

## International Conference

# Cultural Diversity and Funded Translations: Between Institutional Gatekeeping and the Market, Past and Present

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**Conference Book**



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#### **Organising Committee:**

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## **Abstracts**

Monday 20 April

### **Keynote Lecture I: *Diversity or Fragmentation? Studying Literary Translation Policies as Entangled Practices***

**Reine Meylaerts (KU Leuven, Belgium)**

Chair: Diana Roig-Sanz (ICREA / Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain)

In this lecture Reine Meylaerts will take Belgium (1970-2020) as an example to explore the translation policies of regional and international state and non-state actors in plurilingual literary spaces in which national and linguistic borders do not coincide and where translation is required for books to circulate between the different official languages of the state. Do these policies contribute to bibliodiversity, to a thriving cultural life and a healthy eco-social system or not? To answer these questions she will argue that we need to study translation policies as a complex system of rich, non-linear interactions which cannot be added up in order to measure their effects: we need to study the entangled and emergent regional, national and international positioning, strategies, affordances, limitations, and effectiveness of actors' policies combining qualitative research methods with quantitative computational methods.

### **Panel 1: *Translation Programs in Africa and the Middle East***

- **“Translation Policy, Cultural Ecosystems, and the Transformation of Global Reception: The Saudi Model”, Sarah Abdulaziz Alshamran (Prince Sattam bin Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia)**

This paper examines how Saudi Arabia's Literature, Publishing & Translation Commission (LPTC) employs translation policy as a strategic instrument for managing and transforming global reception of Saudi culture. Since Vision 2030, translation has emerged not merely as a linguistic practice but as a deliberate policy mechanism through which the Kingdom seeks to reshape international attitudes, counter stereotypes, and establish new cultural narratives. The study analyses how the LPTC's comprehensive approach, encompassing translation grants, international conferences, research initiatives, professional development programs, and institutional partnerships, functions as an integrated system for cultural transformation.

Drawing on policy documents, institutional reports, and LPTC initiatives, including the Tarjem platform, International Translation Forum, translator training programs, and publishing partnerships, this paper maps the structure of Saudi translation policy and its mechanisms for influencing cultural reception. The analysis reveals how translation policy operates through multiple channels. These channels include the selection of which cultural content circulates globally, the creation of professional infrastructure to sustain translation work, the positioning of Saudi Arabia as a global translation hub, and the active management of how Saudi culture is represented and understood internationally. The paper argues that the LPTC exemplifies a new model of state-led translation policy where the goal extends beyond cultural exchange to deliberate reception management and narrative transformation.

By examining how translation grants prioritise certain themes, how conferences establish Saudi Arabia's voice in global translation discourse, and how research initiatives legitimise translation as a cultural policy, the study demonstrates that funded translation serves as both a cultural and a strategic communication tool. The paper contributes to debates on sponsored translation and institutional gatekeeping by revealing how comprehensive translation policy infrastructure can function simultaneously as a form of soft power, cultural diplomacy, and reception management, thereby raising critical questions about the relationship between translation, state objectives, and genuine cultural diversity.

- **“Translators’ Agency in State-Funded Literary Translation: A Bourdieusian Analysis of Rafael Carpintero Ortega in the Turkish–Spanish Literary Translation Flow within TEDA”, Ayşe Saki Demirel (Ankara Bilim University, Turkey) and Nesibe Erkalan Çakir (Karamanoglu Mehmetbey University, Turkey)**

TEDA, administered by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Türkiye since 2005, functions as a state-funded subvention programme for translation and publication, offering financial incentives to foreign publishers who wish to publish Turkish literature and works on Turkish art and culture in other languages. Within the scope of TEDA, between 2005 and 2025, a total of 4465 applications submitted by 1027 publishers from 99 countries and involving 64 target languages received support for translation and publication. Of these supported projects, 3542 have so far been published and made available to readers. The official catalogue on the programme’s website indicates that only 36 of these published works have been translated into Spanish, with 9 of them translated by Rafael Carpintero Ortega. Considering TEDA’s evaluation criteria, including the “level of the translator’s experience”, and drawing on a sociological perspective grounded in a Bourdieusian approach, this study examines the agency of Rafael Carpintero Ortega as a literary translator who stands out as the most prolific translator from Turkish into Spanish within

