

## BA Translating and Interpreting Newsletter 2024

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter for the [BA in Translation and Interpreting](#) at Newcastle University. Here, we showcase some of the exciting activities that have been happening this academic year for both our T&I students and staff.

### ***BA Translation and Interpreting Stage 3 student, Saskia Robbins, talks about her experiences working for a translation agency in Montreal.***



As a third-year languages student, I am currently on my year abroad. For the first leg of this, I headed to Montreal, an energetic and vibrant city in French-speaking Canada, where I spent five months working as an intern in a translation agency.

I absolutely loved my time there, and in particular relished the variety of the day-to-day activities. In general, I would split my day between project management, proofreading colleagues' work and, of course, translation. A common question I would be asked was, "What kind of texts do you translate?", and the answer to that, is anything and everything. In a day, I might go from translating a tourist text from a region's promotional brand to proofreading a document on new medical discoveries, to brainstorming how to 'localise' a company's slogan for an English-speaking audience. I feel my course really helped to prepare me for this, since I had already developed the necessary research techniques and got to grips with the norms of a range of text types, giving me a very solid foundation to build upon.

Another element of my internship that my studies helped with, was subtitling tasks. While subtitling was not something we had specifically covered, the interpreting modules on my course had helped develop the listening, summarising and notetaking skills required to process and translate large chunks of information, often in more familiar language or in a particular dialect. For me, this was a great example of the transferable skills offered by such a varied programme such as Modern Languages, Translation and Interpreting.

Speaking of transferable skills, one I picked up from my time at the agency was project management. Relatively early on in my internship, I took on this new responsibility, meaning I was essentially the go-between for clients and translators. Within this role, I would liaise with all parties to agree on deadlines and prices, as well as responding to any client queries. I really enjoyed this element of the job, as it gave me a strong sense of autonomy and a much greater understanding of the whole translation process from commission to publication.

Overall, I had a brilliant time working in my translation agency and would highly recommend it to anyone considering their options for a year abroad. My experience was absolutely enhanced by the content covered in the first two years of my studies and it was extremely satisfying being able to put this theory into practice. I got a great flavour of the career opportunities the degree could lead to and am now seriously considering pursuing translation in a professional context.

## A visit to the Kittiwake Trust Multilingual Library

By Jenny Lee (Stage 4) and Sophie Stead (Stage 2)



While we were in one of our 'Reading in Translation' seminars discussing translator visibility (or the lack thereof) in publishing, a classmate mentioned that she works in a not-for-profit, multilingual library in Gateshead. A few weeks later, an impromptu trip had been arranged for a small group of us to go visit. Having spent a lot of time in class discussing the power held by bookshops and publishers and the marketing methods used to present books to readers, visiting a library whose books are primarily given by donation, a substantial amount of which are works in translation, was borderline kismet.

On a grey and blustery Tuesday afternoon, five of us made our way over to Gateshead, where we stepped through the doors of the Kittiwake Trust Multilingual Library and were welcomed into another world. The library is housed in a former pub, although with the cosy, relaxing atmosphere between the antique rugs and shelves packed full of books, you would never know the building's origins save for its exterior. The library is currently seeking planning permission to paint a stunning bookshelf mural on its façade, which would bring a pop of colour to the street as well as allowing the library to stand out to new visitors.

We spent a couple of very pleasant hours immersed in the enveloping calm of the library, browsing through the shelves and picking out interesting-looking books (although some of them still remained much too hard for us students and non-native speakers!) The children's corner was a great place to find easy reads in our beginner-level languages, but the majority of the Kittiwake Trust Multilingual Library's books are for an older readership. Some of the books are very old, and we even had the privilege of seeing some original prints of pamphlets from Spain that were being categorised behind the scenes.

The shelves of the library contain books in over a staggering 120 different languages and dialects. A conversation with one of the library's senior staff revealed that the collection had been started from books donated from a prison. With multiple languages spoken among the prison populace, books in all kinds of different languages had been bought to ensure literary accessibility for all inmates. In other words, accessibility is quite literally the library's reason for being.

