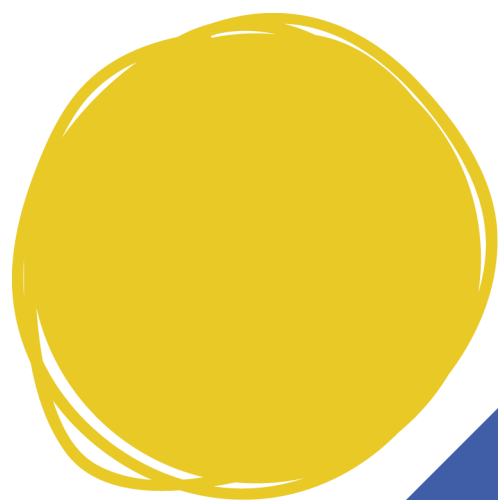


ITIA

Bulletin

2021 / 01

Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association
Cumann Aistritheoirí agus Ateangairí na hÉireann



Contents

Editorial	.....	02
A translator's Brexit lament	.....	03
A 21st century career beckons	.....	05
New Register of Irish Sign Language Interpreters	.....	07
Interpreting in Fair City	.....	09
Translators associations Swedish style	.....	11
Snippets	.....	13
What's Hot, What's Not	.....	14
New Members	.....	15
Worth-a-Click	.....	16
Joining the ITIA	.....	16

Editorial

The ITIA Executive Committee has launched 2021 with an array of activities – [two coffee mornings](#) to date, one on ideas for further CPD and the second on working from home, ably hosted by Susanne Dirks and Penny Eades Alvarez respectively. We have also held [two CPD sessions](#), both really well attended. The first webinar of the year was given by John O’Shea, FIT Europe Board member and Greek to English legal translator, telling us how to get a grip on GDPR obligations for free-lance translators. The second, held in February, was given by Henrik Walter-Johnsen from Norway, on the topic of Audio Visual Translation. This was very timely when we consider how much Netflix and other digital platforms we have been watching during the pandemic – and wondering who has been doing all this subtitling work?

Do please join us for our next [Zoom coffee morning](#) at 10 am, 23 March, hosted by ITIA PM Danièle Tort-Moloney on the topic of language sensitivity.

The committee has also embarked on a number of new initiatives for members, one just launched and another two ‘in progress’. The first, which was requested at our online AGM in October, is a [members’ forum](#). This was launched on Valentine’s Day and so far uptake on the new LinkedIn ITIA members’ forum has been very positive. Don’t forget to check out the terms of use. The work in progress includes a [mentoring programme](#) for members - a questionnaire on the topic was circulated to members a number of months ago - and also the possibility of [logging CPD](#) on members’ ‘My ITIA’ page. We believe that these projects represent considerable benefits for ITIA members and will strengthen the association. Hopefully, our collective energy will keep us going to deliver our plans!

A regular feature in the Bulletin has been [Members’ Corner](#), where translators and interpreters tell us the story of their career path. In this issue, we read the story of two very different career paths (of two non members), one which began in the 20th century and the other is very much a 21st century tale. Ros Schwartz, prize-winning literary translator brings us back to the 1970s and Róisín Moran, recent graduate, armed with very specific skills, embarks on her career in a high-tech world of translation. Whilst Ros started out almost immediately as a freelancer, Róisín opted to begin with research work. Compare and contrast!

A national register of qualified and accredited translators and spoken language interpreters is a topic we have heard much discussion about for many years. As a matter of fact, Directive 2010/64/EU asks that EU member states endeavour ‘to establish a register of independent translators and interpreters who are appropriately qualified’. [Ray Greene](#), Irish Sign Language interpreter, tells us about the long and winding road to the establishment of the new ISL interpreter register.

Check out [Snippets](#) where the dire consequences for unqualified, unaccredited interpreters who try to fool the system are highlighted!

Public perception of our profession, interpreters rather than translators in this instance, and how we carry out our professional tasks, can be very varied, with a large percentage of the population not entirely clear about what our work involves. Some recent episodes of the popular RTE soap series, Fair City, did little to improve that view with the (mis)portrayal of how an interpreter works – this included the use of untrained and unqualified people by both gardai and solicitors. Our Chair, [Mary Phelan](#), has written an article about how unhelpful misinformed portrayals of community interpreters can be and, more importantly, how this process should be carried out.

Our [Worth-a-Click](#) section includes examples of the efforts of translators’ associations to inform and educate the public about our profession, and maybe avoid misconceptions.

Another feature that the Bulletin has included from time to time has been ‘windows’ on other translator associations - how they were established and how they run themselves. This time it is [Lena Jonsson](#), English/Swedish literary translator, who gives us a history of the Swedish Translators association from 1893 to the present day.

Hope you enjoy reading our first Bulletin offering of 2021 and wishing all our members and readers the very best for the coming year.