TEDA, accounting for 25% of all translations in this language pair. A microhistorical investigation into Rafael Carpintero Ortega, complemented by a semi-structured interview conducted by the researchers and a comprehensive contextual analysis of TEDA and Turkish literary translation, reveals that Carpintero Ortega's habitus, personal history and professional trajectory as a Spaniard who initially came to Türkiye to study the Turkish language and later became an academic in Spanish language and literature at an esteemed Turkish university in the late 1980s have significantly structured his position within the field. Additionally, his cultural, social, and symbolic capital as a bilingual professor and literary translator operating within the Turkish cultural, literary, and translational field plays a determining and structuring role in his leading position in the Turkish–Spanish literary translation flow within TEDA. This relationality is entirely consistent with Bourdieu's "[habitus](capital)] + field = practice" formula.

- **“Who Translated the First Tunisian Graphic Novel? Translation, Language Choice, and Postcolonial Cultural Diplomacy in Tunisia”, Clara Défachel (University of Stirling, UK)**

In 2021, France launched the cooperation programme ‘Livres des deux rives’ to strengthen its editorial and translation links with Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. The first Tunisian graphic novel, created by Aymen Mbarek and Seif Eddine Nechi, received funding for its co-edition and translation by two small publishers: Soubia in Tunis, which published the Standard Arabic text, and Alifbata in Marseille, which published the French translation. A closer attention to the graphic novel's itinerary to publication reveals, however, the existence of earlier drafts in different languages. Language choice is always strategic for Maghrebi authors, notably for graphic novels which have a limited Arabic-language readership.

I use this example as a case study to investigate how French-led postcolonial funding programmes impact the production of literary translations in the Maghreb, and the extent to which they enable or restrict displays of multilingualism in translation. I use a mixed-methods approach, comprising a comparative analysis of draft and published texts and interviews with the authors, publishers, translators, and funders to trace the graphic novel's itinerary across languages. This journey started in Tunisian French, before the authors became aware of ‘Livres des deux rives’ and self-translated their text into Tunisian Arabic and then Standard Arabic to become eligible for the subsidy, so that the text could eventually be translated back into French in France. I demonstrate how the authors used their multilingual skills to navigate postcolonial funding streams in order to publish their text in Tunisia, hence becoming full translation agents. I argue that accessing this translation subsidy paradoxically restricted the graphic novel's engagement with multilingual forms of expressions that are key

to Tunisian identity, as the graphic novel moved from local languages in its draft form (Tunisian French and Arabic) towards more globalised and standardised forms of expression (Standard Arabic and French from France).

- **“Institutional Translation as Infrastructural Power: The Governance of Translation in Egypt”, Hisham M. Ali (KU Leuven, Belgium & HBKU, Qatar)**

A growing body of research has investigated state-funded translation institutions as sites of multilingual governance, with limited attention to their function as infrastructures of state power. Drawing on Michael Mann’s concepts of despotic power (power over society) and infrastructural power (power through society), this study advances infrastructural thinking in Translation Studies by examining Egypt’s National Center for Translation (NCT) as both a hard and soft infrastructure of power through which the state extends its authority over society and the translation field. The study relies on documentary evidence, including the Center’s policies, translation production statistics, parliamentary debates, and media interviews with translators and publishers. It is argued that the NCT acts as a centralized bureaucracy that simultaneously serves as a vehicle of nationbranding, cultural diplomacy, and gatekeeping. Three key findings emerge. First, the state regulates the translation field through a combination of despotic power and infrastructural power: while exemplary imprisonment of publishers signals coercive capacity (despotic power), the NCT extends state influence over the translation field through indirect regulation (infrastructural power). Specifically, it functions as a gatekeeper by enlisting the public in policing the boundaries of the translation field, together with inducing self-censorship among translators and publishers, who observe what the Center publishes and avoids as indications of state priorities. Second, the NCT promotes cultural diplomacy by presenting statistics on its annual translation output as developmental indicators that position Egypt within regional and global hierarchies of nations. Third, concentrating headquarters in Cairo reinforces the capital’s dominance over peripheral regions, while the 2023 relocation to the New Administrative Capital embeds the NCT within a securitized, isolated environment as part of the state’s nation-branding strategy that projects a vision of a ‘New Republic’ to international audiences. The empirical significance of this study lies in revealing how states can regulate cultural production through benign institutional frameworks rather than coercion. In so doing, the study foregrounds the interplay between hard infrastructures (e.g., institutional buildings and spatial location) and soft infrastructures (e.g., policies and standards). Theoretically, the study extends Mann’s framework of state power to Translation Studies by demonstrating how translation institutions extend state authority over society through the mediation of what gets translated, for whom, and under what conditions.

