edition of Garcia Marquez's seminal novel *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (see 5 Jul)

14 Aug: AUDIO: Raising awareness of Auslan in regional South Australia [ABC News](https://www.abcnews.com.au)

15 Aug: Hundreds of interpreters set to stop work over price changes [ABC News](https://www.abcnews.com.au)

28 Aug: Whatsamatter you? Court interpreters declare new conditions a dud [themandarin.com.au](https://www.themandarin.com.au)

4 Sep: There's no justice, there's just us: Victoria Court interpreters escalate dispute [themandarin.com.au](https://www.themandarin.com.au)

12 Sep: Speaking with Arunava Sinha about Sanya Rushdi's 'Hospital': A translator extraordinaire [The Daily Star](https://www.thedailystar.com)

17 Sep: Announcement of strike action by the WhatsApp Group of Court Interpreters www.nrpsi.org.uk/news

19 Sep: Left Powerless: Non-English-Speaking Parents Denied Vital Translation Services [the74million.org](https://www.the74million.org)

26 Sep: Court interpreters protest over pay and conditions [BBC News](https://www.bbc.com)



Member organisation Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs International Federation of Translators

AUSIT





21-23 NOVEMBER 2024
RMIT UNIVERSITY (CITY CAMPUS), MELBOURNE

Accompanied by the AUSIT Conference Dinner, the Jill Blewett Memorial Lecture and the National Annual General Meeting

The Victorian Branch have the pleasure of inviting you to the AUSIT National Conference 2024. This year's theme is:

'Linguistic equity and access: translating and interpreting - connecting our communities and the world'

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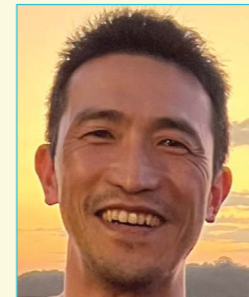
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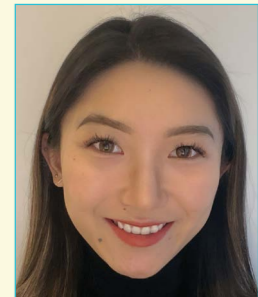
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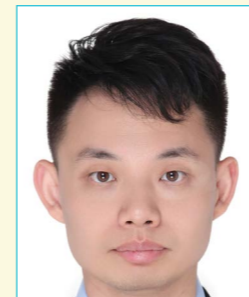
Students excelling in 2024



Every year, AUSIT asks each of our Educational Affiliates to nominate up to four graduating students – based on academic merit – to receive AUSIT Student Excellence Awards (SEAs). Congratulations to this year's 39 recipients (see below), who will each be presented with a certificate at their branch AGM, and also be entitled to view two AUSIT webinars free of charge. Four winners share the most valuable lessons they learned as students:



Kenichiro (Ken) Nagato (top left): *As a mature-aged student and a transitioner from a seemingly unrelated industry (engineering), I learnt that (1) it's never too late to learn, and (2) one can enrich one's learning by building on past experiences as well as embracing new and different ideas.*



Elise Qing Wu (top right): *I acquired robust theoretical knowledge, and continued to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills throughout the study journey. This experience has honed my analytical abilities for conducting research and paved the way to my academic career.*



Liang Jiang (left): *I learned the importance of cultural sensitivity and accuracy in translation. Understanding cultural nuances and adapting language to fit contexts has significantly improved my skills and broadened my perspective.*

Denise Tso (right): *The most valuable lesson I learned is that mistakes are not to be feared but embraced. They are essential steps on the path to success, and a deeper understanding of one's capabilities and potential.*

AUSIT Student Excellence Awards 2024

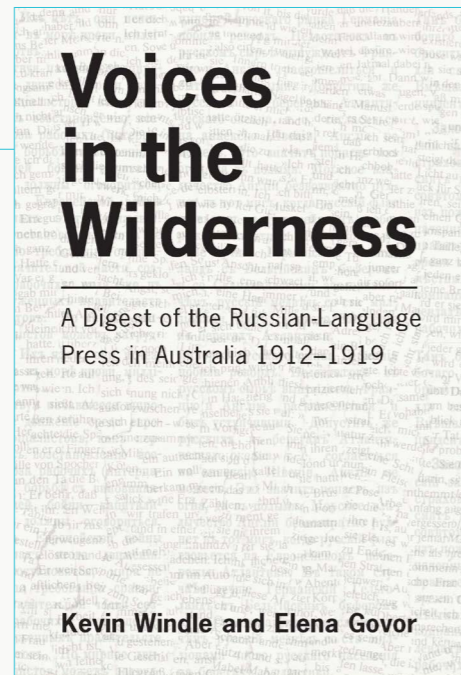
Branch & Institution	Nominees and their courses		
NSW	Macquarie University	Haruka Fujimura Master of T&I Studies (Advanced, Translation)	Sungbin Lim, Denise Tso Master of Conference Interpreting
	Sydney Institute of Interpreting and Translating	Tianjun (Jun) Zhan, Chunlin (Claire) Gu Advanced Diploma of Interpreting (Mandarin)	
	University of New South Wales	Ying Dong Master of I&T Studies	Michele Patricia Miller Master of Translation
	Western Sydney University	Wen-Yu Chan Master of Interpreting and Translation (Interpreting)	
VIC/ TAS	Monash University	Lauren O'Loughlin, Madeleine Summer Master of I&T Studies (Translation)	Ka Man (Kerry) Tan, Misty Eretz Master of I&T Studies (Interpreting)
	RMIT University	Kenichiro (Ken) Nagato (Translation and Interpreting), Hwee Ping Teo (Interpreting) Master of Translation and Interpreting	
	University of Melbourne	Xinrao Bi Master of Translation and Interpreting (Interpreting)	Elise Qing Wu PhD in Translation Studies
QLD	University of Queensland	Reina Robson, Chunsheng Zhang, Zhizi Duan, Zisong Pan Master of Arts in Translation and Interpreting	
WA	University of Western Australia	Yuan Bai, Annie Jarman (Translation), Jade Sciberras, Vicky Cao (Interpreting) Master of Translation Studies	
	Babel International College	Qin Zhong, Tian Yang Diploma of Interpreting	Jie Yi Tang, Xiaobo Zhu Advanced Diploma of Translating
SA/ NT	TAFE SA	Steven Langsford, Sha Lee, Hanh Van Nguyen, Maria Karla Alvarado Murillo Diploma of Interpreting	
	University of Adelaide	Jingfei (Michael) Dong, Yuen Ying Lo (Translation), Ming-Shu (Gigi) Yen (Interpreting) Master of Arts (Interpreting, Translation & Transcultural Communication)	

AUSIT member Kevin Windle shortlisted for the Australian Academy of Humanities' Medal for Excellence in Translation 2024

Kevin is the first AUSIT member shortlisted for this prestigious biennial honour, which he shares with co-translator Elena Govor.

Between 1912 and 1919, seven Russian newspapers were published weekly in Australia. Kevin and Elena's shortlisted book *Voices in the Wilderness: A Digest of the Russian-Language Press in Australia 1912-1919* (published by Australian Scholarly Publishing) is a digest of writings that they have selected from these shortlived publications and translated.

