



Summer Greetings, fellow translators and interpreters!

I hope everyone is staying happy and healthy, availing yourselves of the sunny days and scents around and super mimosas! After such a hard Covid year, we all enjoy these legere summertimes...

I also hope you will enjoy this issue of the newsletter with lovely photos from our picnic party on pages 21 & 22, some very interesting material about our annual conference beginning on page 7, and a special bon voyage to dear Sergio; we had great conversations years ago!

On a celebratory note, it is of special importance to remember the [International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples](#) (August 8, UNESCO). This is a vital urgent call for all language workers to find ways to help with the survival of indigenous languages as it affects the common and rich cultural diversity worldwide, a heritage in total peril today.

"The disappearance of indigenous languages is a major threat to indigenous communities and their unique heritage, as well as to our global diversity and our very potential for creativity and innovation. Through the International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL2019), UNESCO strives to focus attention on these critical issues, and to take steps towards global collective action to address them."

— Audrey Azoulay, Director General, Message on the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2019

25th ANNUAL

New England Translators Association

CONFERENCE

May 1, 2021

NEW ENGLAND
neta
TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION



Read articles about 2021 conference sessions written by fellow NETAns starting on page 7 of this newsletter.

And on to the 2022 Conference...

The 2022 Conference Committee has begun organizing and would love to have additional members. The plan is to have a small team to identify, invite, and manage the speakers for each of the three tracks: interpreting, translating and other language-related. If you are interested in helping with next year's conference in any way (large or small), you are encouraged to email netaconference@netaweb.org.

And to celebrate Women in Translation month (August), I'd like to invite you check ElectricLiterature.com's [Celebrate Women in Translation Month With These 13 Translated Books](#).

Also down my memory lane, a special tribute to a great editor, translator and author Roberto Calasso. Please see the July 30 [NYT](#).

Finally, remember that we are always interested in your favorite story for the newsletter. I'd think it's a nice way to increase your name recognition within the profession while sharing your fab moment!

And as the old NETA adage goes...

'Neat Netans keep calm, carry on & find the wise & worth word'.

Sending warm wishes to each and all of you for a happy and safe summer!

Laura

From the editor's desk.

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2022 CONFERENCE

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NETA News

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Submissions

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Membership information NETA accepts individual members only. A one-year membership is \$50. NETA offers a \$30 membership for students of translation and/or interpreting and individuals aged 65 or older. If you need a membership application or have other membership questions, contact: Subscription to this newsletter is included with your membership.

Sergio Viaggio 1945-2021 - In Memoriam

Translator, interpreter and former chief interpreter with the UN office at Vienna;

Author of *A General Theory of Interlingual Mediation/Teoría general de la mediación Interlingüe*

By Eduardo Berinstein

Sergio was the keynote speaker at the NETA 2012 annual conference, where he presented his book, *A General Theory of Interlingual Mediation*. I was saddened to learn recently through a NETA colleague that he passed away from COVID at the end of last March in Buenos Aires, Argentina, his country of birth. You can find a short obituary [here](#).

About a year and a half ago, we exchanged messages and I asked him how he would summarize the main ideas of his theory in simple words. He replied with the following paragraph, which, at a time when many translators are feeling threatened by the new machine translation technologies, I think is very timely:

Si traducir consiste en decir lo que dice el original, todo lo que dice el original, nada más que lo que dice el original y, si Dios quiere, la lengua lo permite y el talento no falla, como lo dice el original, entonces mediar consiste en decir, sobre la base de lo que dice el original, lo que es conveniente o preciso decir para que el nuevo interlocutor comprenda lo que es conveniente o preciso que comprenda, como es conveniente o preciso que lo comprenda, siempre en función de los fines metacomunicativos de la traducción misma. Esos fines los determina, con o sin o contra la ayuda del cliente, el propio mediador, usando su discreción deontológicamente responsable. Mediar es siempre o casi, decir algo más, algo menos, algo diferente o, a veces, nada.

If translating consists of saying what the original says, the whole of what the original says, nothing but what the original says, and—if, God willing, the language allows for it and the talent doesn't fail us—how the original says it, mediation consists of saying, based on what the original says, what is suitable or necessary to say so that the new reader understands what is suitable or necessary to understand, how it is suitable or necessary for them to understand it, always according to the metacommunicative purposes of the translation itself. The mediator alone is the one who determines those purposes—with, without, or against the help of the client—using his or her discretion as a responsible professional. To mediate is always, or almost always, to say something more, something less, something different, or sometimes, nothing at all.

English translation courtesy of Diana Rhudick.

From the preface of Viaggio's *General Theory of Interlingual Mediation*:

Interlingual mediation and its subtype, translation, consist in achieving a specific relationship, not between “texts” or “utterances,” but between what the original speaker means to have understood and what the mediator's interlocutor finally understands. The relationship that counts, then, is not between signs but rather between mental representations. The corollary, I submit, is an important one: Equivalence is but the result of a translator's endeavour to achieve such relationship and it may or may not evidence itself as a shared feature of the original and its translation - indeed, such “equivalence” may well not be translational at all. That is why the concept has been as elusive in the mind of translation scholars as difficult to pinpoint in the actual texts produced by translators.

The last time you put a footnote on any of your translations to clarify something, to provide some background context, to help the reader understand, you were doing something more than translating, you were actually “mediating.” Mediating—between speakers and/or readers of different languages— means doing anything different than strictly translating.

According to Viaggio, footnotes are an example of overt mediation. Covert mediation is when the translator introduces changes to the text in a way that is invisible to the reader, for example, “tweaking” the target language to make it more readable, idiomatic or somehow suitable for a certain target audience, or to achieve a certain goal. This requires more than translating. It requires reformulating, rewriting, tailoring, adapting...all that other stuff that we, translators, have in our bag of tricks and do all the time, sometimes consciously, sometimes unconsciously, and sometimes hoping no one is looking.

And this, dear colleagues, is what human translators will always be able to do better than any machine, as long as human translators are aware that their job is not to translate like machines!

Anyone who has ever translated anything, professionally or as an amateur—for example, a poem to a loved one—applied some kind of translation theory. Sometimes this theory is conscious, and the effort is deliberate, but not always. Viaggio used to say that translators tend to live in a cocoon, and that we need to take our implicit theories “out of the closet” and put them out there, so they can be critiqued by our peers. That is the only way to see if they work or not, and if others have better ideas. It is only then that our empirical practice can become a conscious praxis. It is the only way to move our field forward. And it is the only way to remain in the driver's seat with technology, instead of being an appendix of it.

For more on Sergio: <http://sergioviaggio.com/>

¡Buen viaje, Sergio!

Can Interpreters Hear Their Own Voices When Interpreting?

NETA Monthly Meeting, April 17, 2021

Reviewed by Marian Comenetz

Zarita Araujo-Lane, president and founder of Cross Cultural Communications Systems, Inc.™ and Andrew Jerger, CCCS's primary instructor for medical interpreting, have been doing a lot of shadowing lately and have come away with a significant observation: many highly qualified interpreters still miss certain key indicators in their interpreting encounters. These can be small things, but they are very important. The goal of today's session was to help interpreters hear things more fully so that all voices are included and respected. To that end, Zarita and Andrew devised an intricately structured presentation that illustrated and elucidated nine barriers to accuracy and a solution, or tool, for each.

Many highly qualified interpreters still miss certain key indicators in their interpreting encounters. These can be small things, but they are very important.

To highlight the need to include all indicators, Zarita and Andrew first shared a case study and then conducted a Zoom poll of participants to determine whether certain points had been noted. Next Zarita and Andrew launched the first of three role plays they had prerecorded, with space left at intervals so as to allow participants to interpret the encounter. With two examples, they emphasized that small words can make a big difference as regards accuracy:

1) "I only drink once in a while" vs. "I take a drink once in a while"; and

2) "Be aware of what you eat" vs. "Beware of what you eat."

The meaning of each sentence within each set is quite different. Such nuances must be conveyed accurately.