## **Panel 2: *Central and Eastern European Literature in Translation***

- **“Diaspora Russian-language Publishers and the Circulation of their Literature within the Spanish-speaking Literary Markets”, Ana Muñoz Macías (University of Tartu, Estonia & Jean Moulin Lyon 3 University, France)**

Since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Russian-language literary production has experienced an increase in publishing activity abroad. This growth has been notable in Europe and has occurred independently of state structures in the Russian Federation. As Felix Sandalov (2025) notes, many émigré publishers are reviving a new tamizdat literature by releasing Russian-language literature outside state control. In this context, this paper offers a preliminary exploration of how the diaspora-led independent publishing houses Freedom Letters (Germany), Babel Books (Germany), Meduza (Latvia), and Vidim Books (Lithuania) circulate literature outside state-controlled channels and how their activities intersect with debates on cultural diversity and non-state translation policies. This study serves as the starting point for a future PhD, aiming to investigate whether these publishers’ books have gained a presence in the Spanish-speaking markets. To guide this inquiry, three key questions are posed: (1) Have any of these publishers’ books been translated into Spanish?; (2) If translations of new tamizdat literature into Spanish are available, are there any funding programs that support such translations?; (3) Do these publishers’ websites, catalogues, mission statements, social media communication, and paratextual or promotional materials demonstrate a deliberate effort to engage Spanish-speaking readers? An additional focus is placed on the intersectional composition of these publishing houses’ catalogues, which often include authors from the wider Russophone world—post-Soviet spaces—whose inclusion challenges monolithic understandings of “Russian literature” and broadens the scope of cultural representation. By presenting initial findings, this paper will lay a methodological groundwork for a larger doctoral research project on how diaspora-based Russian-language publishers are reshaping global translation flows during a period of war and censorship.

- **“Laboratories of Translation: Exploration and Exploitation in Slovak Literary Translation”, Ivana Hostová (Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia)**

This paper investigates diversity and state support in Slovak literary translation through the heuristic lens of the exploration–exploitation framework (March 1991) related to systemic and field-theoretical approaches to translation (Bourdieu 1983; Casanova 2004; Even-Zohar 1990; Heilbron 1999). Building on empirical findings from Hostová et al. (2025) and

Pliešovská and Popovcová Glowacky (2020) concerning the distribution of source languages in translations into Slovak, it reinterprets these data to argue that the Slovak translation field functions as a dual ecology: a commercially driven, exploitative sector marked by limited linguistic diversity and following a selforganizing dynamics of accumulation and attention distribution, and a subsidized, explorative sector that sustains cultural diversity, experimentation, and innovation. Rather than feeding into one another as in an ambidextrous model of organization (O'Reilly and Tushman 2013), these two segments appear to coexist with limited permeability, reflecting the structural fragmentation and asymmetries typical of peripheral literary systems. To trace how this explorative logic materializes in practice, the paper examines two state-subsidized periodicals—*Revue svetovej literatúry* (1995–1999) and *Verzia* (2020–2024)—as curated translation spaces that mediate the introduction of new cultural and aesthetic repertoires into the Slovak polysystem. The analysis then extends to contemporary subsidy mechanisms, notably those of the Slovak Arts and Culture Fund (FPU), situating current practices within the pressures of nationalist and anti-diversity discourses and policies that have weakened expert committees. To assess the present dynamics, the paper analyses a small dataset of stipends awarded to individual translators in 2025, focusing on diversity indicators such as languages, genres, genders, and the geographical or minority status of source authors. Although limited in scope, the findings suggest that diversity-oriented translation practices persist as forms of cultural resistance despite intensifying political and institutional constraints.