Anne Larchet

Editor

A translator's Brexit lament



Ros Schwartz, award-winning translator from French, recounts in her lament how her early adult years proved to be the perfect training for her future as a literary translator

Britain's membership of the EU has defined the contours of my life. In 1974, I dropped out of university in England and ran away to Paris. Because the United Kingdom had just joined the European Economic Community (as it was then), I was able to obtain a precious Carte de séjour and a Carte de sécurité sociale, which allowed me to live and work in Paris. I did all sorts of odd — and I mean odd — jobs. My first was as a telephone operator on the Gare d'Austerlitz train information line. There were lots of us in a very big, open room, using antiquated headsets, and it was hard to hear what the caller was saying. My geography of France was rudimentary. When asked the times of the trains to Port Bou, on the Spanish border, I understood 'Bordeaux'. I'd spend Septembers picking grapes in Chablis, Champagne or Provence — my initiation into wine culture. I learned to milk goats and make cheese on a cooperative farm in the Cévennes (I even know how to skin a goat using a drinking straw). As an English person, I found myself in great demand: in 1971, the French had introduced a law entitling employees in companies over a certain size to professional development sessions during working hours. Bosses took advantage of this to make their staff take English lessons. Language schools mushroomed all over Paris, recruiting peripatetic teachers. I had no training, but it was enough to be a native English-speaker and to stay one chapter ahead in the teaching manual. I learnt on the job. Going into different companies in Paris and the surrounding area gave me a window onto French life in different social milieus. Although I didn't realize it at the time, all of these experiences were the raw materials for the translator I would become.

France had a generous unemployment system in the 1970s. If you were made redundant and signed up for a university course, for two years you received 90% of your previous salary while you studied. I benefited from this regime and enrolled at the radical university of Vincennes, which was founded as an experimental academic centre in 1969 in reaction to the student protests of 1968. Prominent intellectuals including Jean Baudrillard and Hélène Cixous led seminars. I took courses on subjects with titles like 'Mickey Mouse and American Cultural Imperialism.'

'Going into different companies in Paris gave me a window onto French life in different social milieus'

Vincennes was in a constant intellectual ferment; it was my initiation into radical politics of every stripe. Such a contrast to the staid campus I'd deserted back in the UK where the biggest student association was the young Conservatives. Paris was also my springboard to the rest of Europe. It was so easy to hop on a train and go traveling around Italy or Spain for a few weeks, picking up the languages and then consolidating them once back in Paris.

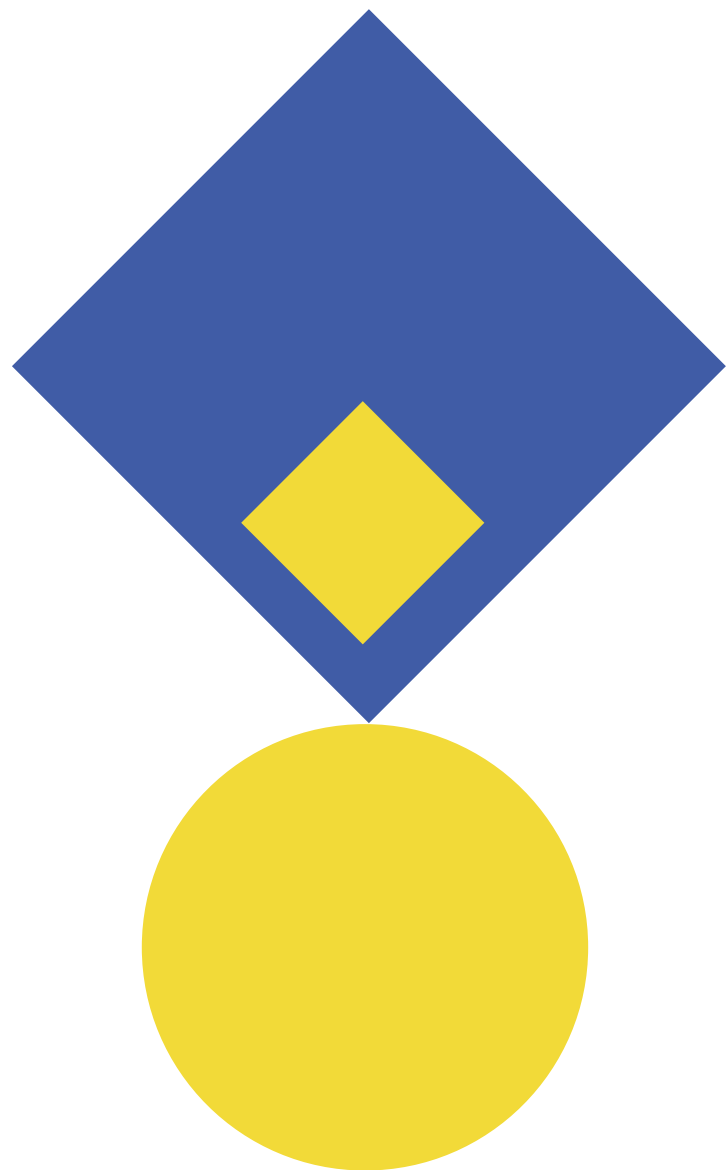
In Sicily, I learned to fish and kill octopus (by biting the nerve between the eyes); in Catalonia, to make paella; in Naples to make the best melanzane alla parmigiana. The French capital was cosmopolitan and open. It was easy to find part-time work — petits boulots — to make ends meet, and living was cheap. Although I earned little, I could afford to gorge myself on theatre (it was the heyday of Ariane Mnouchkine's Théâtre du Soleil and Peter Brook's Boues du Nord), cinema and jazz in basement clubs in the Latin Quarter. I hung out with South American musicians (exiles from Pinochet's Chile or from Argentina) who taught me the songs of Atahualpa Yupanqui that I later sang to my children, and I had friends from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and sub-Saharan Africa. Paris opened up the world to that 20-something from a deathly-dull London suburb. I lived in France for eight years.

