

**On behalf of the Department of Interpreting & Translation
of the University of Bologna,
the Laboratory for Multilectal Mediated Communication & Cognition**
invites you to the TREC-endorsed 2020-21 monthly series of online lectures



Food for Thought

COGNITIVE TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING STUDIES may be considered the oldest empirical domain within modern Translation Studies and one of the few concentrating on the *human how*. Researching mental processes associated to translating and interpreting is a promising approach because such processes are assumed to be the same in all humans through time, even though 'contents' may be different. Knowledge built with this approach is therefore likely to accommodate new realities where translation and interpreting might be conceived of and performed differently. Since different texts and speeches seem to be processed in similar ways, focusing on mental processes—rather than on features such as text types—also allows for a considerable reduction in variables for empirical research.

Ever since Eva Paneth published her MA thesis on conference interpreting (1957)—which included observational data—many things have changed. Two generations of researchers passed the torch to younger colleagues, and the domain is thriving. Throughout these decades, however, the approaches to human translational cognition have been nearly frozen, encapsulated as they were in understandings of the mind, meaning, language, communication and translation from the first cognitive revolution, back in the 1960s. The newly-founded *Laboratory for Multilectal Mediated Communication & Cognition* (MC2 Lab) of the DIT takes pride in announcing a series of lectures that will provide an update on several topics of general interest to translation & interpreting scholars.



Once upon a time... measuring the history of translation, interpreting & cognition
2020/10/15 12:30 Christian Olalla-Soler

Directionality in translation and interpreting
2020/11/12 12:30 Bogusława Whyatt

What's in a name? Would that which we call an interpreter by any other name talk as sweet?
2021/02/18 12:30 Elisabet Tiselius

Not every translation decision is guided by logic, emotions also play a part
2021/03/18 12:30 Ana Ma. Rojo López

Text complexity and translation difficulty
2021/04/15 12:30 SUN Sanjun

The making of translation experts
2021/05/13 12:30 Álvaro Marín García

First, fast, and frequent: What makes some translation choices easy?
13:00 Sandra L. Halverson

Round table
13:30 Álvaro Marín, Sandra Halverson & Ricardo Muñoz

Closing remarks: The MC2 Lab as a hub for many a research enterprise
14:00 Ricardo Muñoz

all lectures will be held in English, online (Zoom), and on Thursdays at 12:30
we will publish a link on the event's website before each lecture begins

Once upon a time...

Measuring the history of translation, interpreting and cognition

Christian Olalla-Soler, DIT, UNIBO, Forlì

15 October 2020 12:30–14:00 CEST

Bibliometrics is broadly defined as the statistical study of the flux of scientific information. One of its applications is describing the history and sociology of science or specific disciplines. In this talk, I will use bibliometric methods to picture the evolution of Cognitive Translation and Interpreting Studies (CTIS) as a sub-discipline of Translation and Interpreting Studies (TIS).

Christian Olalla-Soler works as a post-doc researcher at the Department of Interpreting and Translation of the University of Bologna, where he is a member of the Laboratory for Multilectal Mediated Communication & Cognition (MC2 Lab). He completed a PhD in Translation and Intercultural Studies at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain. He is a member of the **MC2 Lab** and of the international network Translation, Research, Empiricism, Cognition ([TREC](#)). For further [info](#), see [ORCID](#), [h-index](#) and lists of [some publications](#) and [revisions](#).

Directionality in translation and interpreting

Bogusława Whyatt, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland

12 November 2020 12:30–14:00 CET

For decades, the general consensus has been that translators should work into their L1 and avoid translating into their L2 because they will produce translations of inferior quality. This prescriptive view has made translation directionality one of the most contentious issues in translation studies. The opponents have pointed out that in small translation markets where the home language belongs to the so called languages of low diffusion, translators frequently and successfully work into their L2. In this talk I will try to show that in empirically oriented cognitive translation studies we are ready to enhance our understanding of the impact translation direction has on the process of translation and its end product. Several recent studies employing TPR methodology have shown that translating into L2 is cognitively more demanding and is more reliant on information sources. The EDiT project which investigated professional translators has shown that translating into L2 does not take more time than translating into L1, and L1 translations are not as flawless as they might be expected

Bogusława Whyatt is Associate Professor of Linguistics at Faculty of English, Adam Mickiewicz University. Her research interests include the translation process, translation expertise, directionality and the interfaces between bilingualism and translation. She was the PI in two grant projects (the ParaTrans and the EDiT project) in which she used key-logging, eye-tracking and screen capture. She is a translator trainer, an external associate of the **MC2 Lab**, and a member of [TREC](#), and of the Consortium for Translation Education Research. For further [info](#), see [ORCID](#), [h-index](#) and list of [some publications](#) and [revisions](#).

What's in a name?

Would that which we call an interpreter by any other name talk as sweet?

Elisabet Tiselius, Stockholm University, Sweden

18 February 2021 12:30–14:00 CET

Interpreters can be defined by the mode they work in – a simultaneous interpreter or a dialogue interpreter – by the setting they work in – a conference interpreter or a court interpreter, or by one of their working languages, e.g., sign language interpreter. In this talk, I will discuss cognitive aspects of the interpreting tasks and what it can tell us about a variety of different areas in interpreting. I will also briefly touch upon why certain labels for interpreters are misnomers.