With language classes, literary festivals, English and Maths clubs, and awareness events for different causes, the Kittiwake Trust Multilingual Library makes language, literature, and learning accessible to all, just like how translation can, and should. It's a fantastic resource, not only for language learners such as ourselves, but also for families and those who speak languages other than English to have a wide variety of books in their native language readily available in one place. It was a genuinely heart-warming and hopeful space to visit.

**Prefer to read this newsletter digitally?**

Scan the QR code to the right or [click here](#) if online to get access to this and all other newsletters from our School!



***An interpreting student and a lecturer share their perspectives on interpreting for a Mexican filmmaker at The Baltic in Newcastle.***

Ruby Buttolph (Stage 4):

When I was offered the opportunity to interpret for the '(Un)Spoken Territories' event at The Baltic, I was as nervous as I was excited. The event involved interpreting between Mexican filmmaker, Juan Ernesto (Noba) Regalado Morales and an audience, facilitating a Q&A and a creative discussion about his short film, *Nendok, entre lagunas*. I had only begun interpreting a few months earlier and was understandably nervous that my first experience interpreting outside of the classroom would be in front of an audience! However, with support from Noelia, I was able to overcome my nerves and gain invaluable experience.

Having the opportunity to interpret outside of the classroom allowed me to develop my skills and see what a career in interpreting could look like. It was also extremely interesting to be able to talk to Ernesto and learn more about his work, which focuses on the lives of indigenous communities in Mexico. Overall, this event was an amazing opportunity to put my learning into practice and I will remember it as a highlight of my time at Newcastle University.



Dr Noelia Cacheiro-Quintas:

One of the most exciting moments as educators, is when we see those with whom we have shared our knowledge and experience, shine. Empowering students in their journey to become interpreters is challenging but incredibly fulfilling. This is exactly what happened when, back in December, Ruby participated in the event as part of the interpreting team.

It was great to see how student's work in the classroom translated into the real world. Ruby did an incredible job, and she has confirmed that this has helped better understand the skills and the interpreting task overall. We will keep searching for more opportunities like this for our students!

## Double Publication Year for Dr Pauline Henry-Tierney

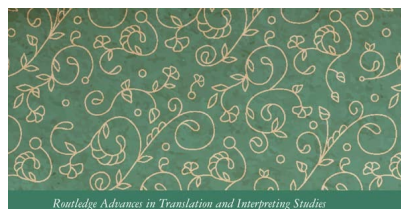
Dr Pauline Henry-Tierney, senior lecturer in French and Translation Studies and Director of the BA in Modern Languages, Translation and Interpreting, published two books with Routledge in 2023. Both books are related to her research interests in gender and translation.



The first was a volume co-edited with Professor Julia Bullock from Emory University, USA, entitled *Translating The Second Sex: Transnational Framing, Interpretation and Impact*. This book explores how French feminist philosopher Simone de Beauvoir's cornerstone work *Le Deuxième Sexe* has been translated into different languages around the world. Chapters focused on the translations into Chinese, Japanese, Hungarian, Arabic, Polish and many other languages.

The second book is a monograph entitled *Translating Transgressive Texts: Gender, Sexuality and the Body in Contemporary Women's Writing in French*. This book explores the complexities of translating different forms of women's lived experience in relation to post-millennial women's writing that is transgressive in nature.

This research feeds directly into one of Dr Henry-Tierney's modules, 'From Experimental to Explicit: Translating Women's Writing in French', which is available to students studying French on the BA in Translation and Interpreting.



### TRANSLATING SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR'S *THE SECOND SEX*

TRANSNATIONAL FRAMING,  
INTERPRETATION, AND IMPACT

Edited by  
Julia C. Bullock and Pauline Henry-Tierney



### TRANSLATING TRANSGRESSIVE TEXTS

GENDER, SEXUALITY AND THE BODY IN  
CONTEMPORARY WOMEN'S WRITING IN FRENCH

Pauline Henry-Tierney



### Translation workshop: Andrea Jeftanovic

In October, we were joined at Newcastle University by Chilean author Andrea Jeftanovic, who had come to deliver a lecture on her work. This was part of Newcastle University's [INSIGHTS](#) series, which are free and open to the public.