On returning to the UK, I found I was unemployable, having never had a grown-up job. So I launched myself as a translator. The rest is history. During my professional career, I have traveled all over Europe, attending conferences and festivals, giving workshops, meeting authors, publishers, and fellow translators. The EU is woven into the fabric of who I am. I feel so fortunate to have been able to travel and work freely in Europe and I weep for my children's generation and for their children, who may never know the same freedoms and opportunities. I rage at my country that no longer feels like my country, which has retreated into insularity and xenophobia, the jettisoned Erasmus student exchange programme symptomatic of the government's contempt for cultural and linguistic cross-fertilization. When the bells tolled at 11pm on December 31, it was a death knell.

Ros Schwartz

Over the past four decades **Ros** has translated over 100 fiction and nonfiction books from French. In 2010, she published a new translation of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's *The Little Prince* and her recent translated works included Mireille Gantel's *Translation as Transhumance* (Feminist Press, 2017) the theme of which is translation as hospitality. She gives talks and masterclasses around the world and is co-director of Bristol Translates literary translation summer school. In 2009 she was made a *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres*.

'I weep for my children's generation and for their children, who may never know the same freedoms'



A 21st century career beckons



Róisín Moran graduated from DCU in 2020 with a Master's degree in Translation Studies, which clearly stood her in good stead as she is now employed as a Machine Translation Research Assistant at ICONIC.

1. Can you tell the Bulletin a little bit about your background?

Hello! My name is Róisín, and I was born and raised in Dublin. I am a recent graduate of a Masters in Translation Studies and I am currently working (from home!) as a Machine Translation Research Assistant in Iconic Translation Machines.

2. How/When did you become interested in languages?

I received an all-Irish education in both primary and secondary school, so I have been speaking two languages from a very young age. I suppose that is where my interest in languages came from - I always loved speaking Irish with my family and friends and was very proud to speak the language. I picked up French in secondary school, and enjoyed that so much that I went on to study languages in university.

3. Where did you study? Any reasons for picking those particular undergraduate and post graduate courses?

I did my undergraduate degree in French and Modern Irish in Trinity College Dublin, and then went on to do a Masters in Translation Studies in DCU. I had such an interest in languages when I finished school, and yet was not completely sure of what path I wanted to go down career-wise. I felt that doing an arts degree would keep my options open, and it did just that. In the first year or two of my degree, I was of a mind to go on to teach my languages at secondary school level. However, after getting a bit of experience

working in schools I realised that that wasn't at all for me.

Aspects of translation were covered in both French and Irish throughout my degree – whether that was practical translation or analysing translated works and the various approaches that translators take. Around the third and fourth years of my degree there was also a lot of talk both in college and in the news of job opportunities for translators in Ireland and in the institutions of the European Union. I suppose before that I hadn't considered translation as a career path, as I was somewhat unaware of just how vast an industry that it is. Considering how much I enjoyed the translation elements of my course it really made sense for me to go down that path.

'I was very proud to speak Irish'

I decided on doing the MA in DCU for a number of reasons. The course is part of the European Masters in Translation Network and so is highly regarded within the translation industry, it covers a broad range of subjects, such as translation technology which is of course vital knowledge for any translator nowadays, and there is also the possibility of completing an internship as part of the degree, which would be so beneficial to anyone starting out with their career. It is by no means a necessity for a translator to have a postgraduate degree under their belt, but I do think that it is of great value. I feel that it gave me the step up into the industry that I needed, both in terms of improving my own translation skills and broadening my knowledge of other areas of study such as translation technology, terminology work and localisation.

4. You got a job straight after completing your post graduate studies – how did that happen?

Last year certainly was not an easy year to be emerging into the working world, and I feel very fortunate to have secured a job soon after my studies. The job came about through a contact I had that worked with Iconic Translation Machines. They were looking for someone proficient in Irish, who also had a background with translation technology. I suppose I fit the bill, and after some interviews I was offered the position, which I was really delighted about.

‘The translation industry is developing at an extraordinary rate’

5. What does your job involve?

As I mentioned before I work as a Machine Translation research assistant in Iconic Translation Machines, where I work primarily on the PRINCIPLE project, which is an EU-funded project aimed at providing language data to improve machine translation quality in areas such as eJustice and eProcurement through the development of bespoke, domain-specific Machine Translation engines. The project is a collaborative effort between Iconic and partners in Ireland, Croatia, Iceland and Norway. Iconic’s role is to build bespoke neural machine translation engines for a select number of low resource European languages (Irish, Croatian, Icelandic, and Norwegian) through the data contributions of language resource providers identified throughout the project.

