5th International Edition
Translation Symposium
Audiovisual Translation and Computer-Mediated Communication:
Fostering Access to Digital Mediascapes
7-8 October 2021

Call for papers

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic and in the wake of the decision of the Rector of the University of Palermo to cancel conferences and cultural events to be held at the institution, we have had to take the difficult decision to postpone the symposium to 7-8 October 2021. Stay connected for further news.

Organisers
Department of Humanities – University of Palermo
PhD in *Studi Umanistici* – Department of Humanities – University of Palermo
Department of Political Sciences and International Relations (DEMS) – University of Palermo
Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures – University of Bergamo
Centre for Translation Studies (CenTraS), University College London (UCL)
Postgraduate course in *Subtitling for the Deaf and Audio Description for the Blind* (SOSAC-PALERMO)

Location
University of Palermo – Department of Humanities
Complesso Monumentale Sant'Antonino/Palazzo Chiaramonte Steri
Piazzetta Sant'Antonino, 1 – Palermo

Confirmed Speakers
Patricia Bou-Franch (University of València); Paola Catenaccio (University of Milano "Statale"); Larissa D'Angelo (University of Bergamo); Jorge Díaz Cintas (University College London); Elena Di Giovanni (University of Macerata); Carlo Eugeni (University of Leeds); Eleonora Federici (University of Ferrara); Gian Maria Greco (University of Warsaw); Iris Guske (Kempten School of Translation & Interpreting); Anna Jankowska (University of Antwerp); Maria Olalla Luque Colmenero (University of Granada); Irene Ranzato (University of Rome "Sapienza"), Maria Grazia Sindoni (University of Messina); Nuria Sanmartín Rincart (Universidad de Valencia).

With the participation of Gabriele Uzzo (PhD student, University of Palermo, Accessibility Manager, SudTitles), Maila Enea (*Hogarth*), Maria Luisa Pensabene (Audiodescriber, and Contract Lecturer, University of Palermo), Silvia Torta (Project Manager, *Transperfect*).

Organising Committee

Jorge Díaz Cintas (University College London), Stefania Maci (University of Bergamo), Giulia Adriana Pennisi (University of Palermo), Alessandra Rizzo (University of Palermo), Cinzia Spinzi (University of Bergamo), Marianna Lya Zummo (University of Palermo).

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Synopsis

Research on (audiovisual) translation, computer-mediated communication, technology and accessibility has gained momentum in recent years (Díaz Cintas & Massidda 2020). Accessibility, understood as the set of procedures, mechanisms and practices aimed at the provision of inclusive services addressed to a general public, has grown as a methodological and theoretical framework in academia. For many, it should be entrenched in society as a human right (Rizzo 2019; Greco 2018), since its ultimate goal is to facilitate universal access to knowledge, thus breaking not only linguistic and cultural barriers but also sensory ones (Di Giovanni 2018).

Against the backdrop of digital mediascapes, accessibility has become an instrument of mediation and communication across a variety of discursive perspectives (Catenaccio 2018; Federici 2019), and its function is guaranteed and strengthened by the vast array of audiovisual translation modes practised in the industry as well as by the proliferation of visual and linguistic performative narratives on the web (Bou-Franch 2019; Sindoni 2013). In the digital space (i.e. websites, blogs, web collectives, social networks), accessibility guarantees the provision of some measures that make discourse more accessible for all users (Luque, Soler, 2019). These rapid and encompassing developments are increasingly affecting education and translation training (Spinzi 2019).

The combination of two domains, namely, audiovisual translation and computer-mediated communication, to secure accessible digital platforms, entails both usability and inclusion, specifically conceived for the design, creation and development of (audio)visual digital spaces that are addressed to all citizens and make knowledge universally accessible. Such an approach has opened up new horizons of global interaction, which cannot but involve interlingual activities. Among them, practices like amateur translation, fandubbing and cybersubtitling (Díaz Cintas 2018a) have become crucial to the construction of digital networks for the spread of computer-mediated knowledge (Zummo 2018; Díaz Cintas 2018b). In broader terms, the promotion of access services to information in digital settings recognises the need for adapting, simplifying, reinforcing, manipulating and/or translating written and spoken messages in order to make them accessible to anyone, thus, including people with different (temporary or contingent) cognitive abilities, speakers of other languages, sensory-impaired persons, and regular citizens. In light of recent scholarly research in audiovisual translation and thanks to the "affordabilities of information and communication technologies and their alleged democratising power" (Díaz Cintas 2018a: 127), the symposium aims to explore the links between new forms of translation and the language of the multiple digital discourse types inhabiting the cyberspace (Maci 2013). Encouraging knowledge dissemination while at the same time challenging conventional media, the event is open to students, academics, teachers, and professionals interested in the role and potential of access services, of which interlingual translation is a component, in the promotion and propagation of digital discourses.

Call for Papers

We welcome contributions that reflect on the intersections between digital mediascapes and audiovisual translation, including accessibility to the media.

Send your abstracts (300 words) to: sosac@unipa.it
Deadline for submission of abstracts: 1ˢᵗ June 2021
Notification of acceptance: 1ˢᵗ July 2021

Registration fee: 60 euros.

Publication: a selection of papers will be published in a special issue of the peer reviewed and indexed journal *Translation and Translanguaging in Multilingual Contexts* (John Benjamins).

Link to the website:
https://www.unipa.it/dipartimenti/scienzeumanistiche/5th-International-Edition-Translation-Symposium-Audiovisual-Translation-and-Computer-Mediated-Communication-Fostering-Access-to-Digital-Mediascapes--00001/

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