- **“For a Cultural Policy Beyond National Canons: The Situation of Yiddish in Funded Translation Programmes”, Joan Ferrarons i Llagostera (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain)**

This conference paper examines a policy paradox: the lack of specific financial support for Yiddish literary translations despite the language's official recognition in several European countries and Israel and its profound significance for their cultural heritage. The Yiddish language has millenary roots in Europe and was once widely spoken across vast areas of the continent, giving it a uniquely transnational character. Indeed, Jewish scholar and translator Rachel Ertel once called it “the most European language”. In the 20th century, the Holocaust and the mass migration of European Jews turned Yiddish into a mostly postvernacular, heritage language. In spite of the official recognition the language enjoys nowadays, Yiddish literature barely benefits from funded translation programmes, as national literary canons are traditionally constructed around one dominant language and thus tend to perpetuate the exclusion and invisibility of minoritised cultures. The research examines the place of Yiddish literature in the cultural policy of three of its key historical centres (Poland,

Ukraine and Lithuania) as well as diaspora contexts (the United States and Israel), taking into account both state and nonstate actors along with the European Union translation programme. By scrutinising funding mechanisms, the paper reveals a policy paradox: official recognition for a minority language does not necessarily lead to the promotion of its culture abroad through funded translations. The research aims to explore the reasons behind this lack of specific programmes for Yiddish and why the translation of Yiddish literature does not receive support from organisations promoting Jewish culture such as the Israeli Institute for Hebrew Literature. The paper puts forward the idea that translation funding should be reframed as a tool for the promotion of linguistic and cultural justice, rather than nation branding. The proposed framework would encourage the dissemination of marginalized literary voices and the fostering of bibliodiversity against market trends and homogenising tendencies. While it acknowledges the risks of assimilation and cultural appropriation that can accompany efforts to incorporate minoritised literatures into national canons, it advocates for a meaningful inclusion within a wider notion of cultural heritage that promotes their circulation through translations.

### **Panel 3: *Funded Translations and the Publishing Field***

- **“Isomorphisms in Translation Grant Programs: The Spanish Ministry of Culture’s Program as a Case Study (2019–2024)”, Lucia Campanella (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain) and Iñaki Vázquez-Álvarez (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain)**

Within the framework of the TradDivers project, “*Translating Diversity: Institutional Agents and Literary Translation Policies in Ibero-America (2001–2022)*” (PID2023-147380NB-I00), this paper focuses on one of the few active translation support programs in Ibero-America for which comprehensive data have recently become available: the Spanish Ministry of Culture’s program “*Grants for the Translation of Books into Foreign Languages*”, active since 2001.

In terms of its design, this program differs from other Ibero-American initiatives by allowing multiple source languages (granting subsidies to works published in any of Spain’s official languages) and by not using authors’ citizenship or residence as exclusionary criteria. Instead, eligibility is based on the place of publication: the work must have been published and distributed in Spain by a Spanish publishing house holding the publishing rights.

This paper first offers a large-scale comparative analysis of this program’s data in relation to the cumulative subsidies granted by other programs studied within the project, in order to assess the extent to which it follows broader trends. Second, drawing on an enriched subdataset created for this purpose, we examine the factors that increase a work’s likelihood

of being translated with the support of this program. Building on Vimr’s work on internal demand for translations (2019, 2025) and Sapiro’s analyses of isomorphism in the publishing market (2018, 2021), we identify several differentiating criteria: whether the work is under copyright or in the public domain, prizes awarded to the work or its author, the author’s gender, and the nature of the publishing house in which the work was originally published.

By doing so, this study contributes to the broader debate on the kind of diversity fostered by translation grant programs, examining whether such subsidies tend to reinforce the dominant positions of large publishing groups and established authors, or whether they create space for new voices.