Andrew then asked participants to look at a mind map he had prepared. In the center was a shape containing the words "Hearing Your Own Voice as an Interpreter." Emanating from it were nine lines, each with one letter at its outer end. That mind map guided the entire presentation. Each line represented one of the barriers to accuracy. Attendees were asked to jot down the pertinent word or phrase as Andrew or Zarita explained it.

Barriers to accuracy

#1: **Quantifiers** (ex. many, few, usually) and **qualifiers** (ex. maybe, probably, almost): careful attention must be paid to such short words, for lack of which serious misunderstandings and errors can occur.

#2: **Medical information**: Clearly, medical information is the core of what is being communicated in a given encounter. However, only focusing on the medical piece can lead to serious mistakes. The surrounding information is also important.

#3: **Lists**: As they shadowed interpreters, Zarita and Andrew found that in any given list of four or more items, interpreters only gave two or three.

#4: **Numbers**: Zarita has repeatedly observed errors in this area. There were many occurrences. "You could kill someone!" if errors are made in this area, she said.

#5: **Accents**: We all have one, and that plays a major role in interpreting.

#6: **Emotions and past experiences**: Zarita elaborated at some length on this point as it constitutes a major barrier to accuracy. A number of slides with individuals apparently experiencing different pains were shown. Was the pain sharp, dull, shooting, throbbing, unbearable? A scenario involving pain creates special challenges for the interpreter.

Pain can also be emotional, and so much depends on our own experiences. Zarita related, for example, that on the island where she was brought up in the Azores, there were no dentists, and people suffered excruciating pain when a dental problem was not dealt with properly. Even now she is affected by dental scenarios when interpreting. It is essential to separate oneself from what you are hearing during a triadic encounter.

Immigrant status adds yet another dimension to this particular barrier.

Another case study followed, the lesson being to consider how a given situation affects us mentally and emotionally. Interpreters don't just interpret words. Nothing is black and white. Zarita raised the terms "transference" and "countertransference." The former refers to the projection of feelings and expectations that we have. The latter refers to the interpreter's conscious or unconscious

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Can Interpreters Hear Their Own Voices When Interpreting?

Continued from page 4

emotional response to the patient, or the provider, for that matter. The conflict perceived by the interpreter may not initially have been an issue for the patient! The goal is to put our own experiences aside and focus on the patient. Tone and body language play a role.

#7: Improper anticipation: The example given was pregnancy. Often it is a happy state, but for any number of reasons, anxiety and worry can certainly be associated with pregnancy, too.

#8: Similar sounding terminology: Here the emphasis was on homonyms (words having the same spelling or pronunciation but different meanings—mean, pitcher); homophones (words having the same pronunciation but different meanings or spelling—new/knew, pray/prey); and homographs (words having the same spelling but different sounds—lead, wind, bass).

#9: Misunderstanding of concepts: Reference was made to a patient who was crying because she thought she had cancer. When told that she didn't, she was incredulous: the interpreter had told her at the previous appointment that she had cancer, and she had been carrying that message with her ever since.

Solutions for barriers

At this point in the meeting the focus shifted to the tools, or fixes, for those nine barriers.

#1: Note-taking (applies to barriers #1, 2, 3, and 4 above)

- Focus on the main items;
- Develop a set of symbols that work for you, and group them around those main items (+/-, 0 = none, small or large circles, vertical lines to signify frequency or intensity, smiley faces, etc.);
- Learn and use medical abbreviations;
- For lists, in general, take notes on the first few letters of words.

Andrew acknowledged that at first, interpreters write a lot, but gradually, as note-taking skill improves, they learn to trust themselves more. Taking notes relieves pressure, he said.



Andrew demonstrated his own mode of taking notes. He conducted a second poll with the meeting participants. And he and Zarita then engaged them in a second role play, again leaving time for interpreting with increased emphasis on note-taking.

#2: Recall or repeating back (applies to barriers #4 and 5 above)
When in doubt, interpreters should ask the provider (or the patient) whether they said this or that: was it “50” or “15”?

#3: Staying present/focused (applies to barriers #6 and 7 above)
In emotional or anticipatory situations, it is essential for interpreters to stay focused, be “in the zone.”

#4: Knowledge (applies to barriers #8 and 9 above)
Was the term used “colonoscopy” or “colposcopy”? Was the test referred to an ECG, an EKG, or an EEG? Medical interpreters need a sound base in medical terminology and contexts, for lack of which serious consequences can result.

A third, and final role play then played out, a dominant message being to convey all of the meaning, not just part of it.

Zarita and Andrew rounded out this meeting in style, having kept the participants fully and actively engaged despite the virtual platform. They entertained a number of questions. And final comments centered on the role of interpreters as proponents of social justice. Zarita often has found that unconsciously, interpreters are more accurate with the provider than with patients—that is, with where the power is. We owe it to the patients and their families to achieve maximum accuracy so that everyone's concerns are heard.

In every way, this was a masterful presentation. If you are a NETA member, you can hear it again—or for the first time, as follows:

- Log in to our website, www.netaweb.org.
- On the far right of the green menu bar, hover over the three horizontal lines and select **Members Only**.
- Click on the “videos” link in the 4th bullet.
- There members will see the pertinent link and password to NETA's video archive.

Instructions on how to increase your NETA online privacy

by Diana Rhudick

If your name and contact information are included in NETA's online directory, be aware that these may be harvested by anyone using the web. The instructions below explain how to hide specific fields in your profile, which will of course also become hidden to potential clients.



Click on your name to show the menu.

Click on "View profile."



Click on the gray box to left,

"Edit profile."



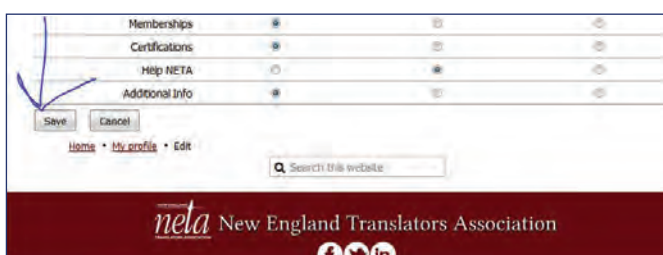
Click on "Privacy," in the middle.

This page lists each field of your profile, and gives you the option to make each field visible to anybody, members only, or nobody, (No access).

You can also click or unclick "Show profile to others" near the top.

The e-mail field is about 9 down on the list. You can select "No access" for it.

To save changes and exit, click "Save" at the bottom.



Results of the 2021 NETA Board Election

by Diana Rhudick, NETA President

Initially, we had seven candidates for four positions. The board was thrilled to have so many members interested in running. But three people had to drop out, leaving us with four candidates for four positions. So **Inés Fusco**, **Sybil Gilchrist**, **Stephanie Newton**, and **Stephen Sanford** ran unopposed.

Incumbents **Maiyim Baron**, **Diego Mansilla**, and **Antje Ruppert** selflessly decided not to run again in order to give others an opportunity. We were saddened to see **Erika Schulz** step down before the end of her term.

Based on our first meeting with the new members in June, I think we have a great team for NETA!

The NETA programming year begins Sept. 18th

Fall programming begins with our 16th annual translation bash. See page 6 of the [fall 2020 newsletter](#) for a review of last year's workshop. An email will be sent in August with details about this year's bash.

Kudos to programming coordinator Marian Comenetz, who has been organizing our monthly meetings since 2008. Marian continues to find us interesting and informative presenters representing all areas of our profession. Topics of past programs have ranged from software of particular use to translators to discovering your hidden voice-over talent and even to a discussion of the environmental dimension of translating.

Thanks to our whiz kid, Lesley Andrews, participants from anywhere in the world are able to log in to NETA's programs via Zoom. Although no statistics are being kept, we can report that our monthly meetings generally draw up to 50 people, representing many different language pairs.

Mark your calendar for these program dates: 9/18; 10/23, 11/20, 1/29, 2/26, 3/26, and 4/16. Program details will come via email.

