

# ABSTRACTS

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## THE ROLE OF CO-SPEECH GESTURES IN PUBLIC SERVICE INTERPRETING

### Abstract

Consecutive interpreting in public service settings ensures efficient communication between migrant users and civil servants of the host country, such as doctors, judges, police officers or social workers. Performed on site, it implies space-sharing and visibility of both the speakers and the interpreter which grants immediate access to nonverbal cues such as gestures.

The goal of this workshop will be to examine how public service interpreters combine multiple modalities to cope with interactants' co-speech gestures in such high-stress situations marked by asymmetrical power relations and fundamental cultural discrepancies.

The lecture will be based on recent findings (Chwalczuk, 2021) from a doctoral study which examined video-recorded performances of 27 interpreters working in healthcare, social and police settings in 16 different languages. This introduction will enable us to answer the following research questions: 1) What types of gestures are most frequently used in public service encounters and what are their functions in interpreter-mediated communication? 2) Do gestural profiles of the users and multimodal patterns typical for interpreting vary across different settings? 3) Finally, how do professional interpreters render speakers' gestures in their performances and how do different multimodal strategies impact the efficiency of interpreter-mediated encounters?

The workshop will focus on qualitative and quantitative methods applied in studying multimodal corpora. Firstly, we will work on descriptive analysis of audio-visual recordings illustrating authentic and semi-controlled interpreter-mediated interactions which grant an overview of various gesture-related interpreting challenges. The second part of the workshop will be dedicated to understanding benefits and limitations of using computer tools tailored for annotation of multimodal corpora such as ELAN or PRAAT.

The overarching aim of this session will be to discuss how shifting the perspective from verbocentric to multimodal may contribute to improving overall efficiency of the interpreting process in public service interactions.

**Keywords**

public service interpreting, co-speech gestures, multimodal corpora, intercultural mediation, sociolinguistics

**Lecture**

**THEORIES AND METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES FOR THE STUDY OF  
INTERPRETERS' VISIBILITY IN PUBLIC SERVICE INTERACTIONS**

Interpreters' "visibility" or human agency is a concept coined by Claudia Angelelli in her doctoral thesis (2001) to refer to all those moments in which the interpreter leaves aside their role as conduit and becomes an active participant and, therefore, also becomes visible to the primary participants in the interaction. Since Angelelli's proposal, numerous works have focused on this topic. From a theoretical point of view, authors such as Angelelli (2004), Baraldi (2009), Baraldi and Gavioli (2011), Bolden (2000), Davidson (2000), Hale (2008), Pöllabauer (2004) or Wadensjö (1998) among others, have explored how the interpreter's visibility affects the development of the interaction: it has an impact on the flow of communication, it changes the interpreter's role, and it can affect power distribution among participants. The interpreter has thus been described as an intercultural mediator, a gatekeeper, an advocate for the powerless participant, or an assistant to the powerful participant, among other metaphors. From a methodological point of view, the analysis of interactions (naturally-occurring or roleplayed) has been the most widely used methodology. More specifically, the focus on non-renditions (interventions by the interpreter that do not correspond to an original intervention by other participants) has been especially useful to show examples of the different causes that might involve a greater visibility of the interpreter. In line with this, this lecture will also review some of the most useful methodological approaches for the analysis of the interpreter's visibility, based on specific examples of the research carried out by the MIRAS group in recent years in the fields of education, social services and court interpreting, as well as recent theses in court interpreting (Chi, 2021; Raigal Aran, 2022).

**Workshop**

The focus of the workshop will be mainly hands-on. Firstly, students will be asked to pose possible research questions around the issue of the (in)visibility of the interpreter. Depending on these questions, different theoretical and methodological approaches will be considered. Next, the teacher will provide practical examples in different languages and combinations, all of them with translations into English to facilitate the participation of all students, and in groups, these examples will be analysed according to different parameters or approaches. In the last stage, each group will present some of the results and conclusions drawn from the analysis, they will be asked to compare their results with those drawn by other groups and will discuss them jointly with the rest of the classmates. Therefore, a very active participation by students is expected throughout the whole workshop.