My focus is particularly on Irish, but on a day-to-day basis I could be working with numerous other languages which is hugely interesting. I assist in the development and deployment of machine translation engines for the PRINCIPLE project, which can include tasks such as evaluating the trustworthiness of new automatic evaluation metrics, validating data resources that come through the project, and writing reports on the results of Iconic’s efforts that will be fed back to the European Commission.

6. Any advice for someone hoping to have a career in translation?

The translation industry is developing at an extraordinary rate, and work opportunities are abundant - it is truly an exciting industry to get involved with. In terms of advice, I am relatively new to the career world, but one thing that has certainly struck me so far is that it is important to build up your contacts within the industry. Making good impressions on all those whom you come across will stand to you - be they university lecturers, potential employers in interviews or others who are established in the industry. You never know what opportunities might come your way through word of mouth and personal recommendations.

On a note of encouragement, if I am qualified to offer that, I just want to add that for anyone hoping to have a career in translation, do not feel like you are entering into an industry where years and years of experience equates to the strongest resume. If you decide to do a university degree, undergrad or postgrad, the practical skills that you will learn there and the in-depth understanding of the latest technologies in the industry that you will have when you finish the course will stand to you enormously in the job market. You will have learned the most current and most relevant information that is applicable to real world industry situations, and that is a huge advantage both to yourself and to any potential employer. Do not doubt or undersell your abilities and your value!

Róisín Moran

New Register of Irish Sign Language Interpreters



Ray Greene qualified as an ISL/English Interpreter in 2004. She is a board member of the Council of Irish Sign Language Interpreters (CISLI), and has recently registered on the Directory of Interpreters with RISLI.

When Irish Sign Language (ISL) was recognised in the Republic of Ireland in December 2017 it represented the much-anticipated promise of improved access and inclusion in society for the Deaf community. Prior to this significant milestone, the lack of sign language recognition and provision had resulted in systematic exclusion and extreme marginalisation of the Deaf community.

ISL is estimated to be used by about 5,000 Deaf people and 40,000 people in total, including those who are related to, in relationships with, or work with Deaf people (such as teachers, parents, service providers and interpreters)

The ISL Act 2017, Section 7, states: 'A court or public body, in compliance with its obligations under this Act, shall not engage the services of a person providing Irish Sign Language interpretation unless the person's competence has been verified by having been accredited in accordance with an accreditation scheme funded by the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection'.

'The Code of Conduct is an integral part of the Register'

In 2007, Sign Language Interpreting Service (SLIS) was established to develop and deliver interpreting services to Ireland's Deaf community and to service providers, including public services. They also maintained a list of interpreters who held recognised qualifications/accreditations and had experience and expertise.

In March 2017, SLIS published 'A Review of Literature and International Practice on National and Voluntary Registers for Sign Language Interpreters'. This was led by Lorraine Leeson, Professor of Deaf Studies, Trinity College Dublin, and set out recommendations and a skeleton framework for the development of a national

voluntary register, based on the latest research and on international practice. The National Disability Inclusion Strategy (NDIS) 2017 - 2021 then tasked SLIS with establishing a 'Registration and Quality Assurance Scheme'.

A Quality Development Officer (QDO) was employed in 2018, to draw from research and examples of international best practice to inform the establishment of a register. The Deaf community, interpreters and other key stakeholders throughout Ireland were also consulted and given the opportunity to express their opinions on the register.

In line with the commencement of the Act in December 2020, SLIS began the process by establishing 'The Regulatory Centre for Irish Sign Language Interpreters Ireland CLG'. This company operates under the business name Register of Irish Sign Language Interpreters (RISLI). The first task was to invite interpreters to join the register. A series of workshops were held in the weeks leading up to registration to inform interpreters and guide them through the process.

The Registration Process

Applicants to the register must have at least one of the recognised qualifications/accreditations identified in the Registration Process Policy. If an applicant does not have a recognised qualification/accreditation, they go through a different registration process, which can involve a requirement to complete specific Continuous Professional Development (CPD) training or successfully complete a skills check. The application form and supplementary documents and information supplied undergo rigorous checks by legal advisors, resulting in a lengthy process.

At the time of writing, there are 5 Deaf Interpreters and 81 Hearing Interpreters on the register. Deaf Interpreters are Deaf or hard-of-hearing professionals who possess fluency in a national or regional sign language and an in-depth knowledge of Deaf culture

and the Deaf community. Deaf interpreters often work in tandem with another interpreter and provide supports that bridge a cultural or linguistic barrier that has been recognised within the community.

There are currently 24 students participating in a Deaf Interpreter Training programme in the Centre for Deaf Studies, Trinity College Dublin. It will run until July 2021 and students are being prepared to meet the criteria for membership of the register.

It is mandatory for interpreters on the register to engage in and record CPD and provide evidence of work practice. The CPD is made up of structured/unstructured and Deaf Community Engagement hours (where applicable). A minimum of 5% of members will be audited annually.