Kevin says that while the 'small but vocal community' which produced them is 'largely forgotten' today, the papers are unlike 'enthusiastic 19th century Russian accounts of Australia' in that they 'show us a body of immigrants struggling to establish themselves in what some had viewed as a "working man's paradise" and adjust to a new life. Educated radicals and newly literate workers of various political persuasions expressed their opinions, along with representatives of the Russian Empire's different ethnic groups, feeling increasingly that they were 'voices crying in the wilderness'. With rising militancy in 1918-1919, the editors attracted enhanced scrutiny



from Australia's security agencies, and by late 1919 most of the journalists had left Australia or been deported. This digest, Kevin and Elena say, therefore 'makes available material long out of reach in any language ... news reports, opinion pieces and letters to the editors of the Brisbane Russian press ... a unique and long-buried source of information [which] covers a wide range of topics, including employment, Australian attitudes to newcomers, conscription and the war, and responses to the Russian revolution. Together the translated items

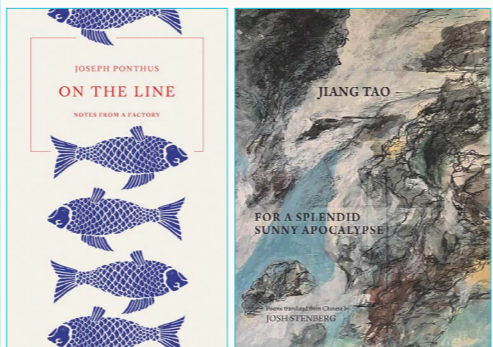


constitute a significant cultural document in the story of an immigrant community and an invaluable primary source on the social history of Australia at the time of World War I and the Russian Revolution.'

Kevin wasn't surprised that *Voices in the Wilderness* didn't receive the medal, as 'our book is very much an outlier, in an odd sort of genre. We're very pleased to have made the top three.'

The medal was awarded to Stephanie Smee for her translation of *On the Line: Notes from a Factory* by Joseph Ponthus (Black Inc. Books), below left. Also shortlisted was Josh Stenberg for Jiang Tao's *For a Splendid Sunny Apocalypse* (Zephyr Press), below right.

Stephanie Smee contributed an article on the process of translating *On the Line* to the Winter 2021 issue of *In Touch* (pages 18-20), which you can find [here](#).



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Vale Sarah Jane Walls

The picnic – Sarah is second from the left

AUSIT member **Sarah Jane Walls** lost her battle with a lengthy and progressively debilitating illness on 1 June. Her friend and colleague, AUSIT past president **Yveline Piller**, tells us a little about this remarkable woman's life.



Working remotely put her on a level playing field with other translators ...

I met Sarah in around 2004, at an AUSIT picnic on Sydney's North Shore. Her friendliness and thoughtfulness were evident straight away. At the time, I did not realise the significance of the walking stick she was using.

Sarah had recently passed the NAATI test for French-into-English translation. Previously a journalist, she had had to forego her long career with the ABC and other media after a medical error left her with a progressive and devastating condition which damaged her nervous system, including her mobility. Sarah had taken the matter to court but had been unsuccessful, and as this had depleted her savings she was on Centrelink benefits, and hoping to gain a new source of income through her language skills. I introduced her to some of the agencies I was working with, and she soon had enough work.

Becoming appreciated and valued as a professional translator was a significant turning point in Sarah's life. Thanks to the changes the internet had – very recently – brought to our methods of work, she was able to find clients

and provide her translation services without them becoming aware of her condition, as would have inevitably happened with client-facing contact. This would almost certainly have exposed Sarah to both pity and discrimination, plus she would have found herself repeatedly having to explain her condition. Working remotely put her on a level playing field with other translators, and the appreciation and respect she gained for her work was entirely due to her professional skills. Some months after we met, Sarah asked me to visit her. She very proudly showed me some painting work she had been able to afford on her house, and just as proudly told me she had called Centrelink to tell them she no longer needed benefits.

The eldest of six children, Sarah was born and raised in Albury. She was highly intelligent and, as her sisters remember, as a child she always had her nose in a book. She lost her mother at the

age of seven and her father at 14, and also a sister a few years later. Fortunately, she developed a very close relationship with her stepmother, which she maintained till the end.

After gaining a first-class honours degree in French and studying law for three years, Sarah spent time in the UK and visited other countries, including France and Morocco. She worked for 15 years for major media services, such as the BBC World Service, *The Australian*, the ABC's *Four Corners*, *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*. In 1983, Sarah was awarded a gold citation in the Media Peace Prize, a peace program of the United Nations Association of Australia, for her articles on the danger of nuclear conflict.

Sarah's fluency in French took her to New Caledonia, where she covered political issues for two years. On 4 May 1989, while reporting on a minor event, she had a very dramatic experience: she was standing right next to pro-

independence Kanak leader Jean-Marie Tjibaou and his deputy when they were shot dead by a radical opponent.

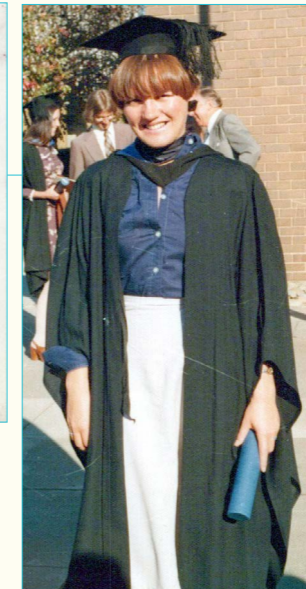
Sarah was generous with her skills and knowledge, and gave back to AUSIT in many ways. Colleagues on the French Forum remember her valuable responses to questions on obscure phrases or abbreviations, and her generosity in helping newcomers. Sarah also developed very good research techniques, which she shared with other AUSIT members in a well-regarded professional development session. And putting her background in journalism to use, she helped me to prepare for an interview with *The Sydney Morning Herald* when I became AUSIT's president. More recently, Sarah volunteered her services as a proofreader for *In Touch*. She was also my proofreader of choice when my English translations needed a keen eye and better turn of phrase.

Utilising the expertise she acquired in bringing her case of medical malpractice before the courts, Sarah specialised in legal and medical translations. She was resourceful, finding many of her clients through her prior contacts in New Caledonia.

Sarah only stopped translating two years ago, when the condition of her hands no longer allowed her to type.

Sarah was interested in all kinds of topics, including politics, overseas events and social issues. She loved classical music, and earlier in life had been a very capable pianist. She loved to practise meditation and yoga, and this helped relieve some of the pain she constantly suffered. She was also very fond of the two cats who, one after the other, kept her company over the years. One day, while attempting to feed her cat, Sarah's decreased flexibility caused her to slip and she broke her leg.

Unable to regain full mobility, she had to start



From left: a young Sarah demonstrates her enthusiasm for communication; graduating from ANU in 1975; and working at 3ZZ Access Radio, Melbourne early in her career as a journalist (photos supplied by Sarah's sister Rebecca); and below: Sarah on her 70th birthday, in May 2023 (photo taken by Nouha Salim, one of her carers)

using a wheelchair – much to her dismay, as she was well aware of the many medical and other complications experienced by wheelchair users. She moved to a house in Dulwich Hill which she had modified to be wheelchair friendly, and gained supportive neighbours – whenever I visited, there was always someone there to help her or keep her company.

For several years, Sarah managed her difficult situation well – finding a string of kind students who, in return for low rent, lived in her spare bedroom and helped with some chores. Later, she was supported around the clock by a bevy of NDIS carers, who all seemed very dedicated to her. In her last few weeks, her sisters came to attend to her needs until she moved into palliative care.

With her keen emotional intelligence, Sarah was kind, showed empathy and never complained. Her calm and quiet demeanour came with a great ability to listen, and to understand not only what was said, but also what was not said. Conversing with her was always smooth and easy, given the range of topics she was interested in and her non-judgmental ability to discuss all angles. Her quiet resilience was evident in the fact that she never showed bitterness at the many challenges she had to face.