Marian is always looking for monthly meeting ideas. Please share your ideas with her by emailing programs@netaweb.org.



25th Annual NETA Conference

Held Virtually May 1, 2021



Below and on the following pages are some of the 2021 conference reviews written by fellow NETAns. There were too many to include all in this issue. Look for the rest of the conference reviews in the fall issue of NETA News.

Digital Flourishing: Achieving Wellness in an Increasingly Virtual World

2021 Conference Keynote Address by Nina Hersher, CEO Digital Wellness Institute

Reviewed by Maaike van Westen

Does that camera really need to be on?

Digital overuse has become an epidemic, as Hersher's numbers show: Americans check their phone an average of 52 times per day. Kids and teens spend 7-12 hours per day in front of a screen. 71% of people sleep next to their phone. During the pandemic, the shift to remote work and education has accelerated. In our own profession, interpreters have gone from working onsite to working online.

So how do we focus and recharge in an increasingly digital world? How do we improve our digital habits and practice of self-care? The keynote address of this year's NETA Conference, *Digital Flourishing: Achieving Wellness in an Increasingly Virtual World* by Nina Hersher, could not have been better timed. Hersher is the CEO of the Digital Wellness Collective, Co-founder of The Digital Wellness Institute, author of *The Playbook for Thriving in the Remote Work Era*, and a very engaging speaker. During her presentation, Hersher showed us what digital wellness means and how we can perform a "Great Reset" to achieve it.

Digital wellness exists on a spectrum, with a digital detox on one end, digital addiction on the other, and balanced technology use somewhere in the middle. Hersher's *Digital Flourishing®* Wheel illustrates how we can use technology to our benefit. This model highlights eight related areas, such as productivity, mental and physical health, relationships, environment, communication, etc. Rather than stressing an anti-tech approach, digital wellness emphasizes how we can thrive in these different areas and develop a healthy relationship with tech.

Tips and apps

Hersher provided a number of practical tips and apps for improving engagement and productivity. Creating boundaries plays a big part in reclaiming our attention:

- Create a "habitat for happiness". Use or create a separate space to work in. Declutter your work area, including your digital workspace. Did you know there is such a thing as email apnea? Yes, many of us hold our breath while checking our email. Email can be managed with an app like Inbox When Ready.
- Create boundaries around your time and attention: Set aside time to work without interruptions and focus on one task at a time. Turn off notifications. You can use an app like Freedom to block distracting websites and apps.
- Communicate your boundaries: Let people know when and how they can reach you. Share your norms and preferences around screen time. Does that camera really need to be on for every call? Turning off your camera during certain meetings can greatly reduce Zoom fatigue. Try to avoid "continuous partial attention" by putting away your phone and focusing solely on the meeting.
- For mental and physical health, a flexible routine can work well: Keep a master list of self-care activities for shorter and longer breaks. Another tip is to turn off all devices in the early morning and right before bedtime to improve sleep.
- Bonus tips: Create an "unplug box" where people in your household can charge their devices, and discuss device use with them. Set your intentions before opening social media apps like Facebook and Instagram to avoid going down a rabbit hole.

Hersher showed that the digital world can provide plenty of opportunities, as long as we create boundaries and a healthy set of habits.

For more information on digital wellness and Nina Hersher's work, visit ninahersher.com. You can find a link to her book, *Digital Wellness: Your Playbook for Thriving in the Remote Work Era*, at the Digital Wellness Institute website (\$0.99 for the Kindle version).

Market Intrigues of Translating Chinese Fiction

2021 Conference Address by Sabina Knight, Professor, Smith College

Reviewed by Anne Vincent

Dr. Sabina Knight, translator, teacher, writer (in several languages), has an impressive biography at <https://www.smith.edu/academics/faculty/sabina-knight>, but for our purpose we'll highlight the fact that she is Professor of Chinese and Comparative Literature at Smith College.

A few general statistics

For the 2005-2018 period, in most countries, 30-60% of published literature was translated from a foreign language. In the US, that share fell to 3%, and only 0.3% of all books published in the US are translated.

In China, 40% of published books are translated works. Chinese readers are much more interested in learning about the rest of the world than the rest of the world seems to be interested in China. China imports about 10,000 copyrights/year but exports only 1300 (and most of those to Asia). There is sustained interest for world literature in China, as evidenced by the existence of a "World Literature Magazine" and the many translations published by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The ratio of Chinese to US book imports is about 400/1 (2005), which Knights qualifies with a smile as being "pretty scary."

The Chinese government is trying to change this. Tie Ning, Chair of the Chinese Writers Association, was encouraged to invite 30 sinologists/translators to Beijing every two years. Dr. Knight was among the very first translators invited. This gathering in Beijing and the ensuing networking represents a great encouragement for people for whom translation is mostly a labor of love.

New translations of fiction/poetry in the US numbered 540 in 2018. Of those, Chinese books amount to about 15-25/year. Chinese authors are actually desperate to get translated into English because it provides a huge boost in status. Knight gives the example Yu Hua's novel *Brothers*, for which the Chinese cover showed the title in English, (as in "Translate me, please!").

In the US, almost half of translated literature was authored in the Western world: Spanish, French, German, Arabic, and Italian, with Asia being mostly represented by Japanese. Chinese works are a tiny proportion of that market.

The impact on current Chinese literature

But numbers are not everything. Why do we translate? What are we doing when we translate? Due to this deficit in translated published works, Knight guesses that every year we miss 1500 great literary works. And because this is such financially unrewarding work, there are only 24 translators of Chinese>English in the Association of Literary Translators. Again, this is a labor of love. It also means that foreign translations influence the very nature of Chinese writing. Knight doesn't want to criticize individual translators; rather, she is remarking on general trends.

Publishers of a translated work will often modify the presentation of the book to suit the readership. She gave the example of Hong Ying's *Generation of Naked Dancers*, published in China with a Matisse cover including an artsy photo. Foreign publishers changed the title to *Summer of Betrayals*, changed the cover to show a more somber political image, and presented its themes as political/current news, thus obscuring its more artistic and gender-related aspects. Publishers seem to think that American will only read Chinese books if they talk about politics. Knights also gave examples of older translations (in the 30s) where endings were modified because the original ones were seen as being "too sad" (!).

Howard Goldblatt and the westernization of Chinese literature

Knight then discussed Howard Goldblatt, who is the most prolific Chinese>English translator today. While she is grateful that Goldblatt has proven very adept at picking good writers, she cannot help but remark that he yields to his own taste, seemingly preferring works that are more sensational and contain more violence. As an example, he started translating Mo Yan early on, long before the author became a Nobel Prize winner; however, Goldblatt thought the ending of *The Garlic Ballads* was too traditionally Chinese inasmuch as it only resolved the plot around the garlic revolt at the community level without explaining what consequences befell the protestors themselves. Goldblatt insisted that the American public cared about individual characters and wanted "to know what happened to them." Mo Yan complied, which turned a Chinese work into a more Western realistic "bourgeois" type of story. Interestingly, Mo Yan ended up deciding he preferred the new version, to the point of selecting it for his later volume, *Collected Works*. Younger Chinese readers will thus read a more Westernized piece of literature. Commonly, Goldblatt will cut things off, too, and for instance reduce a 600-page novel to a 500-page tome. Or he will localize a novel for American readers, simplifying the word

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Market Intrigues of Translating Chinese Fiction

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"Han" into "Chinese," even though that erases crucial distinctions between various ethnical populations. In another example, Goldblatt reduced a trilogy to a single tome (*City of the Queen*, by Shih Shu-Ching). Knight, who had "had loved" the original work in Chinese, concluded that the published result was "good but not the same." Lastly, she described how a young author, Zhou Weihui, was encouraged to shift from her uneven, but more intellectual/artsy beginning to adopt a more "romantic" tone.

Crucially, not all these changes are shared with the author since once American publishers have bought the rights, they do not want to waste time.