A Registration Panel of up to 11 individuals, who serve in a voluntary capacity, will maintain the Register. They apply to become panelists via Expressions of Interests, are shortlisted and recommended by a Selection Committee. The Panel includes individuals from different stakeholder groups. They assume the role of decision maker in relation to all matters pertaining to the Register and SLIS provides administrative support.

‘The register will serve as a model of best practice’

A suite of policies has been developed on the website to support the operation of the Registration System. These include a Code of Conduct, GDPR and Privacy Policy and Complaints and Mediation Processes. Additional policies are in development, such as Specialisation Panels.

The Code of Conduct is an integral part of the Register, for both service users and interpreters. It outlines what is expected of interpreters. The code covers professional conduct, confidentiality, impartiality, accountability for Professional Decisions, working conditions, Professional Relationships and Continuing Professional Development

Any person can make a complaint about a registered interpreter, if the interpreter has, in their opinion, breached, or failed to follow, the Code of Conduct.

Complaints can be due to poor performance, not having the skills needed, breach of code of conduct, not respecting someone’s right to make their own decisions, being dishonest or conduct/behaviour issues. Mediation is an option before progressing further.

If the complaint is upheld, outcomes can include a formal letter of warning, requirement to complete specific training, mentoring, assessment, suspension or removal from the register.

External Assessors will be retained by the Registration Panel to set out practical and knowledge-based assessments of interpreters for Specialisation Panels, to assess qualifications, and to carry out annual audits of Continuing Professional Development among registered interpreters.

A Mentoring Programme is currently being developed to provide experienced RISLI registered interpreters the opportunity to train as mentors. The need for a formal mentorship programme is broadly recognised. The aim is to train experienced interpreters to work as formal mentors to new interpreters, interpreters returning to work after a break or interpreters who wish to progress in their career.

Benefits of the Register

The values of the register include enhancing social inclusion and access for Deaf sign language users, improving the quality and availability of sign language interpreters, supporting service providers, particularly public bodies to facilitate the use of sign language interpreting services and striving to do no harm.

Prior to the establishment of the register, there were no skills checks, no mandate or incentive to engage in Continual Professional Development, no mentoring opportunities and ad hoc complaints procedures were operated by different interpreting agencies. There was a list of interpreters who had reached a required standard but this was never revisited once established. Those who did not have any formal interpreting qualifications/accreditations, could continue to work in public bodies including legal and medical settings.

Currently, to work with any public body, interpreters must be on the register. This will have far-reaching consequences, not only for the interpreters who have the opportunity to become better and more competent practitioners, but also and more importantly, for those that they serve. Heartfelt congratulations to all who have worked tirelessly to bring the register to this stage and for making it an inclusive and transparent process. The register will serve as a model of best practice for other interpreter organisations to look to, take inspiration from and consider for their own profession.

For more details on the register see - www.risli.ie

Ray Greene

Interpreting in Fair City



ITIA Chairperson, Mary Phelan, was prompted by recent episodes of the Irish RTE soap, Fair City, to separate fact from fiction

In November and December 2020, five episodes of Fair City, a long-running soap opera on Irish television, included a storyline featuring interpreting. It all begins very casually when a policeman acquaintance phones Melanie Petrosian Ryan (Nyree Yergainharsian), who works in a laundrette, to ask if she would be willing to act as interpreter for an Armenian man at a solicitor's office, on the understanding that she 'might be paid'. Obviously there is a certain poetic licence in a soap opera script but the garda do not source interpreters on behalf of solicitors. And, like everyone else, interpreters are normally paid for their work.

Melanie's boyfriend Mondo is immediately suspicious and suggests that the man who needs an interpreter could be a murderer or a drug smuggler. However, Melanie reassures him saying 'I'm not doing it for the money. I want to help another Armenian.' The desire to help a compatriot is quite common among interpreters and while understandable it is problematic because interpreters are expected to be impartial and professional and not to get involved with clients. Another important principle for interpreters is confidentiality. However, Melanie is not aware of a code of ethics and immediately shares the client's name, Erik Mirakayan, with Mondo and his daughter and promises to 'fill everyone in on all the gruesome details later.' Mondo is keen to accompany Melanie 'for safety' but instead her son Alex, who also speaks Armenian, goes with her to the solicitor's office. It seems that Alex is allowed to sit in on the interview, again, another highly unlikely eventuality.

After the assignment, Melanie and her son go for a coffee with the solicitor who thanks her and says that her presence helped a lot because Erik, who is suspected of being involved in fraud, had relaxed for the first time. The solicitor assures Melanie that he is battling for Erik, and adds 'And you, I hope'. While it is of course the solicitor's job to defend his client, it is certainly not the interpreter's job to 'battle for' anyone. Melanie asks the solicitor if Erik committed the fraud but he doesn't give a straight answer.

'Interpreters are expected to be impartial and professional'

Again, this is the sort of question that an interpreter should not ask because it is none of their business. Later, Melanie discusses the case with her son and they agree that Erik is guilty. Somewhat belatedly, the solicitor asks Melanie to sign a confidentiality agreement. He then asks her to translate some documents by the next day, saying 'There's a bit of legal jargon in there, so don't stress. Do what you can.' This is Melanie's first time translating and she is dealing with legal language, but not only is it not a problem but she enjoys doing it.