- **“Intraducción y bibliodiversidad en los sectores editoriales latinoamericanos: entre grandes grupos y editoriales independientes (2019-2024)”, José Diego González (Cerlalc, Colombia) and Jorge Uribe (Universidad EAFIT, Colombia)**

Latin American publishing sectors owe much of their configuration to the presence of Spain as the organising axis for editorial supply flows within the Spanish-speaking world. This influence is manifested in the significant market share of Spanish-sourced books across various Latin American countries, the presence of local subsidiaries of major publishing groups, and the often-overlooked fact that these groups—and Spanish publishers in general—typically acquire translation rights for the entirety of the Spanish-speaking market. Such a contractual framework has heavily conditioned the flow of translations in Latin American countries, which is already dictated by the hyper-centrality of English. This landscape prompts an inquiry into the role of small and medium-sized publishers and how they contribute to the cultural diversity of the publishing ecosystem by translating from other languages into Spanish. Within the framework of a data visualisation tool developed by Cerlalc and EAFIT University, this study offers a descriptive approach to *intraduction* (translation into the target region) in Latin American countries based on ISBN database records (2019–2024). Simultaneously, the research seeks to map the impact of grant programmes for translating from other languages into Spanish within the defined chronological scope. It examines which source languages are favoured by the major publishing groups operating across the subcontinent and investigates whether so-called independent publishers serve as bridges for works from semi-peripheral and peripheral languages, thereby fostering an increase in bibliodiversity.

**Round table I: *Publishing Houses and Literary Agents.***

**Marc Garcés (Tigre de paper Publishing House), Joan Tarrida (Galaxia Gutenberg Publishing House) and María Cardona (Aevitas Creative Management)**

Chair: Iñaki Vázquez-Álvarez (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain) and Lucía Campanella (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain)

The publishing market is a space shaped by ongoing tensions between economic viability and a commitment to quality and cultural diversity. Those who work within it make daily decisions that directly determine which literatures circulate, in which languages, and for which audiences. This panel brings together professionals with extensive experience in the international circulation of literary texts to examine how gender, linguistic, ethnic, and sexual diversity are negotiated within the market. What criteria guide the selection of works and authors? To what extent do commercial logics enable or constrain meaningful bibliodiversity? Our participants will offer complementary perspectives on these questions, contributing to a broader reflection on the intersection of market forces, the global literary space, and cultural diversity in the contemporary publishing world.

Tuesday 21 April

**Keynote lecture II: *How can the 2005 UNESCO Convention Promote the Diversity of Funded Literary Translations?***

**Beatriz Barreiro Carril (Rey Juan Carlos University, Spain)**

Chair: Laura Fólica (ILLA/CSIC, Spain)

Beatriz Barreiro will show how the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, adopted in 2005 by UNESCO, can serve as a suitable framework for promoting the diversity of funded translations. To this end, she will first place the Convention and translations within the broader context of UNESCO, an organization that has been working in favour of the free flow of ideas through books (including translations) from its beginning. She will then address the context in which this international treaty was developed, emphasising that while the book industry falls within its scope, it was not, unlike the audiovisual sector, the primary driving force behind the idea of creating a Convention on Cultural Diversity. This reveals that in the years following its adoption, the book industry—and translation services in particular—did not receive so much attention from the Convention's bodies as the audiovisual industry. However, albeit unsystematically, several applications of the Convention to the field of translation (including funded translations) can be found. This presentation will seek to identify these applications and offer possible ways to leverage the Convention's full potential to promote diversity of funded translations. To this end, it will also explore the connections between this Convention and international human rights instruments, particularly those concerning cultural rights.

#### **Panel 4: Translation Programs in the Ibero-American Context**

- **“Mapping Diversity: Discourses on Language and National Identity in Ibero-American Translation Support Programs”, Elizabete Manterola Agirrezabalaga (University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU, Spain)**

Framed within the TradDivers project, *“Translating Diversity: Institutional Agents and Literary Translation Policies in Ibero-America (2001–2022)”* (PID2023-147380NB-I00), this paper offers a comparative analysis of the discourses shaping translation support programs across Ibero-America. It examines the extent to which these programs—implemented by a representative selection of institutions in Latin America and Spain—promote cultural diversity. Specifically, we explore how notions of nationality are articulated in relation to space and language within these programs.