Conclusion

Despite all her misgivings, Knight wonders whether this is still better than nothing. She does not want to discourage translation. And she also allows that there exists a similar trend in English>Chinese translation: Chinese publishers also encourage mass marketing of translated books. For instance, Joyce's *Ulysses* was introduced to Chinese readers as a "popular novel," while *The Bridges of Madison County* is purported to be a "modern classic." (It did "sell like crazy.")

Questions

There were several questions, but Knight spent the most time on one of them: "Who is the best translator: one who has studied the foreign language but not read much literature and writing? Or someone who is a writer/poet but not necessarily an expert of that language of civilization?" Knight explained that many earlier English translations were done by Chinese bilingual writers working into English, which discredited some authors because of bad sales. In an ideal world, there would be a "bridge translation," where an expert in the Chinese language/culture would team up with a literature expert/author who is already published.

The Unequal Politics of Translation

2021 Conference Address by Sabina Knight, Professor, Smith College

Reviewed by Hui Gao

"Translation expands us beyond the kind of narrow and parochial understanding of what human experiences are."

— Sabina Knight

It's nice that this year's NETA conference offered two breakout sessions on the translation of Chinese literature into English. The presenter of both sessions was Sabina Knight, a writer, Chinese>English translator and professor of comparative literature at Smith College. In addition, Professor Knight promotes Chinese literature by giving talks and writing letters to publishers emphasizing the importance of particular Chinese authors or books with the goal of having those works translated into English.

This session was a continuation of the content Professor Knight presented in a previous session entitled *Market Intrigues of Chinese Translation*. Because only four of this session's 18 attendees had attended her previous session, Prof. Knight first summarized that session's main content; she then offered a few discussion threads to address attendees' particular interests. The main points of her presentation and Q&A are the following:

1. Translation is seen by China and many other countries, particularly France, as one kind of soft power. China has always been interested in bringing world literature home, importing a lot of book copyrights and also bringing sinologists and foreign authors to China. The French government pours a lot of money into subsidizing the publication of translations into and out of French. The US is quite the opposite. As a comparison, translations as a percentage of literary books published in most countries is 30-60%, while in the US, it's only 3%. If you look at translations as a percentage of all book published in the US, it's 0.03% - essentially 0%.

Professor Knight presented a pie chart to illustrate her points: in 2009, there were a total of 348 new translations of fiction and poetry on sale in the US. Among them, there were 10 Chinese authors. The majority of the translations were of Spanish, French and German books.

As translation of literature is not just good for understanding culture, but also good for human betterment, the US is missing a lot of wisdom from other cultures.

2. There is little money in literary translation, and the number of literary translators is very small. In the area of Chinese literary translation, Howard Goldblatt, who helped Chinese author Mo Yan win the Nobel prize by introducing his works to the English-speaking world, is an exception. A great majority of the small number of Chinese literary translators have day jobs, mostly in academia, doing translation as a labor of love. For many years, they had been academics teaching Chinese literature, who were

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The Unequal Politics of Translation

Continued from page 9

almost all Chinese who came to the US for graduate school and then stayed on to teach. But as is evidenced by Howard Goldblatt, that is changing. More Americans and Brits are joining the ranks of translators of Chinese literary works.

3. Translators sometimes rewrite source text, even drastically (turning a three-volume book into one volume, for example), without consulting the author. Sometimes publishers/translators repackage an artistic and edgy book into a lowbrow book. The need to sell books drives these kinds of editing. It's a way to turn Chinese literature into something that can sell in US – which underestimates the American readers, at least the intellectual public, as if they cannot understand the context and complexity of the original books. This has led to concerns about how translation politics can influence the development and career of a writer. Professor Knight quoted Professor Stephen Owen of Harvard:

“Foreign translations influence the position of Chinese literature, the relative reputations of writers within China itself, and the very nature of Chinese writing.”

The changes made by translators sometimes get incorporated into the Chinese books themselves. Even Nobel winner Mo Yang has not been immune. This again deprives American readers of the richness of Chinese literature.

Of course, the reverse is also true. Chinese translations of foreign works have the same problems. This happened to Professor Knight's own *Short Introduction to Chinese Literature*. Not only was the translation liberal; the Chinese translator even tempered Knight's original work by changing the English version.

4. The Amanda Gorman controversy: when Gorman chose a Dutch translator who is not only a translator but a published author, there was outrage at the fact she chose a white person. As a result, the translator chose to step down; Gorman's Catalan translator was also dismissed for not having the right profile, despite having finished the translation work. This raises the question: does the translator have to have the same racial profile as the author? Professor Knight does not think so, and I agree.

In the Chinese translation field, there is a collective called Paper Republic, which promotes Chinese literature in English translation. Despite evidence to the contrary, Paper Republic was accused of excluding translators of Chinese and Chinese heritage. That is not true, because most of the translation

work has been done by academics originally from China, as stated earlier.

Question and Answer Session

A number of worthwhile questions arose during the Q&A session. One was about how the copyright process works. Professor Knight explained it in detail.

Another question was about censorship. Professor Knight responded that there is much more censorship when the translation is from English into Chinese; in contrast, American and British publishers change Chinese content in order to sell, not for political and ideological reasons. With regard to a question about banned authors, Prof. Knight

explained that there is a lot of self-censorship by Chinese authors in order to get around government censorship. Although some books are banned in China outright, many are not; it's just that the government-controlled bookstores, which have a lot of market power, won't sell them. The phrase “banned authors” sometimes is used by American publishers in order to sell books.

A question about the weight of non-US Anglophone literature in the US. moved the discussion beyond China. Professor Knight said that British literature is big in the US, Canadian literature does OK, but authors from Africa are very poorly represented, unless somebody wins the Nobel prize.

Finally, Professor Knight made an interesting point about the intermingling of Chinese diplomats and the CASS (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) academics. CASS publishes a journal of world literature. The connection between officialdom and academia in China may prompt the assumption on their part that the same must be true in the US. Thus, the Chinese sometimes mistakenly think an American professor of world literature might be a CIA agent.

**Translators sometimes
rewrite source text, even
drastically (turning a
three-volume book into
one volume, for example),
without consulting the
author.**

Lines, Tigers, and Bares! Oh My

2021 Conference Address by Javier Castillo, Jr. President, Castillo Language Services, Inc.

Reviewed by Blanca Schusterman

This presentation focused on recognizing and resolving common issues of written texts and audio files in the field of forensics. Mr. Castillo shared a lot of useful information in a short amount of time.

Many texts/transcriptions that are received are not well written for the following reasons:

- Illegibility of handwritten notes
- phonetic spelling
- incorrect use of grammar
- word choice
- missing punctuation

Missing punctuation is a major concern because punctuation helps define meaning. Mr. Castillo gave the following example to illustrate his point. "A woman without her man is nothing." The meaning of "A woman: without her, man is nothing," is quite different from "A woman, without her man, is nothing."

Solutions addressing the above issues include searching for as much context as possible, speaking in a neutral tone, informing all parties of the issues involved, and offering more than one possible interpretation.

These problems usually increase when interpreters/translators are asked to interpret cell phone texts because context is missing (which increases ambiguity), words are often spelled phonetically, punctuation is rarely used and autocorrect may come into play. Consequently, Mr. Castillo does not recommend working with cell phone texts.

A lively discussion regarding the use of body gestures by interpreters ensued. Mr. Castillo stressed that under no circumstances should interpreters imitate the physical gestures of clients. He gave the example of a client who uses his thumb and index fingers to illustrate a measurement of three inches; if the interpreter makes a similar gesture, the measurement is unlikely to be the same size. Also, when an interpreter uses physical gestures, it moves the focus from the client to the interpreter.

