

Translation and Interpreting in Crisis Settings

9 May 2022

Online

Translation & Interpreting
IN CRISIS SETTINGS

κρiζα crise κρiση
criză crisis
苦境

9 MAY 2022
16:30-20:00 EEST
via Zoom

The poster features a world map background with the word 'crisis' written in various languages and colors within speech bubbles. The languages shown are Greek (κρiζα, κρiση), Romanian (criză), English (crise, crisis), and Chinese (苦境). The event details are listed at the bottom: 9 MAY 2022, 16:30-20:00 EEST, via Zoom. Logos for the organizing institution and the Hellenic Republic are visible in the top corners.

Translation and Interpreting in Crisis Settings

9 May 2022, 16:30-19:30 EEST

Online

In our interconnected and globalized world, a crisis –whether triggered by natural hazards or driven by humans– can erupt in one city, region, or country, and then easily spread to others or even become global as the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have recently highlighted. At the same time, and partly due to the crises that erupt, numerous people are displaced or migrate, leading to increasingly multilingual and multicultural societies. Language, thus, plays a crucial role in both cross-boundary and local settings, and translators and interpreters are key to achieving optimal written, oral, and multimodal communication at different stages of a crisis and with different audiences.

This event focuses on the significance of translation and interpreting in crisis settings as well as on the impact that such settings may have on interpreters.

Registration

The event is free and open to all.

To register please follow the [link](#).

DISCLAIMER

Due to the nature of the event, the opinions offered by the speakers may revolve or concern subject-matter of a sensitive nature, or present partisan views. It is understood that these are the views and opinions of the speakers and not necessarily the position and/or views of the Organizers, the Department or the University.

Programme

16:30 – 16:40: Welcome by the University Vice Rector for Academic Affairs, International Relations and Extraversion, Prof. Christina Banou and the Head of the Department of Foreign Languages, Translation & Interpreting, Prof. Sotiris Livas

Introduction by Dr Vilelmini Sosoni, Assistant Professor at the Department of Foreign Languages, Translation & Interpreting

PART 1

TRANSLATION

Chaired by Dr Vilelmini Sosoni

16:40-17:00 Translation as a crisis risk reduction, prevention and management tool, Prof. Sharon O'Brien

17:00-17:20 Crisis translation and trust, Prof. Patrick Cadwell

17:20-17:40 Crisis Translation: Decolonising disaster risk reduction terminology, Prof. Federico M. Federici

5:45-18:00 Q&A

PART II

INTERPRETING

Chaired by Prof. Stefanos Vlachopoulos

18:00 18:30 (incl. Q&A) Flawless interpreting in crisis settings? Dr Kateryna Rietz-Rakul

18:30-19:00 (incl. Q&A) The compassionate interpreter: compassion fatigue, risk factors and risk management, John Richard Stokbak Sciabà

19:00-19:30 (incl. Q&A) Interpretation and War: Personal Reflections, Victor Shevchenko

PART III

TECHNOLOGY

Chaired by Dr Vilelmini Sosoni

19:30-20:00 (incl. Q&A) Machine Translation to address the language divide, Alp Öktem

Detailed Programme and Speaker Bios

PART I

TRANSLATION



Sharon O'Brien

Translation as a crisis risk reduction, prevention, and management tool

Abstract: The role of translation and interpreting as crisis response and risk reduction tools had been largely overlooked until recently. Refugee crises, the pandemic, and the war in Ukraine have acted as stark reminders that translation cannot be an afterthought in crisis response. The EU-funded INTERACT project (International Network in Crisis Communication - 2017-2020) started to raise awareness across disciplines and sectors of the need to include translation as a crisis risk reduction, prevention and management tool. This talk will give an overview of some of the work that commenced during this time, with a focus in particular on aspects of crisis response policy.

Bio: Sharon O'Brien is Professor of Translation Studies in the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies, Dublin City University, Ireland, where she teaches translation technology, localisation, and research methods, among other topics. Since 2020, she holds the position of Associate Dean for Research at DCU's Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Previously, she was the coordinator of an interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral Horizon 2020-funded project on translation in emergency and disaster settings – INTERACT, The International Network in Crisis Translation (2017-2020), a topic that she continues to research. She has been a funded investigator in the Science Foundation Ireland national research centre, ADAPT. Sharon has supervised twelve PhD students to date and has mentored several post-doctoral fellows.



Patrick Cadwell

Crisis translation and trust

Abstract: It has been said that trust is at the heart of what translators and interpreters do. Trust is also a fundamental component of crisis communication. In this talk, I examine the usefulness of trust as a way to discuss how translation or interpreting in a crisis setting can be experienced and carried out. I will base my talk on a number of crisis contexts, but I will focus in particular on research that has been conducted on crisis translation and trust in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bio: Patrick Cadwell is Assistant Professor of Translation Studies at the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies in Dublin City University (DCU) and Chair of DCU's BA in Applied Language and Translation Studies. His research interests include crisis translation, communities of practice, and non-professional translation, and he is a member of DCU's Centre for Translation and Textual Studies (ctts.ie).