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**Lecture**

**ORIGINS AND EVOLUTION OF CONFERENCE INTERPRETER TRAINING. IS  
INTERPRETER TRAINING JUST A QUESTION OF PRACTICE?**

This lecture will review the origins and evolution of conference interpreter training since its first works back in the 1950s, going through the interpreting models which have had an impact in training (Moser-Mercer 1978, Gile 1995) and finishing with the current trends and future directions. It will also analyse the main topics that have interested researchers in all these years (Yan *et al.* 2018).

Furthermore, the lecture will also examine the role of theory in interpreter training (Arumí 2020). Against the traditional background of a practical skills training, the lecture will emphasize how practice can be more productive if it is the object of critical reflection and of systematic examination.

Survey results on the views of trainers and students on the role of theory in training will be presented and will advocate for the conceptualization of practice through theory which can be an anchor for the professional development of future interpreters.

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## Workshop

### METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES IN THE STUDY OF COGNITIVE PROCESSES IN INTERPRETING. EXAMPLES FROM THE FIELD OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONFERENCE INTERPRETING

The focus of this workshop will be practical and will tackle some of the methodological challenges involved in doing research on cognitive processes in interpreting.

Researchers from within and outside the interpreting research paradigm (Grosjean, 2011; Seeber, 2011) describe the interpreting process as being complex and difficult as multiple cognitive processes happen recurrently in a limited time, which hinders the possibilities to repeat or clarify once the interpreting starts. However, the nature of the necessary cognitive resources is still an underresearched topic.

During the workshop, we will focus in three different studies on PSI and conference interpreting which have analysed the strategies applied by the interpreter to cope with cognitive load and other problems arising in the interaction (Arumí 2012; Arumí and Vargas-Urpí 2017 and Aal-Hajjahmed 2022). We will revise the research design of the studies focusing on the achievements and limitations. Students will be provided with practical examples that they will be able to apply in their ongoing research or in future studies.

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### Lecture

#### **CONDUCTING SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH IN AVT AND ACCESSIBILITY**

Audiovisual translation (AVT) and accessibility have become central for translation. On the one hand, the globalisation of audiovisual media and the exponential growth of streaming services has considerably increased the demand for translated content. On the other, national and transnational regulations have made accessibility a priority. Translation Studies has a role to play in responding to these growing demands and needs to be ready to inform not only current practices but also the wider industry. To do this, researchers need to:

- Understand the AVT and accessibility landscape to design studies that address key questions in the field
- Ensure that their research provides relevant results and contributes to the development of the field
- Reflect on how different stakeholders (creators, mediators, producers, translators, consumers) are represented in their studies.

Through a review of existing process-, product- and context-oriented research, and an assessment of current developments, this lecture will introduce key concepts in the fields and provide suggestions to conceptualise, design and conduct cutting-edge studies in AVT and accessibility.

### Workshop

#### **WHY WE SHOULD IMPLEMENT OPEN SCIENCE IN TRANSLATION STUDIES?**

Open Science is gaining traction in the social sciences. The principles of transparency, accessibility and reusability are not only considered the foundations of Open Science but essential for the actual expansion of scientific knowledge. This workshop aims to

- to promote a discussion about Open Sciences principles and tools
- to raise awareness about reusable and replicable methodological frameworks in translation studies and
- to encourage the adoption of Open Science principles and frameworks.

The workshop will provide early career researchers with reasons, resources and tools to conduct replicable, reusable and generalisable research studies. While some researchers in the field have already started releasing datasets and protocols of their studies, it would be highly beneficial for the field to discuss and uphold Open Science principles to ensure transparency, availability, reusability, and accessibility.

These discussions are particularly timely for early career researchers who might be willing to fully integrate these approaches into their research. The seminar will discuss the advantages of these principles and provide practical examples of good practice. Embedding Open Science principles as standards in Translation Studies could help us consolidate the field and establish stronger links with neighbouring fields, thus enhancing interdisciplinarity.