The topic then changed to audio/visual

materials that are regularly transcribed in forensic work. They include:

Jail calls	Recorded interviews
Wiretaps	Police Interrogations
Police video	Psychology reports
Bodycams	Witness/victim statements
Patrol car cameras	Private party recordings
911 calls	Phone calls
Undercover operations	Conversations
Hidden cameras	Videos of confrontations
Body microphones	

Typical difficulties encountered when transcribing the above materials include:

Distorted sound	Speakers who speak softly or loudly
Poor recording	Differentiation of speakers
Background noises	Bilingual speakers
Speakers talking over each other	Accents
Speakers who mumble	

Interpreters and translators also need to keep in mind the following challenges when transcribing the above materials:

Mondegreen: This occurs when there is a misunderstanding of the spoken word or speech in music lyrics (because of a lack of visual clues). The most popular example is Jimi Hendrix's "Purple Haze." The lyric that most people hear is "Scuse me while I kiss this guy" rather than "Scuse me while I kiss the sky."

Oronym: This occurs when the sounds of words run into one another, thus increasing the likelihood that an individual will not hear the words correctly. For example, "The stuffy nose" can be heard as "The stuff he knows."

Paronym: This is a "word which is a derivative of another and has a related meaning" (Oxford Dictionary). For example, alternately versus alternatively.

Homonyms: "Homonyms may be words with identical pronunciations but different spellings and meanings, such as to, too, and two." Or "they may be words with both identical pronunciations and identical spellings but different meanings," such as pen (writing instrument or holding area for animals) (Merriam-Webster).

Ambiguity occurs when translators/interpreters: do not have sufficient access to context, are not familiar with the speaker or the speaker's misuse of language and are not familiar with the subject. As Mr. Castillo said, *"We have to be extra careful, recognize problem areas, and understand our ethics and protocol. And we must have solutions."*

From Snippets to Corpora – Looking up the Senses of a Word's Meaning

2021 Conference Address by Alejandra Patricia Karamanian. Certified Legal Translator and researcher in the making of the *Diccionario normativo del español de la Argentina*

Reviewed by Héctor del Valle - student of Advanced Translation Studies at UMB

Alejandra introduced her presentation by explaining that her objective was to identify some facts and stories about how lexicographers worked yesterday and how they work today to compile dictionaries. Facts inform what we use as evidence, like authors, writers, readers, etc. Stories relate particulars behind the language. Alejandra quoted Eduardo Galeano as he declared, “Scientists say that we are made of atoms, but a little bird told me that we are made of stories.”

During her talk, Alejandra identified a number of dictionaries, highlighting points that caught her attention.

A history of dictionaries

The first reference was to the Sumerian clay tablets, which were written about 4200 years ago. The story from this dictionary is that it was bilingual, showing there was a need for translation even during those times. She also shared with us that the word “dictionary” comes from the Latin term “dictionarius.”

A second dictionary she referenced was *A Table Alphabeticall*, first published in London in 1604. The story behind this one is that it contains both prejudice and humor. One entry in this dictionary is “lexicographer,” which is explained as “a harmless drudge that busies himself.” Another humorous word is “oats,” defined as “a grain which in England is generally given to horses, but in Scotland supports the people.”

The story behind the *Oxford English Dictionary*, originally published in 1884, is that its main contributor was William Chester Minor, an ex army surgeon and a convicted murderer confined to an asylum for the criminally insane. *The Historical English Dictionary*, now known as the OED, gathered content by appealing to people all around the world, asking them to copy relevant snippets from newspapers, literary texts, journals, etc., copy those snippets onto slips of paper or index cards, and send them to the dictionary office for consideration and approval. The story behind this one is the association of that manner of collecting words with our modern “crowdsourcing.”

The story behind the first American dictionary, Webster’s *A Compendious Dictionary of the English Language* (1806), is the evaluation of the etymology of words based on twenty-six languages, including Old English, Sanskrit, Greek, Hebrew, and Latin.

Three Types of dictionaries

Alejandra compared three types of dictionaries. The first is ordinary, where users supply content but cannot change or improve it; the second is collaborative, where users contribute content and also can change it, like Wiki technology; and the third is aggregative,

which brings together material from a variety of existing sources, like *Lexico*, *The Free Dictionary*.

Then Alejandra introduced us to smart searches using sites like Ludwig and Skell. With the first, you can paraphrase, and compare words and sentences. In Skell, you can find examples, look for concordance, collocations and grammatical patterns.

What are corpora?

This refers to “a system of independent terms in which the values of each term results solely from the simultaneous presence of the others,” according to Ferdinand de Saussure.

What is a corpus?

This a large set of texts which is considered to be representative of a language and is used to analyze it. It is an essential tool for lexicographers.

Alejandra displayed and elaborated on the various components involved in creating a corpus.

Conclusions

- o Facts and stories give us a colorful picture of the past and help us understand the meanings of words.
- o Traditional dictionaries are just the beginning of our professional search. Crowdsourced, collaborative and aggregative dictionaries are additional sources.
- o Smart searches and corpora help us search and retrieve information on a contextualized basis.
- o Searching for the meanings of words using state-of-the-art technology will help us unlock the lowest common denominators of language.

If we search better, we'll communicate better.

One Thing to be Grateful for in the Midst of a Pandemic:

A reminder why translators and interpreters should want to diversify

2021 Conference Endnote Address by Jost Zetsche, Translator, Localization Consultant & Writer

Reviewed by Diana Rhudick

Jost Zetsche knows how to make a potentially depressing and baleful topic into something fun and informative. As the endnote speaker for our 2021 conference, he discussed various ways in which translators and interpreters can diversify their skills to weather storms such as the pandemic.

Specialize but remain broad

Obviously we need to specialize as translators, he emphasized, but we also need to branch out if that specialization is hard-hit by whatever disaster is upon us. Think of the varying fortunes of healthcare translators, and travel and tourism translators during the pandemic.

Jost added that while we specialize, we also need to remain broad, meaning learning as much as we can about things such as cultural developments and how our languages are changing. He encouraged us to remain engaged with our cultures and working languages, while diversifying into other subject areas.

Vertical and horizontal

Jost presented the need for diversification as being both vertical and horizontal. Vertical

diversification means finding other fields to specialize in. He gave us tips on how to decide which fields to choose and listed some of the benefits: you become recession- and pandemic-proof, you have fun learning new things.

Horizontal diversification means extending into other language-related fields. Our translation expertise offers us access to jobs such as copywriting, business consulting, terminology management, and academia.

Look beyond the obvious

Lastly, Jost urged us to look beyond the obvious new areas to develop. He recounted how, years ago, he looked over the interests and experiences of his past to see what common thread bound them together. Our distinct backgrounds uniquely enable us to do something only we can do. So after some serious self-study and analysis, maybe we, too, can develop a new project or new line of work to provide a secure future.

The perfect ending

Jost is best known for his talks on technical topics, but those in attendance at this talk now know that he is equally enjoyable and personable when discussing other topics. One attendee described him as an “inspirational speaker.” Weaving personal experiences and a friendly tone together with useful tips for our professional lives, Jost gave us a perfect endnote presentation.



THE AWARDS MANAGEMENT STANDING COMMITTEE

Deadline for submission of nominations:
1 SEPTEMBER

FIT awards a number of prizes and medals for recognised excellence in a variety of fields, ranging from prizes for children's literature to interpreting to a prize for the best periodical.

<https://www.fit-ift.org/awards>



Thanks to all involved for a successful 2021 conference!

NETA wants to thank the conference committee, volunteers, presenters, sponsors, exhibitors and members of the translation program of the University of Massachusetts Boston for making the 25th annual NETA Conference such a success.

We also are especially grateful to all the volunteers who wrote the conference review articles that appear in this issue and the next of *NETA News*. We had so many articles that we had to divide them between two issues! Inés Fusco, volunteer organizer wants to be sure to recognize the following NETAns:

**Abby Huber
Adriana Ruppel
Ana Betancourt
Anne Vincent
Blanca Schusterman
Carol Pineiro
Debora Bendayan
Diana Rhudick
Hector del Valle
Hui Gao
Jodi Craft
Joyce Nan
Maaiké van Westen
Monica Rooney
Petra Schweitzer
Solange Anderson
Stephanie Newton
Susana E. Torres
Vanessa Rendeiro
William Delgado**

Whatever your contribution, please know that it is greatly appreciated. The fact that you helped made all the difference as people came together to create another successful event.