Four years ago Sarah found a breast tumour, but decided she did not want to have treatment for it, as she was already suffering relentless pain from her other conditions.



To the end of her life, Sarah advocated for a no-fault patient compensation scheme for medical negligence causing trauma and lifelong injuries. She organised a petition which collected 16,000 signatures to interest politicians in the issue, and when I visited her for the last time – despite being bedridden and with no expectation of improvement – she was dictating an email to her sister on this very subject, to be sent to a political figure.

Sarah had just turned 71 when she died on 1 June 2024.

We will miss her.

Sight translation – the lawyer’s perspective



AUSIT’s recent past president **J. Angelo Berbotto** is both a translator and a solicitor. As such, he read Victor Xu’s article ‘Translation and sight translation for family law cases’* in the Winter 2024 issue of *In Touch* with interest, and has written the following commentary from the legal practitioner’s point of view, to supplement Victor’s reflections.

* You can read Victor’s article [here](#).

In family law cases, the main written evidence given by each party is in the form of an affidavit.

An affidavit is a statement made under an oath or affirmation that it’s a true account, and this means you can be liable to be prosecuted if any of the information you include is intentionally false or misleading.

It usually takes several meetings with a client to complete an affidavit. It takes time for several reasons: there may be a lot of information to cover; recalling the events involved may be distressing for the client, in which case frequent breaks are needed; and the client’s way of recounting those events may not be direct and to the point.

Some affidavits support an initial application (to start a case in court) – explaining the story behind a party seeking a particular outcome – while others respond to an application made by another party. Further documents – ranging from letters to WhatsApp texts, medical certificates and so on – may be attached to an affidavit to support the claims made in it. These are called annexures.

... more than once I’ve had to remind an interpreter that I’m in charge of the conversation ...

When a client doesn’t speak English, or is not fluent, it’s really important to seek the assistance of a competent interpreter to assist with the process of taking instructions from the client to draft the affidavit. By competent, I mean an interpreter who is certified/recognised by NAATI, understands and applies the AUSIT Code of Ethics, and is skilled in interactional management.

It’s very frustrating when I need to go through a 10-page affidavit in one hour, the clock’s ticking, and there are conversations occurring between my client and the interpreter from which I am excluded. In such situations I don’t hesitate to interrupt, and more than once I’ve had to remind an interpreter that I’m in charge of the conversation, and that they shouldn’t be taking part in it, only interpreting it. Experienced interpreters do this effortlessly and direct the

client’s attention back to me.

The conversation is between the client and myself, the client’s lawyer; the interpreter is there because we don’t share a common language. If my client asks a question, I expect the interpreter to interpret it, so I can then answer it. It’s not good practice for the interpreter to answer the question, unless it’s information that I’ve already covered. Interpreters need to be wary that they aren’t stating their own opinion. In doing so, they may be saying something that may prejudice my client’s case – and even worse, I may never discover this has happened.

If my client has been granted legal aid, the amount provided for interpreting is limited, so I have to be strategic about how I use it. I hire the services of a (NAATI-certified) interpreter for the last check and changes, while ‘settling’ the affidavit.



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Settling is the final step in the process – a final reading takes place, some changes may be made, then the client who is making (deposing) the affidavit signs it in my presence, as a prescribed witness. (A lawyer or JP can witness the signing.)

In such situations, my practice is to email the draft affidavit, in English, to the interpreter in advance of the settlement meeting, on the condition that they will only use the draft for the purpose of preparing for and carrying out the sight translation, and will delete the copy afterwards.

I must be able to trust the interpreter, as the affidavit can contain highly personal and confidential information about my client’s life and affairs, so I can only work with ethically sound interpreters.

This is why having a good reputation is key for an interpreter. Lawyers frequently ask each other to recommend interpreters, and I only recommend practitioners I’ve worked with, and for whose quality of work I can vouch, as *my* professional reputation is also at stake.

It’s important that the affidavit is written in a way that reflects the voice of the client. For example, if the client has limited education, I expect the document to be in simple language – it’s really important that the interpreter doesn’t render the client’s English in a higher register than the register they use in their LOTE (language other than English). Anyone who makes an affidavit can be asked questions about it in court, and if there is a significant discrepancy between the expressions used in an affidavit and what the deponent (the maker of the affidavit) actually says in the witness box, this can be problematic.

Receiving the draft affidavit in advance means that the interpreter can check any unfamiliar, technical or complex language used, and be

ready to sight translate it for the client at the settlement meeting – that is, to read it in English in their head, and transfer it out loud into the client’s LOTE, sentence by sentence or paragraph by paragraph, so the client can check it’s a true and full account of their experience.

When the interpreter is ready to start the sight translation, I instruct the client to listen carefully, and while doing so, to make notes of anything they think needs to be added or corrected. I prefer this method – rather than the client interrupting the flow of the sight translation – as something they initially think is missing may turn out to be in the affidavit after all, in a later sentence or paragraph. After the sight translation, the client and I can go through the notes they’ve made, and I can deal with any questions and make any adjustments that do turn out to be necessary.

Remember that affidavits are usually drafted by lawyers with considerable experience. We know how to organise the information in a particular way (usually either chronologically or by topic) so that the final document only requires one reading by the judge and parties involved to absorb the facts and understand the position of the deponent. An inefficient affidavit has no order and/or internal logic, so one has to read it several times or go back and forth to understand it, and this can cause judicial irritation!

Once the affidavit is settled, the interpreter must certify that they’ve carried out the sight translation – so in theory, if a discrepancy is later identified between what appears in the affidavit as filed with the court and the original document that the interpreter has sight translated to the client, the interpreter could be called to give evidence about their sight translation.

If you, as an interpreter, are in the middle of sight translating a passage in an affidavit and there’s something you don’t understand, or you need more information – for example, you need a gender marker because the word ‘partner’ is used and the context doesn’t specify male or female, but the LOTE requires this – just ask ... never assume! Assumption runs against accuracy, and your job is to be accurate.

If you perform a sight translation well, then the lawyer who hired you will do so again when they need, as lawyers are generally creatures of habit ... plus they won’t hesitate to pass on your details to colleagues who ask ‘Do you know a good interpreter of [your LOTE]?’

J. Angelo Berbotto holds a degree in law with first class honours from UTS, Sydney and master’s degrees in law from the University of Rome ‘La Sapienza’, the University of London and the Complutense University of Madrid. In 2023, he obtained a graduate diploma in T&I from UNSW. Angelo is admitted to practise as a solicitor in Australia (2005) England (2010), and is also a NAATI-certified translator from Spanish, Portuguese, French and Italian into English, plus English into Spanish. He served as AUSIT’s National President from 2022 to 2024, has since been heavily involved in the organisation’s push to ensure the role of interpreters working in courts and tribunals is better understood and respected, and is also involved in expanding AUSIT’s Language Divisions.

AUSIT stalwarts: David Connor

by Amy (Xiaoxing) Wang



David (left)
and Amy



Asking around to find out who should next be interviewed for our AUSIT Stalwarts series, several people mentioned **David Connor (Davo)**. When contacted, David replied that he was unable to participate in an interview due to declining health, but when his potential interviewer, **Xiaoxing (Amy) Wang**, offered to work with David's contemporaries to put together a piece on his career, he agreed to review it for publication. The following article was put together by Amy with the assistance of Annamaria Arnall, Adolfo Gentile, Barbara McGilvray, Ilke Brueckner-Klein, Ludmila Berkis, Mary Gurgone, Moreno Giovannoni, Sarina Phan and, of course, David Connor himself.