Elisabet Tiselius is an associate professor of interpreting studies at Stockholm University, affiliated to Karolinska Institutet and Western Norway University of Applied Sciences. She is a board member of EST, and sits on AIIIC's Research Committee. Her research group Stockholm Process Research in Interpreting and Translation (SPRINT) focuses on cognitive aspects of interpreting and translation. She is funded by the Swedish research council (VR grant 2016-01118). Prof Tiselius is an external associate of the **MC2 Lab** and a member of [TREC](#). She tweets @tulkur. For further [info](#), see [ORCID](#), [h-index](#) and lists of [some publications](#) and [revisions](#).

Not every translation decision is guided by logic —emotions also play a part

Ana María Rojo López, University of Murcia, Spain

18 Marzo 2021 12:30–14:00 CET

For decades translation process research has aimed at describing the cognitive mechanisms—e.g., attention, memory, concentration—involved in the translation and interpreting process. But scarce research has been conducted so far on the role of emotions in guiding translation processes. In this talk, I will summarize the main findings on the role of emotions, explaining how they may foster or hinder translation processes.

Ana Rojo is Professor of Translation at the University of Murcia (Spain). Her research interests focus on the study of the translation process, with special emphasis on the role of emotions, creativity and other personality and individual differences. She currently coordinates a research project on the impact of emotions on translation and interpreting processes. Prof Rojo is an external associate of the **MC2 Lab** and a member of [TREC](#). For further [info](#), see [ORCID](#), [h-index](#) and a list of some [publications](#).

Text complexity and translation difficulty

Sun Sanjun, Beijing Foreign Studies University, China

15 April 2021 12:00–14:00 CEST

Task difficulty has a direct impact on human performance. In translation, difficulties are caused by translation factors (i.e., text difficulty and translation-specific difficulty), translator factors (i.e., levels of translation expertise), and environmental factors (e.g., translation tools). In this talk, I will review empirical studies on the role of text complexity in the translation process, leading to higher translation difficulty and cognitive load. Discoveries involving three modes of translation will be addressed: written translation, sight translation, and machine translation post-editing.

Sun Sanjun is Associate Professor of Translation Studies at Beijing Foreign Studies University, Beijing. He received his Ph.D. in Translation Studies from Kent State University in 2012. He is co-editor of Chinese journal "Translation Horizons", and has co-authored two books in Chinese on translation and language studies. His research interests include cognitive translation studies, empirical research methods, and translation technology. Prof Sun is an external associate of the **MC2 Lab** and a member of the international network Translation, Research, Empiricism, Cognition (**TREC**). For further [info](#), see [ORCID](#), [h-index](#) and lists of some [publications](#) and [revisions](#).

13 May 2021 CLOSING SESSION

The making of translation experts

Álvaro Marín García University of Valladolid, Spain

12:00–12:30 CEST

Expertise is of great interest both for professionals and trainers in all fields, but how can we define expert behaviors? To answer this question, in this talk I will discuss the main factors conducing to expertise acquisition, paying special attention to its development in language mediation settings.

Álvaro Marín is an assistant professor at the University of Valladolid (Spain). He has worked as a translation lecturer at the University of Essex (UK) and taught translation theory and practice at Kent State University (USA), where he completed his PhD in Translation Studies. His research interests are in the epistemology of Cognitive Translation Studies and in the history of ideas as related to language mediation. He is currently investigating new forms of theory development from a pluralistic methodology. Prof Marín is an external associate of the **MC2 Lab** and a member of **TREC**. For further info, see [ORCID](#), and a list of some [publications](#).

First, fast, and frequent

What makes some translation choices easy?

Sandra L. Halverson Agder University, Norway

12:30–13:00 CEST

Studies of translation, also historical texts, make frequent reference to 'literal' translations, which are often assumed to be easier for the translator to produce. In this talk, I will describe the two different ways of thinking about fast, easy and frequent translation choices, and will outline an ongoing research project dealing with the issue.

Sandra Halverson is employed at the Department of Foreign Languages and Translation at the University of Agder in Norway. She is an external associate of the **MC2 Lab**. Her research interests include the epistemology of TIS, cognitive linguistic approaches to translation, and empirical studies of patterns in translated language.

Professor Halverson served as co-editor of *Target* for eight years, and currently serves on the editorial board of numerous TIS journals. he was appointed **CETRA chair professor** for 2018. Halverson is and a member of EST- and of TREC.

For further [info](#), see [ORCID](#) and a list of some [publications](#).

Round Table 13:30–14:00 CEST

Halverson, Marín & Muñoz

Final remarks: The MC2 Lab as a hub for many a research enterprise

Ricardo Muñoz Martín DIT, UNIBO, Forlì

14:00–14:30 CEST

Ricardo Muñoz has been a freelance translator since 1987 and was ATA certified for English-Spanish in 1991. Muñoz is currently Professor in the Department of Interpreting & Translation of the University of Bologna. He directs the Laboratory for Multilectal Mediated Communication & Cognition (the **MC2 Lab**), which focuses on the empirical research of the cognitive aspects of multilectal tasks from a 4EA cognition (situated) perspective. Prof Muñoz is founder and now co-editor of the journal *Translation, Cognition & Behavior* and a member of **TREC**. For further info, see [ORCID](#), [h-index](#) and lists of some [publications](#) and [revisions](#).

Mark it on your calendar!

Remember! we will publish a link on the event's website right before each lecture starts



October 2020

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