As part of her trip, some of our final year Spanish T&I students and MA Translation students were treated to a translation workshop to celebrate the publication of her novel *Theatre of War* translated into English by Frances Riddle. We spent a fascinating and fruitful hour delving into the complexities of Andrea's writing, getting an insight into the collaborative relationship between author and translator, and celebrating the idea of 'gaining' in translation.

A recording of her lecture is available on YouTube if you would like to watch – please use the QR code to the right or [click here](#) if viewing online.



## Translation Challenge Labs: A collaborative approach to Translation.



In collaboration with Dr Philippa Page as co-director of the Newcastle Humanities Research Institute, Dr Jenny Arnold has been developing a collaborative model which explores translation as a multi-layered, multifaceted process that can be enhanced by participation and input from other disciplines. Translation and language students have had the opportunity to take part in two Challenge Labs working alongside, and sharing knowledge and expertise with, students and staff from a variety of disciplines.

In 'Textured Translations', students from Translation Studies came together with students from English Literature and virtual visiting research fellow María Belén Riveiro in Argentina, to produce a translation of the prologue written by Argentinian writer César Aira to his translation of Shakespeare's *Cymbeline*. They took part in a series of workshops in which our English literature subject-expert students consolidated their knowledge of the play, of the role of the prologue, and of César Aira's translation, while the translation-expert students focused on the language-specific elements of the source text to produce a draft version of the prologue in English. The two groups then came together to share their expertise and work collaboratively to produce a final version.

In 'Layers of Language', students from a range of disciplines including Modern Languages, Translation Studies, Linguistics, and Political Science shared their knowledge and expertise to produce a translation of a set of digital teaching materials published by Linguapax entitled "Languages and Cinema". The booklet included ten renowned international films that allowed students to explore aspects related to linguistic diversity and the danger that local languages face in contexts of linguistic colonialism.

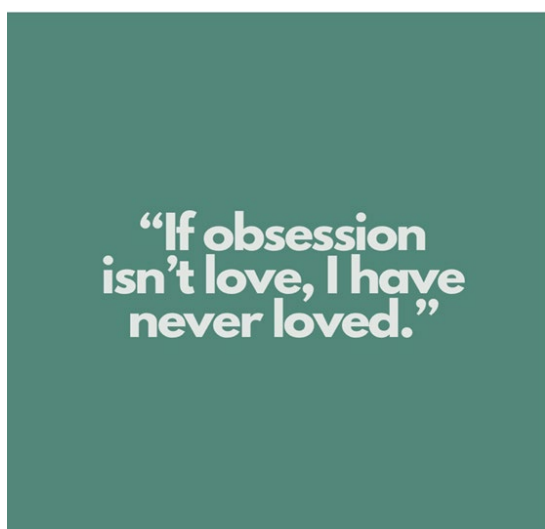


Using the films and the materials as a starting point, students took part in a series of workshops which explored such issues as: linguistic diversity as a source of conflict or peace, origins of language, linguistic relativism, language and power, differences between dominant and subordinated languages, endangered languages, linguistic and cultural colonialism, language and identity, and sign languages. This exploration then informed the translation of the materials which were done in small interdisciplinary groups.

## Reading in Translation meets Instagram!

A Stage 2 module, led by Dr Jenny Arnold, allows students to explore what it means to read in translation and how this differs from reading a text in its 'original' language. Part of the module involves creating book reviews for Instagram!

Check out the work below by student Viki Wawrzyniak.



### Get in touch!

If you have any questions, please get in touch with our Admissions Selector at:

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Tel: 0191 208 8417

You can also visit us at [www.ncl.ac.uk/sml/](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/sml/) - we look forward to seeing you on campus soon!