David Connor is one of the most talented polyglots in Australia. He is certified to translate from more than a dozen different languages into English, is literate in many more, and in 1995 was one of the first three AUSIT members to be made an AUSIT Fellow (alongside Mary Gurgone and Barbara McGilvray).

Yet despite his great skills, David is among the humblest of high achievers – he never brags about his accomplishments. As a result, many latecomers are not fully aware of the scale of David's devotion to his beloved profession, so it's high time he receives due acknowledgment for all the contributions he has made – and

... despite his great skills, David is among the humblest of high achievers ...

continues to make – to our beloved T&I industry and AUSIT.

David's journey as a translator more or less mirrors the evolution of the Australian translation and interpreting (T&I) industry. In 1971, not long before NAATI was established to standardise the quality of T&I services in the late 1970s, David started working for Telecom Australia (later known as Telstra) as a technical translator.

Employing David must have proved a bargain for Telecom, for he was able to singlehandedly

translate technical and general documents written in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, Dutch, Afrikaans, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Russian and Bulgarian – there was hardly any need for the company to hire another translator!

During his tenure at Telecom Australia, David was exposed to materials on various topics, including biomedical science, physics and chemistry, but most importantly, technology and telecommunications, which might help explain the impressive abilities which saw him

Photo: XIV FIT World Congress, Melbourne, 9–16 February 1996, from left to right: Congress Manager Clare MacAdam, plus the Organising Committee of National Treasurer David Connor, National President Klaus Hermes, Adolfo Gentile (who presented AUSIT's successful bid to host the event at the 1993 Congress), National Secretary Barbara McGilvray, and Demetra Egan

managing nearly all aspects of technology for AUSIT later on (with the help of Kim Bastin, who also worked in the translation section of Telstra and was a member of AUSIT).

As a dedicated translator, David showed a strong interest in further developing his language skills and expanding his already large knowledge base. With his thirst for knowledge, it's hardly surprising that when Telstra closed its translation section in 1996, David arranged to purchase their collection of 540 multilingual technical and general dictionaries, and took this collection home with him to undertake casual work from private clients and the Department of Immigration Translation Service, where he got to know and established a longlasting camaraderie with another AUSIT great, Moreno Giovannoni.

Moreno found David to be 'a steady, hard-working, nose-to-the-grindstone and shoulder-to-the-wheel kind of person' and was awed at David's ability to 'translate any language you threw at him'.

While David was working for the Department of Immigration, the NAATI accreditation system was launched and began to gradually gain recognition within the industry. As a language enthusiast, David jumped at this opportunity to put his translation skills to the test, progressively working towards getting NAATI accreditation / recognition for translating more than a dozen languages into English.

David's passion for translation didn't stop there. He became increasingly concerned about the professionalism and working conditions of the language service sector. This concern is rooted in the fact that even though NAATI had been established as the gatekeeper, it was the first of its kind around the globe, so there was little precedent as to how a professional translator or interpreter should behave, and what working conditions were appropriate to

ensure the quality of the translation or interpreting.

Driven by his passion for promoting the professional image of – and adequate working conditions for – translators and interpreters (T/Is), David joined the State Institute of Interpreters and Translators (SIIT) in Victoria. He worked tirelessly with his close workmate Moreno in trying to turn the institute into Victoria's professional association for T/Is. Such was their zeal to fight for a better future for the T&I industry that Moreno still fondly recalls

devotion to AUSIT started right then and there. Looking back at the history of AUSIT, countless volunteers came and went, but David stayed and served in various capacities. AUSIT founding member and Fellow Dr Adolfo Gentile points out that David's involvement in 'the tumultuous periods of AUSIT's first few years of existence' brought new perspectives to early discussions, as David was 'one of the few people in AUSIT who worked for an organisation not involved directly with migration, namely Telstra'.



'impromptu committee meetings around my kitchen table'.

Back then, SIIT was one of a handful of professional bodies representing T/Is in Australia, while similar organisations also existed in other states. To unify the voices and establish a national peak body for the profession, NAATI eventually facilitated a conference in Canberra. At this conference representatives from different states gathered and joined forces as a new organisation, the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators (AUSIT). Representing the Victorian peak body, David's decades-long

David's high-level organisational skills were also much needed in AUSIT's infancy. Past national president Annamaria Arnall admires David as the 'one-man secretariat' of AUSIT in the first few decades after the organisation's establishment, while another past president, Mary Gurgone, marvels at David's ability to 'always provide practical solutions to overcoming the challenges of an organisation that had to do the groundwork to develop policy, professional ethics, invoicing systems, communication systems and so on, all "on the smell of an oily rag"'.
continued overleaf

INTERVIEW SERIES: AUSIT STALWARTS (continued)

continued from previous page

Many more remember how David, as AUSIT's inaugural national treasurer, took matters into his own hands to ensure the new organisation would survive and thrive. As the first treasurer, he managed AUSIT's finances and volunteered countless hours to collect membership fees and prepare reports for the National Council.

Being one of the organisation's longest-serving office bearers, David was often relied upon to answer ad hoc queries, manage membership affairs, liaise with various other office bearers, and advise the National Council when needed.

Thanks to his technology skills, David (along with branch member Kim Bastin) was trusted with the responsibility of setting up AUSIT's first membership database, as well as an invoicing and communication system. When Mary created the very first AUSIT President's Newsletter in the nineties, each copy was 'photocopied, collated, placed into envelopes and sent to the individual members', and no doubt David was the one who maintained and

David's high-level organisational skills were also much needed in AUSIT's infancy.

printed out the individual address labels.

David also helped build and maintain the very first AUSIT website, and when it was due for an upgrade at the turn of the millennium, he was happy to join a small enthusiastic sub-committee (affectionately known as 'the playgroup') to carry on this task, using his knowledge of AUSIT's history to help ensure the refreshed website displayed continuity.

Serving as the treasurer and membership secretary for what was then the VIC/TAS Branch, David went above and beyond what was required to ensure branch members felt well connected, including by co-coordinating the distribution of the monthly VIC/TAS

e-newsletter *Keeping In Touch*. For many seasoned T&I practitioners, he was their first point of contact when they reached out to AUSIT, and his diligence, enthusiasm and approachable manner inspired many to join up and actively work towards building a stronger professional organisation.

AUSIT Fellow Ilke Brueckner-Klein's account of how she joined AUSIT is solid proof of David's influence: 'In 1997, a few months before migrating from Germany to Australia ... I found a basic AUSIT website and David Connor's contact email address. David immediately responded to my questions, and after some email exchange I knew that I had found the right place', and 'shortly after becoming a member of the AUSIT VIC/TAS Branch in 1998, David encouraged me to sit in as an observer on some of the branch meetings.'

This sentiment is echoed by another past national president, Sarina Phan, for whom David is not only the person who dealt with her membership application, but also the one who introduced her to the history of AUSIT and inspired her to take the ultimate step of becoming the national president. So much was David's contribution to AUSIT that Sarina commented that the organisation 'probably would have died had it not been for David'.

What made David's contributions most precious is the fact that he managed all these tasks as a volunteer. By the late nineties, it felt as if David dedicated all his waking hours to addressing various matters for AUSIT – which wasn't possible, as he was also taking on a considerable amount of translation work at that time.