The 2022 conference committee has already begun organizing with Lesley Andrews again as chair. NETA invites you to join the committee. If you can make a solid commitment for the 2022 conference, so much the better, but if, realistically, you can only pitch in on discrete tasks here and there, the committee would like to hear from you, too. To find out more, email netaconference@netaweb.org.

NETA Service Award

An award is given to one NETA member per year who has demonstrated excellence in volunteering for our organization. The award is in honor of longtime member and past president Ilse Andrews. Winners are offered one year's free membership to NETA and a \$50 gift card. This year's worthy recipient is **Loreto Ansaldo**.

Conference Sponsors and Exhibitors

Sponsors

Amherst Bilingual Studio

Educational Consultant & Translator



Fensgate Chamber Players

University of Massachusetts Boston

**Latin American and Iberian
Studies Department**

Exhibitors



NETA's annual summer social

Picnic on MacLeod Hill July 17, 2021

Reviewed by Marian Comenetz

Rain? Thunderstorms? For the two weeks leading up to NETA's annual summer picnic, held in Amherst, MA, they had been regularly and unhappily forecast for July 17, our event date. Our hostess, board member Laura Rojo MacLeod, was undeterred. She made clear that the picnic could and should be held rain or shine, so proceed we did, only to discover, in real time, that no rain or thunderstorms were in the picture after all. In fact, unexpectedly, we even had some sunshine, so a chance for a couple of outdoor pictures (as you can tell) and a tour of the grounds of the MacLeod property, which has been in the family for four generations and which has a simply breathtaking view of conservation lands.

Laura offered us a very warm welcome. She had placed a "NETA" sign by the side of the road so we knew which driveway to take to access her home. She even hung a "Welcome" sign outside between two trees.

After the outdoor activity, we headed inside to enjoy the excellent potluck contributions that complemented the hot dogs and hamburgers that Laura prepared. The logistics unfolded smoothly, and conversation flowed easily. Why, at one point we even got to enjoy a piano performance by Laura's 14-year-old daughter!

It was such a pleasure to gather in person after well over a year in Covid lock-down! Laura's enthusiasm was in full evidence throughout. Then as the event wound down, Laura distributed a thank-you note, a tote bag with information from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce about the Pioneer Valley area, and a grab bag of gifts for attendees to choose from. Clearly, Laura went above and beyond.

Just as people were departing, the skies opened up and rain poured down. That meant that we needed to be extra careful when driving home, savoring the memories all the while.

Thanks to Laura's hospitality, NETA's annual summer gathering was a great and memorable success.



*Top Photo
by Marian
Comenetz*



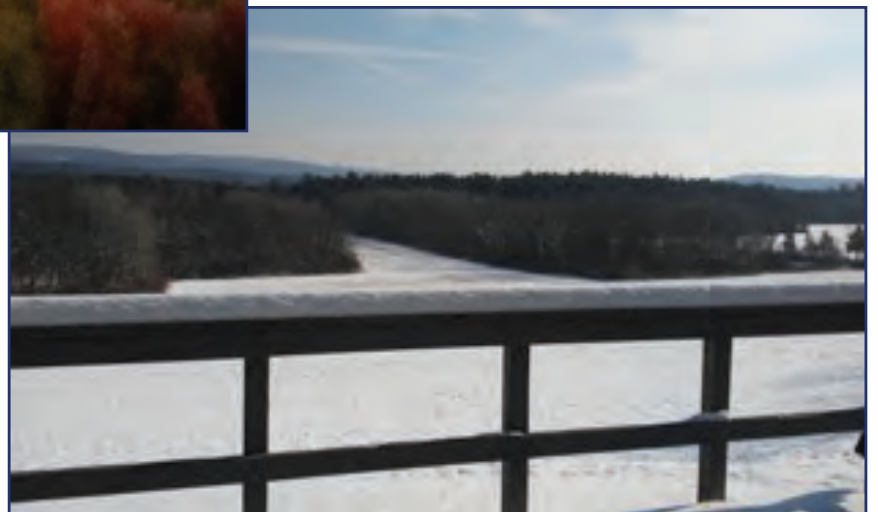
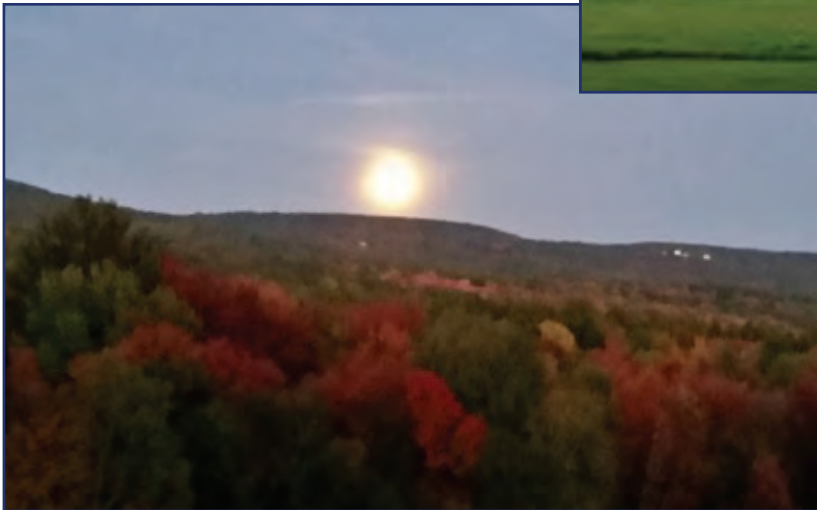
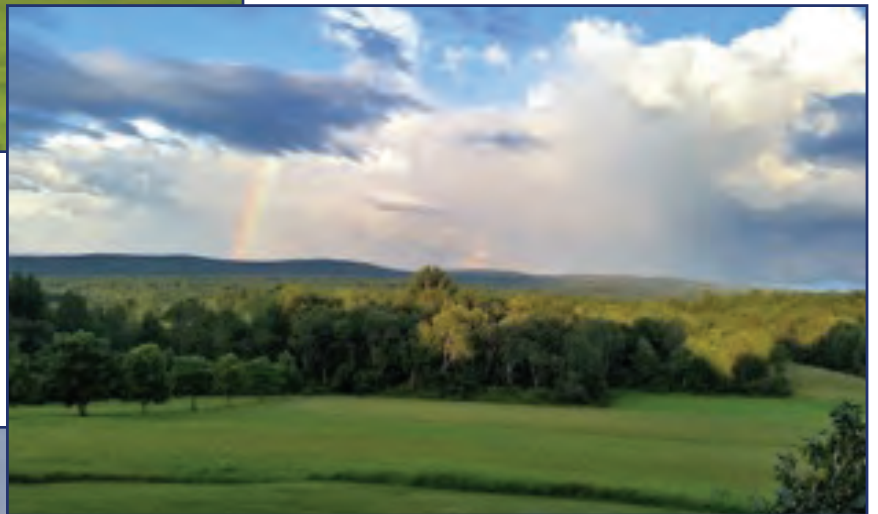
*Middle
Photo by
Sarah
Heller*



*Bottom
Photo by
Rudy Heller*

The four seasons on MacLeod Hill

Photos by Laura Rojo MacLeod



NETA Board Meeting Minutes, March 13, 2021

Virtual meeting via Zoom

Submitted by Rokhaya Smith, Secretary

At 10 a.m. a quorum was established as all Board members were present.

Board Members Present: Lesley Andrews, Maiyim Baron, Laura Rojo MacLeod, Diego Mansilla, Diana Rhudick, Antje Ruppert, Erika Schulz, Rokhaya Smith

Others present: Marian Comenetz, Programming Director; Crystal Zhong, Treasurer; Kristin Healy, Conference Organizer

AGENDA

Treasurer's second quarter report

Crystal views NETA's financial situation as being healthy.