Federico M. Federici

Crisis Translation: Decolonising Disaster Risk Reduction Terminology

Abstract: Institutions, risk managers, and personnel of international humanitarian organizations operating in Sierra Leone have experienced difficulties establishing equal access to crucial information in both ordinary and emergency contexts. Sierra Leoneans witnessed the deadly effects of culturally inappropriate risk communication during the 2014 Ebola outbreak, when communication strategies ended up in crisis, thus reigniting tensions and creating misunderstandings. YMCA Sierra Leone called for a reform to crisis communication strategies and one of its

tangible actions was to use INTERACT Crisis Translation training as a point of departure to decolonise the terminology used to discuss risk reduction in relation to preparedness and climate change.

Bio: Federico M. Federici is Professor of Intercultural Crisis Communication at the Centre for Translation Studies, University College London, UK. His research focuses on translators and interpreters as intercultural mediators and on reception of translated texts. Federico was member of the EU-funded INTERACT Crisis Translation Network (2017-2020) led by Sharon O'Brien (Dublin City University) with whom he is developing cross-disciplinary projects in Crisis Translation. Federico coordinates the STRIVE project funded by the British Academy (2021-ongoing).

PART II

INTERPRETING



Kateryna Rietz-Rakul

Flawless interpreting in crisis settings?

Abstract: Interpreting during the first days of the full-scale invasion of my home country has put previously unknown restraints on me, physically and mentally. My first on-air assignment happened on the first day of the attack after the airstrikes have hit every region of Ukraine, including my hometown. These circumstances have taken a toll on my professional restraint, but I learned that sometimes a failure can facilitate a conversation even better, than flawless interpretation.

Bio: Kateryna Rietz-Rakul (°1978) was born in Lviv, Ukraine. She finished English and American Studies in Lviv and Berlin, followed by a Ph.D. in contemporary literature. Interpreter, translator, author, and cultural manager, she lives and works in Berlin. Kateryna has been working as an interpreter, mostly for culture and politics, for 20 years; her languages being Ukrainian, English, German, and Russian. Kateryna Rietz-Rakul wrote for numerous international art magazines, in co-authorship, she published two books/city guides for

the Berlin cultural scene: Berlin Contemporary Art (2010) and Berlin...Aber Sexy (2011). As a culture manager, she co-founded the cultural NGO KUL'TURA e.V., which facilitates international cooperation between creatives from Ukraine and other countries.



John Richard Stokbak Sciabà

The compassionate interpreter: compassion fatigue, risk factors and risk management

Abstract: Interpreters - especially community interpreters - often undergo emotional stress caused by their contact with individuals experiencing or having experienced traumatic events. Due to certain profession-specific elements, interpreters may be particularly vulnerable to this. The presentation aims to discuss some immediate and long-term effects of such stress and how to manage them. The speaker will draw on both literature and some of his personal experiences, including interpreting at a Norwegian terrorist trial - the Breivik case - and other court cases involving heinous

crimes, as well as health sector interpreting.

Bio: John Richard Stokbak Sciabà is a certified interpreter and translator of Norwegian, English, and Spanish. He also holds a science degree and a law degree from the University of Oslo. He is a founding member of the Norwegian Interpreters Association, which he headed for ten years, a former board member of the Norwegian Association of Government Authorized Translators and a member of the Norwegian Association of Lawyers. In his 35-year career he has worked extensively for Norwegian authorities and courts, as well as for European bodies. He is passionate about conditions for quality interpreting.



Victor Shevchenko

Title: Interpretation and War: Personal Reflections

Abstract: Witnessing human pain and suffering while interpreting is hard, as empathy and compassion are an integral part of our nature. War and brutality unleashed in war zones, as shown by the current brutal and unprovoked invasion by the Russian Federation in Ukraine, shake the civilised world and make it very challenging to maintain calm and composure, both as human beings and as professionals.

Bio: Victor Shevchenko, MA, is a Ukrainian-Canadian Conference Interpreter (EN, UK, PL, RU, DE, HR, FR) accredited by several international organizations and institutions. Born and raised in Kyiv, Ukraine, he has been working as a Simultaneous and Consecutive Interpreter in Canada and Europe for almost 30 years (Summits and High-Level meetings, fact finding missions, multilateral conferences). Victor is based in Brussels, Belgium and works on assignments in the EU and Ukraine.



Alp Öktem

Machine Translation to address the language divide

Abstract: Language technology development is a critical but often overlooked aspect of building a more connected and equitable world. Many tools available to translators and interpreters in world's power languages are non-existent for the so-called low-resource languages. These are languages that are spoken by both majorities or minorities but are pushed on the margins when it comes to representation online. This further widens the knowledge gap for speakers of these languages and hinders linguistic crisis response.

In his talk, Alp will describe the language technology needs that crisis affected regions face. He will present case studies of machine translation development and testing being done in CLEAR Global for languages like Levantine Arabic, Tigrinya and Congolese Swahili. Finally, he will outline the current efforts in deployment of machine translation to assist volunteer translators in Ukrainian crisis response.

Bio: Dr Alp Öktem is a computational linguist, specialized in speech technology, prosody and machine translation, working with minority and marginalized languages. He is the co-founder of non-profit knowledge cooperative Col-lectivaT. Currently, he works for CLEAR Global creating linguistic resources and tools for under-resourced languages and he will introduce us to his work during the talk. Alp's full profile is available here: <https://alpoktem.github.io/about/>