As AUSIT grew bigger and more influential, it became increasingly unfair and unsustainable for such a daunting responsibility to rest on the

Below: David's business card attests to his reputation as a polyglot

David Connor Sole Proprietor

NAATI accredited translator with 37 years experience, specialising in migration related translations, personal documents as well as commercial and technical correspondence.

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shoulders of a single person. Fortunately, in the late 2000s, AUSIT was at last in a financial position to offer David an honorarium for managing its administrative tasks.

However, David didn't feel right taking money from AUSIT, and subsequently withdrew from his secretariat position – but his contribution to AUSIT was far from over. After stepping down from his long-held position, he devoted a considerable amount of time to the management of the 'AUSIT eBulletin', which he helped set up via the Yahoo Groups service in the early 2000s with the hope of bringing AUSIT members closer.

As time went by, the forum grew to include dozens of language-specific groups exchanging experiences and advice on many topics that concerned T/Is. David, as the moderator and administrator of this online forum, would offer prompt technical support to those who experienced IT issues, respond to questions about translation and the industry, and also post job opportunities when they came in.



When the translation service model provided in Australia shifted from in-house translators to contractors, and many T&I practitioners had to adapt to the reality of working in isolation, it was David and the eBulletin that held them together, providing them with a forum for exchanging ideas and a sense of belonging.

Unsurprisingly, when Yahoo decided to discontinue Yahoo Groups in 2019, it was again David who explored alternative services, and eventually facilitated the migration of AUSIT email working groups to Groups.io. He then managed the Groups.io discussions for the National Council and various AUSIT Committees until last year, when he stepped back from these tasks due to his declining health.

As a long-term active member of AUSIT, David's good humour is enjoyed by all who have had any personal contact with him. He strikes fellow members as a humble and proactive person who is always in the background, ready to provide a solution as soon as a problem emerges. His knowledge of AUSIT and the T&I industry was second to none, so he was constantly relied upon as a memory bank for accurately retrieving details of past events.

As a talented polyglot and seasoned translator who worked in many of the less common languages, David was always generous with his time and advice, supporting colleagues who encountered language issues, translation difficulties or even business troubles. AUSIT Fellow Ludmila Berkis fondly remembers: 'I got to know [David] a little better in the course of collaborating with him as a colleague-translator of less common languages such as

David and his wife Laraine (photo taken around 10 years ago)

David's good humour is enjoyed by all who have had any personal contact with him.

Latvian (there were never many recognised Latvian translators in Australia), where documents are sometimes partly in one language and partly in another, as is commonly the case with many of the republics of the former Soviet Union.'

To his clients, David is a reliable translator whose responsiveness, efficiency and professionalism never fail to make an impression. While to those who hold different views from David, he is always the gentleman, acting with politeness and an open mind, willing to listen and understand.

No wonder David is much loved and respected by everyone who knows him, especially his loving wife Laraine, who used to accompany him to various AUSIT events and has selflessly supported his cause, which has benefited so many T&I practitioners working in Australia, and therefore also the country's wider multicultural community.

Words for a world of food: the art of culinary translation



As sharing food is a feature of cultures around the world, it's not surprising that there is a need for translators to tackle the nuances of labels, ingredients and recipes. French-English T/I Nicola Thayil offers us a taste of culinary translation.

Did you know that ... traditionally, Japanese soba noodle dough is kneaded using the feet?

The past decade has seen a rise in famous chefs reaching global celebrity status, and this is often accompanied by international demand for their latest book ...

... but just imagine trying to translate Yotam Ottolenghi's recipes into another language! So next time you're browsing one of those glossy, tempting volumes, spare a thought for the translators whose job it is to render recipes accessible across barriers of language, culture and cuisine.

What actually is 'culinary translation'?

A simple definition would be the act of translating recipes and other food-related content – such as food labels and packaging – from one language to another. In reality, however, culinary translation is a more multidimensional endeavour. It requires not only the ability to translate recipes and their lists of ingredients, but also an understanding of their cultural contexts, cooking methods and culinary traditions.

Is the original text elegant or humorous? Are the recipes simple or complex? These types of questions need to be taken into account. One

of the key challenges for the translator is to transport the reader into the chef's world. It's a great responsibility and privilege to convey their voice and their recipes in another language.

As a teenager I was drawn to the creative aspect of cooking and enjoyed experimenting with ingredients, but some recipes can also be quite technical; and while some simply use dot points to lay out the procedure to be followed, others are written in a highly artistic way. These are just some of the challenges a culinary translator can face.

Can't you just use a dictionary to figure out a recipe?

It's not quite that simple. A culinary translator has to have a good grasp of the different terminology used and ingredients available in the source and target cultures and countries, whilst staying true to the original dish. This means they must take into consideration the need to be able to replicate each recipe.

In fact, as a culinary translator, one of the perks

of translating recipes is that you get to discover new dishes and ingredients. You can act as an advisor on substituting ingredients in order to achieve results as close to the original as possible. This happened, for example, on my most recent book translation project. I had to test a recipe that called for 'fromage blanc' – a fresh cheese originating in northern France and southern Belgium. This kind of cheese is not readily available in Australia, where suggested substitutes are goat's cheese, sour cream, ricotta and 'queso fresco'. I tested the recipe in question with both sour cream and fresh ricotta, and settled on the ricotta as the best alternative.

A friend living in France recently posted about the 'beef tab' he was cooking. He'd translated the French 'onglet de boeuf' directly from the printed label on the meat, but this cut is actually known as 'butcher's steak' here in Australia (and 'skirt' in the UK, and 'hanger steak' in the US). Beef cuts and fish names are notoriously difficult to figure out when translating, and you need more than just a dictionary.

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So what are the prerequisites for becoming a culinary translator?

First and foremost, a love of food! In addition to this, you need knowledge of different cooking methods, ingredients, measurements, and dishes from around the world. Did you know that the French often measure liquids in centilitres? Or that traditionally, Japanese soba noodle dough is kneaded using the feet?

Like any translator, a culinary translator couples creative and technical skills with excellent research and knowledge of terminology to find solutions to issues and choose the right term to use in each context. Terminology, especially verbs, can have cookery-specific uses that need to be accurately translated. For example, within the French culinary sphere the verb 'blanchir' can be used in several ways, including to blanch or to beat until pale, and the verb 'vider' (direct translation: to empty) is used to mean to 'gut' (to remove the entrails) when preparing fish for cooking.

Culinary translators strive to convey cultural nuances appropriately, so that dishes and culinary traditions are rendered attractive to the reader. However, some recipes may need to be omitted. This can be due simply to lack of ingredient availability, or because a recipe may not appeal to the intended readers. This happened to me recently with a recipe for cold beetroot soup!

Other recipes may feature ingredients or combinations that are unacceptable to certain cultural and/or religious groups. Horsemeat, for example, is eaten in many cultures, but is unpopular in most English-speaking countries, and it's sale is illegal in the US. And a culinary translator working with Hebrew as the target language will need to be aware of Judaism's strict 'kosher' dietary rules – which prohibit, for example, the consumption of meat from

various animals, and of dishes that combine meat with dairy products.

Beware idioms and pastry names!

Most cultures have lots of food-related idioms. For example, if someone says to you in English 'It's a piece of cake', don't look around for a slice of Victoria sponge or banana bread – they are actually saying that something is easy; while commenting that someone 'has a bun in the oven' doesn't mean that the woman in question is doing some baking, but that she is pregnant.