Melanie attends a meeting with the legal team, presumably to act as interpreter although this is not entirely clear and we never see her interpreting or even see Erik. The solicitor asks her to act as interpreter in court saying, 'They usually appoint an interpreter but Mr Mirakayan seems to trust you.' In real life, the Courts Service would source an interpreter through a contracted company. Mondo is not keen on Melanie going to court as he is concerned about the presence of petty criminals and he wants to do some 'family stuff'. He is curious to know what crime Erik is accused of but Melanie now insists that she can't tell him because of the confidentiality agreement. Melanie is nervous about

'Sadly, there is an element of truth in the script'

interpreting in court in case she can't understand what is said in English or can't translate into Armenian but her son reassures her that she would not have been asked if the lawyers didn't think she could do it. Melanie buys a new suit, interprets in court, and the solicitor then invites her to dinner along with Erik, who has been found guilty and fined. The solicitor tells Melanie she deserved dinner because she did a fantastic job in court and 'the court secretary couldn't believe it was your first translating gig.' It seems that interpreting in a court case involving fraud is straightforward; anyone who speaks the languages can do it without any problem at all. The prospect of a solicitor taking a defendant and interpreter

out to dinner seems rather farfetched. The solicitor passes her number on to some colleagues in case more translation work comes up for her; there is no need for garda vetting and no quality control. Melanie goes on to help Erik with his English. Of course, the whole point of the storyline is to set up a rival love interest for Melanie and for Mondo to be jealous of Erik. In real life, it would be unprofessional for a legal interpreter to befriend a client.

Sadly and perhaps inadvertently, there is an element of truth in the script in that in Ireland anyone who speaks English and another language can act as interpreter in garda stations, for solicitors, and the courts. This is because there is no training course for legal interpreters and no examination to establish if interpreters can provide competent interpreting. However, even in the case of Armenian, it is possible to find experienced interpreters and it should not be necessary to recruit someone who works in the local laundrette.

While it is interesting that the Fair City scriptwriters included this storyline, and we do understand that a lot of work is involved in writing for a series with four shows a week, our recommendation is that if interpreting is to feature in a future script, please contact the ITIA to find out how things work. We're more than happy to provide background information that could help for a more realistic storyline.

Mary Phelan



Nyree Yergainharsian in *Fair City*, RTÉ 2020

Translators associations Swedish style - a long and sometimes bumpy road



Lena Jonsson, literary translator and legal bureaucrat, mainly translates YA fiction, most notably The Hunger Games trilogy and several novels by Ursula K. Le Guin. She has been a delegate to CEATL since 2016.

Swedish literary translators from 1893 to the present day

Since 1893, literary translators in Sweden have been organised in union-like organisations together with literary and scientific writers. The first organisation of this kind, the Swedish Association of Authors, was open to all writers and took a very active stance on copyright issues on behalf of its members. Among other things, the association played an important part in the work leading up to the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, completed in 1896. The first collective contract for writers was written in 1925, and Public Lending Rights were established in the 1930s. However, in the same decade, the association's bylaws were changed so that translators were more or less excluded, and it wasn't until 1954 that the first association exclusively for translators was founded. Nowadays, we are a part of the Swedish Writers' Union under the name Översättarsektionen, 'The Translators' Section'.

Our aims and connections

The aim of the Section is to strengthen translators as a group, both in society in general and in the publishing industry. This includes providing assistance to translators with regards to negotiation and interpretation of contracts, both individually and collectively, taking measures to enhance the visibility of translators, and lobbying government agencies and politicians concerning e.g. copyright law, legislation on taxation and social security. The Section also arranges seminars and social activities for translators on a regular basis. For many of these activities, we receive financial and staff support from the Union.

Furthermore, the Section works to strengthen translators as a group within the Union, where we are a minority: approximately 1 in 5 is a literary translator. The success varies, depending to a large degree on the current leadership of the Union. But over the last ten years we have managed to secure the hiring of one officer who works solely with translators' issues, albeit part-time. However, we do in general get good support from the Union's office.

'The aim of the Section is to strengthen translators as a group'

Swedish translators were present when CEATL was founded in 1993, and the Section has been a member ever since, sending delegates to every Annual General Meeting. In 2008, we took an active part in arranging WALTIC, the Writers' and Literary Translators' International Congress, in Stockholm, a very successful conference for writers, translators and scholars from all over the world, and that same week the CEATL AGM was held in Stockholm. Through the Union we are also represented on the European Writers' Council, and through the Norne network we work to maintain links between the Nordic countries. Nationally, we are represented in many forums dedicated to translation and translators' issues, including the Baltic Centre for Writers and Translators in Visby, Gotland.

The Swedish Writers' Union

The Union has approx. 3000 members and of those, approx. 600 are literary translators. The association works to safeguard the economic and moral interests of all members by defending freedom of expression and of the press, and by keeping up to date with copyright stipulations and laws regulating copyright.