She wanted to find out about Stripe and Accelevents payment reports, which Lesley will provide her with, so Crystal can have supporting documents. Lesley will give Crystal access to Stripe so she can look at the fees.

Crystal also asked about the PayPal account that we have not been using since we now have switched to WA's payment system. The Board decided to hold off closing the PayPal account to see whether we're going to use it in one way or another.

NETA needs to buy 1099 forms as Crystal has resigned from her accounting job, so she does not have access to free forms anymore. NETA has a copy of Quickbooks but will need to provide Crystal with a book of 25 1099-forms, which is more economical and should be less than \$50.

Crystal already sent the W9s and 1099NECs to the IRS in February. The 1099MISCs are not being sent this year.

Crystal indicated that with the reduced membership fee, NETA might feel the pinch as NETA will have to pay for a physical location for the conference in 2022 and catering. NETA currently has about \$54,000.

Prior to the meeting, Diana had asked Crystal if payment to FIT was processed, but we forgot to confirm with Crystal before she left the meeting if she had called Bank of America to initiate a wire transfer to FIT.

Conference

All conference sessions will be available to attendees on the Accelevents platform for 30 days following the conference. After that period, recordings will be saved and accessible on NETA's Vimeo site with a link on our website. They will be available to attendees while non-attendees can access them for a fee, which has not been set yet. Kristin suggested to set up a password-protected option so attendees can access the sessions for 30 days and have a different password to access them on NETA's Vimeo site after the 30-day period on Accelevents.

Kristin put up some posts on Facebook. Asked if those could be boosted, she felt it was not necessary at this time as there was already a good amount of traffic and a boost after every post. It would make sense to perhaps revisit this idea at the end of the early-bird-special period in late March.

It was suggested if posts should go up on NETA's YouTube page, however the majority of the Board felt Vimeo looked more professional and legitimate and has no ads. Also, some speakers might not want to be on YouTube. Maiyim asked if a permission to record would be visible and indicated attendees and presenters signing in would imply their consent to being recorded.

Kristin gave the Board a thorough walk-through of the Accelevents website, how everything works, what to expect, the agenda page, buttons to bios, session descriptions and much more. When asked if there are enough exhibitors and sponsors, she said there were none at the moment, but Lesley indicated that sponsors/exhibitors typically wait until close to the conference time before registering. Diego informed us that UMB will be a sponsor again this year.

Kristin also mentioned that presenters can be given a free ticket so they can attend other sessions.

A few days before the conference, Lesley is to send out instructions to attendees on how to navigate the platform and encourage them to visit the platform in advance to familiarize themselves with it before the day of the conference.

Diana is to tell Board candidates that they are expected to be available during the meet-and-greet session, from 12:10 to 12:55. She has already received files and abstracts from Stephanie Newton, Vanessa Rendeiro, Sybil Gilchrist, and Stephen Sandford. Maiyim indicated she probably would not send hers so as to give challengers a chance to win, and Diego felt he did not want to run again either as there were many contenders. Diana is to send a reminder to other members that have expressed their interest in running to send their bios and candidate statements. She would share them with Kristin who will upload them on the conference platform. That information will be included on the Google forms so that attendees can input their votes. Diana will also mention any housekeeping items during her opening remarks, including how long sessions will be available to attendees after the conference.

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Board Meeting Minutes March 13, 2021

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A reminder about all this will be sent to all attendees a few days before the conference. They will be able to toggle from one session to another and the system will record how long each attended was at any given session.

Kristin responded to all Board members' questions and gave suggestions, such as a music interlude during coffee-breaks, making available a survey on the platform. There will be options for interacting during and outside of sessions and after the conference.

Marian sought to clarify the debriefing process this year and it was decided it would take place as soon as possible after the conference or after the June Board meeting. Kristin made sure the Board understood she would be available for the debriefing as part of her role is to also offer post-event follow-up.

It seems like everything is going according to plan with the conference organization. The Board unanimously commended Kristin for her energy, motivation, hard work, and mastery of all aspects of the conference she's tasked to organize and her valuable suggestions.

Membership

Antje thanked Marian for all her help and support identifying issues that Antje has been working to resolve, i.e., expiries, Procedural documents, member messages. While Antje receives a copy of every automated message Wild Apricot sends, there are still some manual tasks. She decided against asking Crystal to have membership checks sent to the latter as that would not necessarily be simpler and might in fact burden Crystal.

A discounted AffiniPay swiper/reader was purchased even if NETA is not going to use until an in-person conference occurs again.

NETA currently has 242 members.

Lesley updated the credit card information for our Wild Apricot account and we will owe the site \$1,836.

Monthly programming

NETA is not going to use Zapier because of their high fees and the complex setup it requires. Lesley feels it's still best that she continues to use her own hybrid manual/automated system for certificates of attendance.

It was asked if feedback forms could be sent to program attendees after every meeting so NETA can share them with speakers. Further discussion determined this could be done and they would include a few open-ended questions to make them more useful and comprehensive.

NETA's program offerings have also been shared with FIT sister organizations.

Marian confirmed the monthly meeting dates and presenters, she also has a speaker lined up for the April meeting.

The Board is considering an in-person meeting on June 26, if everybody's fully vaccinated by then. The meeting could be held at one of our typical venues, or outside if the weather permits.

Translation and Identity

There was a heated discussion on the topic of appropriate translation identity on the discussion group. The consensus among Board members is to ask the group how they want to proceed with this issue. The board suggests Marian responds to the discussion group, and if so, it would be in the form of a zoom meeting or monthly meeting and asks when interested members want to meet up to discuss this. NETA would then offer a platform for the meeting to facilitate this discussion.

Speakers

No information on academic panels is available yet. Diego will forward that information to Lesley and Kristin as soon as he receives it. All other speakers are confirmed for the conference.

A question was raised as to why *Digital Flourishing: Achieving Wellness in an Increasingly Virtual World* is a relevant session topic. Lesley through one her contacts found out about the speaker and wellness, our relation to technology and thought this would be a great addition, especially considering we're still in a pandemic. The Board generally decided that this was a welcome and useful offering that would cater to interpreters and translators alike.

Diego has a deadline of 03/01 for people to submit materials and wondered if we could extend the deadline for the call for papers. He has a good number of potential speakers but is looking for more variety. UMB will be covering 100% of its presenters' fees.

NETA News

Laura wanted to know who will be contributing conference write-ups. Since Inés is the Volunteer coordinator, she will inform Laura once she receives information about the volunteers who will be completing that assignment.

Lesley and Kristin will provide conference articles for the newsletter spring issue by the end of March.

Laura has a list of articles (5) for the upcoming spring issue, one with the Yale Translation Initiative, another featuring comments by Kevin Kirk, the current FIT president, who graciously

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Board Meeting Minutes March 13, 2021

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offered to say a few words at the beginning of the conference, which the Board approved. Other pieces deal with conference materials, monthly meetings and an editorial that will tentatively tackle the Juggling Joy of Being an Interpreter and a Translator, etc.

Laura also asked why our membership with FIT and relationship with the ATA are not featured on the landing page of the conference and elsewhere. The Board decided that this should be a matter to be revisited sometime in the future.

Erika also mentioned that articles for the Facebook page need to be concise to call people's attention to specific events.

Service award

Lesley has a template and will use it to create a certificate bearing Loreto's name on the certificate. Diana will buy a gift for Loreto.

CEUs

Lesley is waiting for a description and one final speaker and will have enough time to apply for confirmation before the conference.

Lesley will create a Google survey form with a response spreadsheet that she will share with everyone.

Other

After gathering Board members' input, Rokhaya responded to the email that Alison Rodriguez, FIT's vice-president, sent her inquiring about NETA and ways to work with FIT and its member organizations to advance professionalism in the interpreting and translation industry.

Lesley will find information on the renewal notices for Zoom and Vimeo as payment is due soon.

Diana suggested we keep including the item of a moderated discussion between NETA members and the Board on the agenda even when Board members typically run out of time during our meetings.