If you're a fan of French sweetmeats, you'll probably know that many are named after things they (supposedly) look like. 'Pain aux raisins' translates simply and effectively as 'raisin bread', but the colloquial name for the same pastry, 'escargot' ('snail'), may not be as

appealing to cultures that don't eat the real thing. Add 'langues de chat' ('cats' tongues' biscuits) and 'financiers' (almond cakes that resemble gold bars), and it's certainly not the time for literal translation.

On that note, *bon appetit!*

Nicola Thayil (née Savage) is a Melbourne-based French-English translator and French-English conference interpreter. She holds a Master of Interpreting and Translation Studies degree from Monash University, and has tutored in T&I Studies, both there and at Macquarie University, NSW. Nicola is currently AUSIT's National Education Coordinator, serving on the Education Committee, as well as being mum to six-year-old Joseph.

Image: istock.com/Olga Mazyarkina



A tribute to some pioneer women translators



Having previously worked anonymously or hidden behind male pseudonyms, women translators began to sign their work with their real names in the 16th century. Often forgotten or barely mentioned in major printed encyclopaedias, they are now (albeit belatedly) coming into their own, thanks to Wikipedia and its many contributors. French translator and librarian **Marie Lebert**, currently based in Australia, has written extensively on and around the subject. She has selected

seven trailblazing women translators, who also contributed to

women's education, gender equality, education for all, abolitionism and scientific knowledge, to tell us about here.

Advocating for women's education

When Italian philosopher **Giuseppa Barbapiccola** (1702–40) translated French philosopher René Descartes' seminal work *Principles of Philosophy* (1644) into Italian, her goal was not only to convey Descartes' ideas to an Italian audience, but also to publicise his praise of the female intellect, and to thereby inspire women to educate themselves.

In the preface to her translation, printed in 1722, she stated that 'Women should not be excluded from the study of the sciences, since their spirits are more elevated and they are not inferior to men in terms of the greatest virtues.'

Barbapiccola not only defended the right to education for all women, but also tried to persuade women to take the matter into their own hands and empower themselves. She asserted that women have always had the capacity to learn, and that their ignorance is neither inherent in their nature, nor due to

Booth translated ... de Gasparin's book ... in just one week, by working twenty hours a day ...

their being (as they were then characterised) the 'weaker sex'. The cause, she said, was women's lack of – or poor – education. To this end, her preface included an account of women's achievements since antiquity.

Contributing to the Chemical Revolution

In her day, French chemist, mineralogist and meteorologist **Claudine Picardet** (1735–1820) was the only woman teaching at the Dijon Academy in eastern France. As the only scientist there who was proficient in five foreign languages (Latin, English, Italian, German and Swedish), she also translated the

works of leading foreign scientists into French for the benefit of her colleagues.

Picardet translated three books and dozens of scientific papers from their original Swedish (works by Carl Wilhelm Scheele and Torbern Bergman), English (works by John Hill, Richard Kirwan and William Fordyce), German (works by Johann Christian Wiegleb, Johann Friedrich Westrumb, Johann Carl Friedrich Meyer and Martin Heinrich Klaproth) and Italian (works by Marsilio Landriani).

Picardet's translations were essential for the



Above: inspired by Jacques-Louis David's *Portrait of Antoine-Laurent Lavoisier and his wife* (1788), this group portrait by an unknown painter of the 19th century shows (from the left) Marie-Anne Paulze (Mme. Lavoisier), Claudine Picardet (Mme. Guyton de Morveau) with book, Claude Louis Berthollet, Antoine-François Fourcroy, Antoine Lavoisier (seated), and Picardet's husband, Louis-Bernard Guyton de Morveau.

Right: *Portrait de Clémence Royer jeune fille* (*Portrait of Clémence Royer young woman*), 1865, photographer: Nadar

[Image source: public domain via Wikimedia Commons]

dissemination of scientific knowledge during the Chemical Revolution, a movement led by French chemist Antoine Lavoisier (often called the father of modern chemistry). She also hosted renowned scientific and literary salons in both Dijon and Paris, where she later lived, and actively participated in the collection of meteorological data.

Promoting public education for all

Sarah Austin (1793–1867) studied Latin, French, German and Italian as a child in her native England. After marrying legal philosopher John Austin she became a translator and editor, and corresponded extensively with many writers. The couple moved from London to Bonn, Germany in 1827, where they lived largely on her income. Austin translated works written by her German and French contemporaries into English, including *Characteristics of Goethe: From the German of Falk, von Müller, etc., with notes*,

original and translated, illustrative of German literature by luminary German Romantic author Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1833), as well as books by German philosopher Friedrich Wilhelm Carové (1834), German historian Leopold von Ranke (1840), and French historian François Guizot (1850).

Austin translated French philosopher Victor Cousin's *Report on the State of Public Instruction in Prussia* (1832), originally compiled for the French Minister of Public Education. In the preface to her translation, published in 1834, Austin pleaded for the cause of public education. She also advocated for a national system of education in England, in a pamphlet published in the *Foreign Quarterly Review* in 1839.

Austin frequently asserted her intellectual rights as a translator, writing that 'It has been my invariable practice, as soon as I have engaged to translate a work, to write to the author of it, announcing my intention, and adding that if

he has any correction, omission, or addition to make, he might depend on my paying attention to his suggestions.' (in 'Sarah Austin', *Dictionary of National Biography*, vol. 2, 1885).

A new audience for Charles Darwin's seminal work

Self-taught French scholar **Clémence Royer** (1830–1902) undertook the major task of translating English naturalist Charles Darwin's seminal work *On the Origin of Species* (first published in 1859). At the time, Darwin's concept of evolutionary adaptation through natural selection was attracting widespread interest outside Britain, and he was eager to have his book translated into French.

In the first French edition (1862, based on the third English edition), Royer went beyond her role of translator with a 60-page preface in which she expressed her own views – views that had more in common with French naturalist Jean-Baptiste Lamarck's ideas than with



continued overleaf

HISTORY OF T&I (continued)

continued from previous page

Darwin's – as well as providing many detailed explanatory footnotes. On reading her translation, Darwin was unhappy with both preface and footnotes, and also with Royer's lack of knowledge of natural history.

In the second French edition (1866), at Darwin's request, some errors and inaccuracies were corrected, while the third (1873) – produced without the author's consent – included a new preface, with which he was again unhappy. It made no mention of Darwin's additions to the fourth and fifth English editions, merely including an appendix containing the additions to the sixth, which had been published a year earlier.

While Royer's first three translations were published by Guillaumin, the fourth was published by Flammarion in 1882, the year of Darwin's death, and remained popular until 1932. Royer's controversial translations brought her fame, and she wrote and lectured extensively on philosophy, feminism and science – including on Darwinism.

Contributing to the antislavery movement

Mary Louise Booth (1831–99) was an American writer and editor, and a translator from French to English. Born in Millville (now Yaphank) on Long Island, New York state, she was of French descent on her mother's side.

After moving to New York City at the age of just 18, Booth wrote extensively for newspapers and magazines, and also translated around 40 books. These included works by French writers Joseph Méry and Edmond François Valentin About, and philosopher Victor Cousin. She also assisted fellow American translator Orlando Williams Wight in producing a series of translations of French classics, as well as writing a *History of the City of New York* (1859), which became a bestseller.

When the American Civil War started in 1861, Booth translated French antislavery advocate Agénor de Gasparin's book *The Uprising of a Great People: The United States in 1861* – at the time only just published in France – in just one week, by working twenty hours a day; her English edition was published in a fortnight by American publisher Scribner's, and was widely distributed.