All members may consult the office for individual help with interpretation and negotiation of contracts, and with agreements and disputes over such, as well as get tax counselling and other legal assistance. These services are free of charge. In principally important cases e.g. concerning freedom of expression, the Union may absorb litigation costs for members. And finally, the association assists members in collective bargaining measures.

Boycotting works!

One of the Section's main concerns during the past five years has been negotiating the renewal of our Standard or Model Contract. For a very long time, the Union and the Swedish Publishers' Association had an agreed Standard Contract and both parties loyally stood by it. But in 2017, the agreement was unilaterally terminated by the publishers during renewal negotiations. Sweden's largest publishing house, Bonnier, presented a new model. Their suggested contract included a great deal of changes for the worse for translators – the new model for remuneration would in effect result in lower fees, the Publisher would be granted the 'Last Word' on the wording of the translation, and the Publisher would acquire all rights to the translation for a period of 30 years. And so on.

Renowned translators who were offered commissions on these terms refused to agree to these provisions. The Union and the Section recommended that their members didn't sign Bonnier model contracts. The boycott made headlines in daily newspapers, TV and radio, and was much quoted on social media, and also received support from colleagues abroad. And it worked! With the aid of the Union officers our selected committee managed subsequently to negotiate a much-improved contract and the boycott was lifted.

Currently the most important issues for the Section are:

*We are re-negotiating the Bonnier contract for translation commissions that has been in effect for two years. Together with a couple of other publishers we are trying to negotiate a contract model suitable and acceptable for both parties.

*We are looking into the practices of two or three smaller publishers to decide whether or not to dissuade our members from taking commissions from them. The terms in their contracts are simply far below all reasonable standards.

*In cooperation with our colleagues in the translators' organisations SKTL [add link 6] and KAOS [add link 7] in Finland, we are planning for the CEATL AGM in Åland in 2021.

*Finally, we are considering how to plan members' activities in COVID-times, including everything from public prize ceremonies and seminars to monthly pub meets.

Lena Jonsson



Translation from left to right: 'Who has written this beautiful text?' 'Me!' 'Me!'

Lena Jonsson has been on the Board of the Translators' Section (*Översättarsektionen*) of the Swedish Writers' Union and has been a delegate to CEATL (Conseil Européen de Associations de Traducteurs Littéraires) since 2016. She worked for many years as a court lawyer, and after studying journalism, worked as a legal editor for an online news service. She has translated fantasy novels, thrillers, cookbooks and stock market prospectus.

Snippets

Consequences of crime

In February of this year, English newspapers reported the case of a fake court interpreter who forged qualifications and also used another legitimate interpreter's identity. He made large sums of money working under the two identities – one in his own name but with fake credentials and another posing as a qualified court interpreter. His lies were uncovered following a grooming gang trial, in which he had been paid to interpret for one of the abusers.

Mirwais Patang was employed by Capita, the company contracted to provide court translation services to the UK Ministry of Justice between March 2012 and October 2016. He pleaded guilty to eight counts of fraud, three counts of forgery and one count of conspiracy to commit fraud at a Crown Court.

Patang was sentenced to two years imprisonment, suspended for two years, and 300 hours of unpaid work.

Capita had been under pressure during their tenure for providing a sub-standard service and although they did inform the police when they discovered the fraud, it took them 4 years to uncover the problem.

DG study on freelance translators' collective bargaining

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Competition (DG COMP) has set up a research project to assess the impact of a possible EU initiative on the application of competition rules to collective bargaining for the self-employed.

A company called Ecorys was awarded a contract for this study which is expected to be completed in October 2021. The results of the study will enable the Commission to understand how the self-employed who are in need of protection can improve their working conditions through collective agreements, while ensuring that consumers still benefit from a competitive market. This will help to identify the ideal policy option to pursue at EU level.

The ITIA, amongst other European translator associations, has engaged with this study and will keep members informed of any further developments. The possibility of collective bargaining for freelance translators and interpreters could lead to considerable improvement in working conditions for our profession.

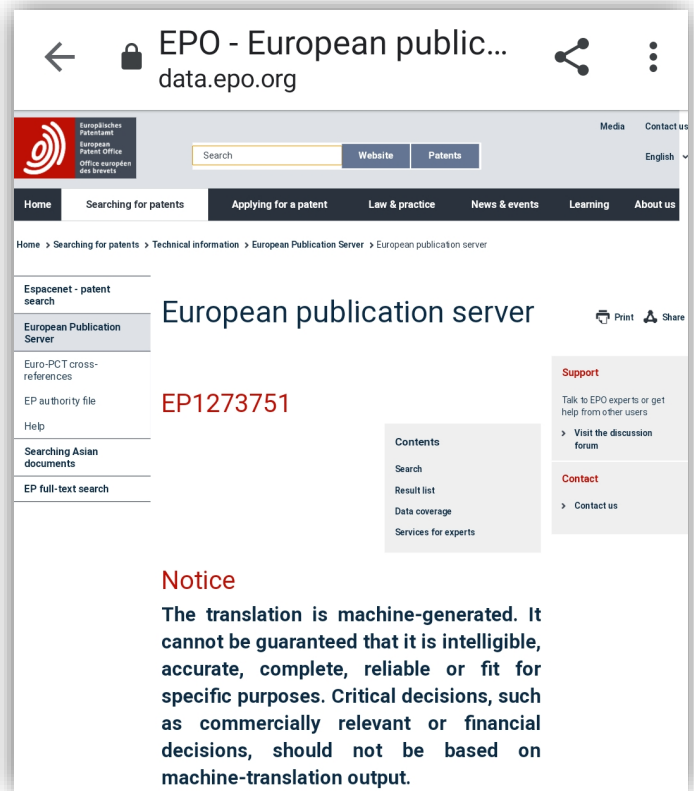
Translation competition 2021 for secondary school students