Next regular Board meeting date: June 26th, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at CHI, 35 Harvard Street, in Worcester.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

NETA Board Meeting Minutes, June 26, 2021

Virtual meeting via Zoom

Submitted by Rokhaya Smith, Secretary

Board Members Present: Lesley Andrews, Laura Rojo MacLeod, Diego Mansilla, Erika Schulz, Rokhaya Smith.

Others present: Marian Comenetz, programming coordinator; Diana Rhudick; newly elected members Inés Fusco, Sybil Gilchrist, Stephanie Newton, Steve Sanford.

Absent: Antje Ruppert; Maiyim Baron; Crystal Zhong, Treasurer.

Quorum present? Yes

AGENDA

Treasurer's third quarter report

The report shows that NETA is down a few thousand dollars. We need to remember that this is partly due to our reduced membership fees.

It was decided to postpone discussion of this agenda item for now since Crystal is absent, and only she can answer Board members' questions about her report.

It appears that the 4 gift certificates for the conference survey drawing were not included in the treasurer's report as Lesley has indicated she will include their cost in with the cost of the bills she has personally paid for Zoom, groups.io, and Vimeo when she requests reimbursement from Crystal.

Diana will ask Crystal if she has received payment for UMASS sponsorship (\$300) along with their 42 students' attendance fees at \$18 each.

Inés sent her W-9 to Crystal.

It is still too early to tell how NETA fared financially with regard to the conference. While Accelevents increased their fees during the conference planning period, they indicated this would not apply to NETA since we had already agreed to a price beforehand.

Crystal paid the FIT bill in March. The Board will reconsider whether to renew our FIT membership in September 2021 after assessing if it has been generally valuable to NETA members and our association or not.

Election & officer positions

Diana started by thanking departing members Maiyim Baron, Diego Mansilla, Antje Ruppert and Erika Schulz and welcoming new members Inés Fusco, Sybil Gilchrist, Stephanie Newton, and Stephen Sanford. Diana also explained to the new members Marian's role as programming coordinator, and how she prepares the board meeting notes and follows up on agenda items discussed and decisions or actions related to them.

Diana will continue in her role as president, Lesley as vice-president, Antje as membership coordinator, Marian as programming

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Board Meeting Minutes June 26, 2021

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coordinator and newsletter copy editor, Laura Rojo MacLeod as newsletter editor, Sarah Heller as newsletter layout person, Inés as job opps poster. Rokhaya will pause her role as secretary until her health improves. Stephanie has graciously agreed to help as secretary during that time.

The Board agreed to retain Kristin Healy for NETA's 2022 conference. Her fees increased last year, at which time Lesley explained that Kristin didn't have a full picture of the scope of her task as the Board didn't realize the full extent of what is involved. Last year, in order to offset part of Kristin's fee, the Board considered which tasks initially assigned to Kristin might be undertaken by other people. The result was that Lesley took on the entire speakers piece while Inés coordinated volunteers for a fee. For 2022 Lesley wants to see a small team to identify, invite, and manage the speakers for each of our three tracks: interpreting, translating and other language-related. The call for papers could be advertised with the ATA and in NETA News. Lesley is willing to organize and coordinate the three teams. She is planning to get the word out in the summer and hold one or two meetings before the Board meeting in September. Sybil and Erika offered to be on the team seeking translator speakers; Inés and Stephanie offered to do the same for interpreters.

We need to decide on a date for the conference first, and Diego will remain our will probably be hybrid liaison at UMass Boston. UMB needs to be notified and have a contract by September. Diego will ask UMB whether either April 30, 2022 or May 7, 2022 is available for NETA's conference.

We also need to find out whether Kristin is available on the date that is chosen and what her fee will be.

No change will be made to the double email recipient system: admin emails (Antje, Marian, Lesley, and Diana), membership emails (Antje and Marian); info emails (Diana and Marian), payment emails (Crystal and Antje), and job opps (Inés and Diana)

Membership

The Board decided that members should be notified that the membership fee will be reset to the regular full price as of July 1 (after a year of half-price membership due to Covid). Erika will do this on our Facebook, and Diana will email members. (Marian informed Erika of an article on translation in a recent issue of The Economist for posting on Facebook.)

Given the difficulty NETA has encountered with membership payments from overseas on the Wild Apricot payment platform, Lesley has devised a system that makes such memberships possible.

Website

The increased Wild Apricot renewal fee for NETA's website is due in September 2022.

The domain name renewal is coming up, and Register.com is offering a 20% discount before September 17, 2021. Diana has

asked Crystal to go ahead and renew our domain name before that date.

G Suite Basics, which NETA uses for website email recipients (ex. admin@, info@, etc.) has renewed automatically.

Lesley has made payments to groups.io and Vimeo and needs to submit an invoice to Crystal for reimbursement.

Monthly Programming

The Board unanimously decided to keep offering monthly programs virtually.

Also, as suggested by Diana, the Board would like to see feedback forms implemented after each monthly meeting.

Laura has graciously offered to host the summer social event (picnic) at her home in Amherst.

All monthly meeting dates are approved, and Lesley's mom would love to host the holiday event in December again. Here are the dates for 2021-2022:

Monthly meetings

9/18: 16th annual translation bash

10/23:

11/20:

December: holiday event

1/29 (or 1/22):

2/26:

3/26 (or 3/19):

4/23 – or 4/16 if conference is on 4/30

Board meeting dates

9/25 (or 9/18)

1/22 (or 1/29)

3/19 (or 3/26)

6/18 (or 6/25)

The Board is not considering facilitating another panel to discuss the issue of translation and identity regarding the translation of Amanda Gorman's poems, whether at a monthly meeting or not. However, it is open to the idea should the need and request for further debate arise.

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Conference

FEES: The question of whether to raise conference fees for 2022 was broached, but Lesley suggested we check the 2019 fees and decide in September, when the Board discusses the conference budget, and exhibitors' and sponsors' fees.

VOLUNTEERS: Inés gave us a review of how the conference volunteer coordination unfolded and indicated that it went smoothly.

CEUs: Producing certificates for CEUs remains challenging. Lesley has found that they're easier to create in large numbers, and she is still trying to figure out ways to streamline the process. There's no automated system for issuing certificates, and organizations prefer handwritten certificates, which makes it a time-consuming and arduous process.

DEBRIEFING: Lesley, Maiyim, Marian, Inés and Diana met with Kristin to share their thoughts about the conference this year. They agreed that everything went well, and that speakers should be secured in the fall as it's difficult to get well-known speakers later in the year.

Regarding the length of sessions, 50 minutes seemed appropriate enough, but given that organizations issuing CEUs prefer 60-minute sessions, the Board will need to discuss this further after we have an idea of our next conference schedule. Virtual, in-person and hybrid models will play a role in this.

RECORDINGS: Recorded conference sessions will be made available to conference attendees for free. The link to the recordings collection will be on the conference page of NETA's website and a password will be emailed to attendees so they can access it when they wish. The Board has decided to wait and see if we get any requests from non-attendees before deciding on a possible cost for having access to conference sessions

NETA News

Laura updated the Board on all the initiatives and articles and interviews that she has come up with during her first year as our newsletter editor. She has a solid list of conference write-ups, interviews, and articles for the summer issue.

ATA exam sittings

The ATA is now newly offering online sittings that can be taken from home using an external camera and with the microphone on. It is still offering a few in-person sittings as well. The ATA will also offer a hybrid prep workshop at its annual conference in October. We need to update our website page on ATA sittings so it includes new developments.

The ATA used to exempt members over 60 years of age from providing CEP documentation every three years. There no longer is such an exemption.

Next Board Meeting

The next regular Board meeting will probably be hybrid and will take place on September 25, 2021. The location of the meeting is to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

A word riddle found on the internet:

What has four letters, occasionally has twelve letters, always has six letters, but never has five letters.



[Ella Fitzgerald - Summertime \(1968\)](#)