Booth then translated de Gasparin's *America before Europe: Principles and Interests* (1862, original also published 1861), as well as books by other antislavery campaigners, including Pierre-Suzanne-Augustin Cochin's *Results of Emancipation* and *Results of Slavery* (1862, from a three-volume work originally published in 1861) and Édouard René de Laboulaye's *Paris in America* (1865). Booth received praise and encouragement from then US President Abraham Lincoln, Senator Charles Sumner and other statesmen for her invaluable contribution towards the abolition of slavery.

Booth also translated other books by the same authors, including de Gasparin's religious works (written with his wife) and de Laboulaye's *Fairy Book*, as well as educator Jean Macé's *Fairy Tales*, three volumes of historian Henri Martin's 15-volume *History of France* (1833–36), and philosopher Blaise Pascal's *Provincial Letters*.

In 1867 Booth became the first editor-in-chief of a new magazine, *Harper's Bazaar*, and held the position until her death in 1899. Having struggled financially for decades as a writer and translator, she ended her career on a larger salary than any other woman in America, while the magazine steadily increased its circulation and influence under her leadership.

Contributing to political change

Eleanor Marx (1855–98) – the youngest daughter of German philosopher, political theorist, economist, historian, sociologist, journalist, and revolutionary socialist Karl Marx – was born after the family settled in London. According to her biographer Rachel Holmes in *Eleanor Marx: A Life* (2014), Eleanor played in her father's office while he wrote *Das Kapital. Kritik der politischen Ökonomie* (English: *Capital: A Critique of Political Economy*, also known as *Das Kapital* and *Capital*, Volume 1 published 1867), and being brought up at this time in her father's life influenced her activism from an early age.

Eleanor became Marx's secretary at the age of 16, and accompanied him to the conferences he gave in various countries. She translated some chapters of *Das Kapital* from German into English, revised the English translations of her father's lectures before their publication in



Eleanor Marx
[Image source: Internet Archive Book Images, no restrictions, via Wikimedia Commons]

books, and supervised the publication of the English edition of *Das Kapital* in 1887, after her father's death.

(Eleanor's second oldest sister, **Laura Marx**, and her husband, the French revolutionary socialist Paul Lafargue, also translated Marx's works into French.)

Eleanor went on to write political works herself, both alone and with English Marxist Edward Aveling. She met another French revolutionary socialist, Prosper-Olivier Lissagaray, who had fled to England after participating in the Paris Commune (a revolutionary socialist government that briefly ruled Paris in 1871), and her translation of his *History of the Paris Commune of 1871* was published in 1876. She also helped organise the International Socialist Congress that was held in Paris in 1885.

Eleanor also translated literary works. She was responsible for the first English edition of Gustave Flaubert's bestselling French novel *Madame Bovary* (1857, translation published 1886), and learned Norwegian in order to

translate some of Henrik Ibsen's plays.

An international audience for Freud's complete works

American-born English psychoanalyst **Alix Strachey** (1892–1973) and her English husband James Strachey – a fellow psychoanalyst – spent two years in Vienna, Austria shortly after they married in 1920, in order to study psychology with the Austrian founder of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud.

Having first translated some of Freud's articles from German into English, the Strachey's worked tirelessly – from 1953 to 1966 – to translate his complete works (written between 1886 and 1939), in collaboration with Freud's youngest daughter Anna, and with the help of British musicologist and translator Alan Tyson.

The 24-volume translation was published between 1953 and 1974 as *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud* (also known to scholars as *The Standard Edition*, or *SE*), with James Strachey as its editor. It included introductions to Freud's various works, as well as extensive bibliographical and historical footnotes, and quickly became the reference edition of Freud's works in English, and for translations into other languages.

French translator and librarian Marie Lebert holds a PhD in linguistics (digital publishing) from the Sorbonne, Paris; has worked for international organisations in several countries; and is currently in Australia after being granted a global talent visa. She also writes about translation and translators, with a focus on women translators. In a previous project she asked language and information professionals around the world how they contributed to the web becoming truly multilingual. In all her projects, Marie aims to give a voice to the forgotten or bypassed. Her articles and ebooks are available free online in English, French and Spanish here.

*More women translators are celebrated in Marie's most recent ebook, **Some women translators of the past** (2024).*

RECENT RESEARCH

Manner matters: insights from remote interpreting in Australian courts

Researcher: Ran Yi (裔然)

PhD supervisors: Professors Sandra Hale and Ludmila Stern, and Dr Natalie Martschuk

Institution: UNSW, Sydney

... pauses or shifts in tone ... can shape how testimony is understood ...

Imagine being required to appear in court, in a country where you don't speak the language fluently, or even at all.

Everything that's said – from the lawyers' questions and comments to the judge's decision – is communicated to you through an interpreter. Now, imagine this happening remotely, with technical glitches and language complexities adding to the confusion. How confident would you feel?

Navigating a legal system through an interpreter is already challenging, but remote court hearings raise the stakes even higher. My research dives into this critical issue, exploring how accurately interpreters render lawyer questions when working remotely in Australian court settings.

The study focuses specifically on Mandarin-speaking interpreters, and examines how different interpreting modes (consecutive vs simultaneous) and mediums (audio-only vs audiovisual) affect the delivery of essential speech elements, such as tone, fillers and discourse markers.

Through a mixed-methods approach, we analysed 3,250 minutes of courtroom exchanges, and gathered feedback from 50 participants – including interpreters and legal professionals – via the following research questions:

1: How aware are Australia-based Mandarin–English interpreters of the meaning and significance of manner of speech in court questions and answers?

2: How accurately do interpreters render the manner of speech in court questions and

answers during examination-in-chief and cross-examination?

3: Does the mode of interpreting influence the accuracy of the interpretation of the manner of speech in court questions and answers during examination-in-chief and cross-examination?

4: Is there a difference in remote interpreting performance between audio-only and audiovisual input of court questions and answers during examination-in-chief and cross-examination?

The findings show that interpreters working remotely often struggle to accurately convey the subtleties of speech, such as pauses or shifts in tone – elements that can shape how testimony is understood, and therefore influence the outcomes of legal proceedings.

These challenges highlight a significant gap in training and guidelines for remote court interpreting, with the potential to compromise procedural fairness. As remote hearings become more prevalent, there is an urgent need for clearer protocols and enhanced interpreter training to ensure that language barriers do not result in miscommunication or unfair trials.

This research contributes to the academic understanding of court interpreting, and also offers practical recommendations for improving interpreter training and courtroom practices.

iCanCarePlan Project

Researchers: Professor Reema Harrison and Dr Ashfaq Chauhan

Institution: Macquarie University, NSW

Funded by: Cancer Institute NSW

Image: istock.com/Chinnapong

Some of the most crucial health conversations are about the wishes of people with advanced cancer for their future care.

Yet for people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, these crucial and ongoing 'Advanced Care Planning' (ACP) conversations are often conducted via interpreters who have limited support and/or information about the patient's circumstances. In addition, many concepts and words relating to emotive topics such as cancer, treatment and dying cannot be directly translated. Interpreters, however, are charged with communicating these topics from one cultural world into another.

Significantly lower rates of ACP uptake among CALD communities compared to the general population are attributed to low clinician confidence in communicating about ACP when language is a barrier. Without a person-centric plan for their care, CALD patients experience inequity in care quality, characterised by higher rates of burdensome care towards the end of their lives. To address this issue, clinicians, academics, interpreters and healthcare consumers from Macquarie University have embarked on a program of work to improve ACP uptake in people from CALD backgrounds affected by cancer.