Based on last year's bumper number of entries — keep an eye on our website for upcoming video of 2020 winners — the ITIA Executive Committee is delighted to announce that we will run the competition again this year. We will be sending out word very soon to schools, teachers' language associations, cultural institutes etc. so get your pens/keyboards and dictionaries ready!



What's HOT

Just so that we are all aware that MT alone will not supply an entirely reliable translation and that human translator input is needed, the European patent office has this wonderful caveat on their webpage:



What's NOT

The total crackdown on Belarusian culture, media, social activity and civic society since the presidential elections of last August. Among the 568 recorded cases of repression, there are at least 131 writers, seven of those being literary translators.



New Members

New ITIA Certified Legal Translators

Chris Hopley

Dutch into English

Chris McDowell

English into Irish and Irish into English

Ha Phan

English into Vietnamese

Vietnamese into English

Gary Sexton

Spanish into English

Michael Warr

German into English

Irish into English

New Associate Members

Margot Grudzien

English into Polish

Polish into English

Ioana Ivan

English into Romanian

English into French

Jana Janosikova

English into Slovakian

Slovakian into English

Cormac McGabhna

English into Irish

German into English

Emilie Mamode-Issop

English into French

French into English

Katja Mischerikow

English into German

German into English

Susan Mutti

French into English

Spanish into English

Dónal Ó Gallachóir

English into Irish

Irish into English

New Student Members

Erguestine Andriamahatahitry

Teodora Andricioaei

Gráinne Caulfield

Haoyang Jian

David Thorburn

Worth-a-click

Whilst the Bulletin has reported on a number of language industry surveys on previous occasions, [this link](#) to the results of a worldwide survey of freelance translators, carried out last year, makes for interesting reading.

Part of the work of translator and interpreter associations is to inform the public about what exactly it is that we do. The American Translators Association (ATA) is one very good example of how this can be achieved with short video clips [here](#) and [here](#). Watch and learn!

FIT Mundus has just published its latest issue of [Translatio](#). Lots of news from the translator community around the world – Brazil, Latin America and Russia included.

A [phenomenal controversy](#) has blown up about the translation into Dutch of the work of Amanda Gorman, the young American poet who performed at Joe Biden's presidential inauguration ceremony. Meulenhoff, Dutch publishers, were severely criticised when they announced that award winning Dutch author Marieke Lucas Rijneveld would translate Gorman's forthcoming collection because they were not a "spoken-word artist, young, female and unapologetically Black". Gorman, who is 22, had specifically selected Rijneveld, aged 29, as they were also young and well known.

Joining the ITIA

The Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association is pleased to welcome new members to the association. We currently have the following categories of membership:

- Professional
- Associate
- Student
- Honorary

Professional Membership is awarded to translators or interpreters who meet the strict criteria of the ITIA based on qualification and level of experience.

Applicants must also achieve a PASS in the annual Professional Membership Examination (translator or interpreter) set by the ITIA.

Associate Membership may be granted to holders of a third-level qualification in translation and/or interpreting and/or languages or to holders of a third-level qualification with relevant experience.

Student Membership is available to persons undertaking undergraduate studies in any discipline or those undertaking postgraduate studies in translation or interpreting.

Honorary Membership is awarded by the ITIA AGM to persons in Ireland or abroad who have distinguished themselves in the field of translation and interpreting.

Contacting the ITIA

Postal address:

19 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, Ireland

Email:

info@translatorsassociation.ie

Web:

www.translatorsassociation.ie

ITIA Bulletin

Editor

Anne Larchet
theitiabulletin@gmail.com

Proofreader

Penelope Eades-Alvarez

Design

Róisín Ryan
roryan.com

Layout

Ken Waide

To subscribe to the ITIA Bulletin, send an email to itiabulletin+subscribe@groups.io

ITIA Executive Committee 2020-2021

Chairperson

Mary Phelan

Honorary Secretary

Anne Larchet

Honorary Treasurer

Graziano Ciulli

Chair of Professional Membership Sub-Committee

Annette Schiller

ITIA Bulletin Editor

Anne Larchet

Chair of Certification Sub-Committee

Penelope Eades-Alvarez

Chair of CPD Sub-Committee

Mary Phelan

Chair of Marketing Sub-Committee

Susanne Dirks

Karl Apsel
Sarah Berthaud
Christine O'Neill
Tara Russell
Danièle Tort-Moloney
Ken Waide