Our analysis of 31 resources that seek to promote ACP with multicultural communities in Australia demonstrated that, whilst they espouse meaningful engagement and encourage clinicians to involve interpreters where language support is needed, there is a lack of guidance about how to work with interpreters as partners in the care team. In focus groups that we then conducted with 16 healthcare staff and six interpreters, both clinicians and interpreters reported that interpreters are considered as



Without a person-centric plan for their care, CALD patients experience inequity in care quality ...

language conduits, receive less respect than clinicians, and are not considered part of the care team, constraining their collaboration in ACP.

Both clinicians and interpreters also identified difficulties in navigating ACP communications due to a lack of shared understanding about the words and concepts to use. Clinicians often request that interpreters do verbatim translations only, which presents challenges in many cultures and languages, while a lack of agreement about approaches to managing family expectations creates further barriers.

Pre- and de-briefing were identified as useful for interprofessional collaboration, but were not integrated into consultations. Interpreters frequently reported going into ACP

communications unaware of the nature of the conversation to be had, without the necessary resources, and feeling unprepared, while lack of opportunities to debrief after consultations led to increased likelihood of interpreter burnout and reluctance to engage in ACP. These barriers were particularly pronounced for interpreters working remotely.

We conclude that **improving interprofessional collaboration between clinicians and interpreters** is necessary to enhance uptake of ACP among CALD communities, and we have embarked on the co-design of a program that aims to effect this improvement.

You can find more details of this project [here](#).

National PD Coordinator

In this series we've already covered 12 AUSIT roles filled by members. In this issue we look at one of the organisation's 'honorary roles' – that is, roles that involve more work than most, and are therefore remunerated. Our current National PD Coordinator, **Epperly Zhang**, tells us about the role.



Hours/week:
6 to 8

Voluntary/paid?
Paid

AUSIT member for:
4+ years

Time in this role:
1.5 years

Other AUSIT roles (past and/or present): Victorian Branch PD Coordinator, September 2021 to February 2023 / Victorian Branch Committee member since February 2023

Q1. What does the role of National PD Coordinator involve?

One of the main responsibilities is organising and coordinating PD and social events for translators and interpreters. This involves selecting relevant PD topics, sourcing presenters and liaising with them, and working closely with AUSIT's admin team to set up e-Flashes and promote the events. It also involves providing support to branch coordinators and responding to PD-related enquiries from AUSIT members and non-members alike. Plus I organise the bi-monthly PD Committee meetings, prepare the meeting agendas, and record and disseminate the minutes, as well as preparing the bi-monthly PD reports that update AUSIT's National Council on all PD-related matters. The role is contracted for up to 10 hours per week, with the actual hours varying, depending on the number of events we're running each week.

Q2. Why did you take it on?

I'd previously volunteered as the PD Coordinator for the Victorian Branch for over a year, and really enjoyed the opportunity to build connections with colleagues, and also to contribute to the professional development of practitioners. I found this experience really

rewarding – especially during the pandemic, when I felt isolated and was seeking connection. That's why I joined AUSIT and the Victorian Branch in the first place. When the National PD Coordinator role became available, I saw it as a chance to both challenge myself and contribute further to the profession.

Q3. What skills or qualities are needed?

Time management and organisational skills are key, as we often have multiple events to work on at the same time. Strong attention to detail is essential, as we need to make sure the little details such as times and dates are correct. People skills and collaboration are also important, as this isn't a one-person job that can be carried out in a vacuum; it involves working closely with others. Last but not least, a keen interest to keep abreast of current trends in the T&I profession and industry is important, as this enables us to deliver PD events that are as relevant and valuable to practitioners as possible.

Q4. What advice would you give to someone who's thinking about taking on this role?

I would highly recommend it if you're looking to become more involved in the profession and build some meaningful connections along the way. A good starting point would be to engage in some PD work at branch committee level, to gain firsthand insights into what this kind of role entails, before taking on the national role.

Q5. How has your involvement in this role contributed to your personal and/or professional growth?

Professionally, it has greatly improved my project management and organisational skills, as I've had to juggle multiple events, coordinate with various stakeholders, and ensure that everything runs smoothly. The experience has also deepened my understanding of the Australian T&I industry and the needs of our practitioners. On a personal level, the role has honed my communication and collaboration skills. Working closely with a diverse range of colleagues has taught me the importance of clear and effective communication. Additionally, the opportunity to connect with colleagues across the country has expanded my professional network and provides me with a strong sense of community – this has been really rewarding.

MEMBER PROFILES



NAME:
Translator or interpreter (or both):
Language(s) and direction(s):
Location:
Practising as a T/I since:
Member of AUSIT since:
Main area(s) of practice:

FAROOQUE AHMED KHAN
both
Bangla-English
Sydney, NSW
2000
2015
legal, medical

MICHÈLE DREYFUS
both
French-English
Fremantle, WA
2002
2003
mining, immigration, law

Q&A

Q1
How did you come to be a translator and/or interpreter?

Q2
Tell us about a project you have worked on that was especially interesting or challenging (within the bounds of confidentiality of course).



A1
Two significant incidents in hospitals – both involving my wife – were my motivation. In the first, a Bangla interpreter had been booked but after more than four hours, a Hindi interpreter arrived instead – the Bangla interpreter had asked him to cover for her, assuming my wife would understand Hindi (she didn't). A few years later, and about to give birth to our first child, my wife required urgent surgery, so the doctor needed her consent. An interpreter had been booked, but he didn't arrive until long after the surgery – and when he did, his conduct and language were highly unprofessional, and the doctor, my wife and I were all deeply upset.

A2
Shortly after finishing an exhausting assignment on a complex police investigation, an interpreting agency called to ask if I could fly overseas that evening for an assignment of a sensitive nature, as they'd been unable to find anyone else. I agreed (despite knowing it would be difficult and challenging), packed my bags, and headed to Sydney airport to fly to Brisbane, where I *just* reached the international airline's check-in counter before it closed. I hurried aboard the aircraft hoping to get some sleep, but the flight experienced technical difficulties and I barely slept – and to make matters worse, there was no food available for me. Upon landing I was taken straight to the assignment, and spent the entire day assisting with interviews. At the end of the day, the officer I'd been working with expressed appreciation for my hard work and dedication. I believe interpreters often make sacrifices for the betterment of society. This opportunity gave me a lot of satisfaction.

A1
I trained as an English and French teacher in France, and looking back, I can see I've always been interested in languages – their evolution, grammar and influence on each other, the cultural gaps, the untranslatable and so on. In 1997 I was doing postgraduate studies at the ANU, Canberra when a friend who was an immigration lawyer asked me to sight translate some documents. I did, and at his suggestion I then sat the NAATI exams and took the interpreting test. I went back to my ESL teaching job in the Northern Territory for a while, but then moved to Perth, stopped teaching and became a fulltime translator. Interpreting is less of a passion for me than translation – I think of myself primarily as a translator; I'm doing a fair bit of community interpreting at the moment, but the satisfaction I derive from doing so has more to do with being able to help people in circumstances where they're vulnerable (such as in hospitals and courts) than with solving linguistic challenges.

A2
Last year I was involved in a very large post-editing assignment for a mining project. It was the second round of post-editing of a very large feasibility study, and it really made me realise the limits of artificial intelligence. There were four of us in the team, and one coordinator. We grew into a good team, sharing our findings and our ideas, asking questions, building shared glossaries and so on over the several months that the project lasted. I don't know if anyone learnt a lot from *me*, but I learnt a lot from my colleagues, and I enjoyed being part of a team, which is quite rare in our trade.