Our study of twelve translation support schemes reveals diverse understandings of linguistic diversity and national identity. These understandings sometimes align with territorial or state-based conceptions and, at other times, with linguistic communities irrespective of political boundaries. The analysis considers how public institutions conceptualize cultural diversity within multilingual national contexts, including the role of co-official languages and the inclusion of authors writing in Indigenous languages. Through the identification and comparison of the discourses produced by each institution, we investigate how multilingualism is represented in literary translation policies.

By examining programs from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Uruguay, Portugal, and Spain, we address the following questions: What literary canon is being promoted? Is the international projection of national authors tied primarily to territory or to language? Do the programs favor a specific profile of authors? Ultimately, our aim is to clarify how literary and cultural diversity are understood within Ibero-American translation support policies, highlighting convergences and divergences in the eligibility criteria applied to works and authors.

- **“Circulación de obras literarias y redes de contacto entre campos culturales a través de la traducción subsidiada: la narrativa canaria contemporánea”, Ada Sánchez-Lata (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain)**

This paper analyses the circulation of contemporary Canarian literature through translation grants awarded by the Spanish Ministry of Culture. Using Andrea Abreu’s *Panza de burro* (2020) and Meryem el Mehdati’s *Supersaurio* (2022) as case studies, the research explores

the connections between the Canarian literary space and the fields of the target languages: Greek, Croatian, and Japanese.

Grounding Bourdieu's field theory in Tristan Leperlier's transnational perspective (2021, 2022), this study examines the relationships of in/dependence between these literary spaces. The hypothesis suggests that these regions share a peripheral status relative to the centres of their respective linguistic areas. Given that both novels are deeply rooted in their place of origin—thematically and stylistically—they narrate situations of dominance linked to extra-literary factors. This shared "dominated" condition may be precisely what has sparked interest within the Greek, Croatian, and Japanese literary fields.

The methodology includes an analysis of the translations' reception through press reviews and an evaluation of the publishers' editorial positioning. Furthermore, interviews with publishing representatives will highlight the impact of translation grant programmes on works that critically engage with peripheral spaces. Ultimately, the study explores the points of contact between "minor" literatures and the role of public policy in the global dissemination of such works.

Thus, the study explores the points of contact between literary spaces that appear to share a common 'dominated' status —namely 'minor' literatures— and the significance of public policies in their promotion.

- **“Literary Agents and Pre-Publication Funding: Insights from Barcelona’s Institut Ramon Llull for Catalan Literature”, Marina Alonso de Caso (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain)**

This paper engages with the research project *Translating Diversity: Institutional Agents and Literary Translation Policies in Ibero-America (2001–2022)*, funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities. The research provides an empirical and comparative analysis of post-publication translation subsidies, covering translation costs and directed to editors or translators. Building on these findings, this paper shifts focus to pre-publication funding supports available for literary agents, revealing material and institutional disparities structuring literary mediation. Early translation subsidies facilitate the international circulation of books across translation markets, and typically include funding for sample translations or support for participation in international book fairs and publishing meetings.

Using archival records of pre-publication grants earned by literary agents from the Institut Ramon Llull —the principal institution for the promotion of Catalan literature, headquartered

in Barcelona— this study examines how pre-publication grants enable gatekeeping positions within the field, shaping the space in which literary agents compete for recognition, visibility and the capitalization of translation rights. The city, a central node in the Spanish-speaking literary field, hosts the largest concentration of literary agencies across Ibero-America, making it a strategic vantage point for observing how policies aimed at international literary circulation also contribute to structuring the local literary field.

- **“Género, editoriales y lenguas en el programa de ayudas a la traducción Reading Colombia. El mercado editorial no se regula solo”, Paula Andrea Martín (Universidad de Antioquía, Colombia) and Margarita Valencia (Independent Researcher, Colombia)**

Drawing on quantitative data from the Trad-Divers project (*Translating diversity: institutional agents and literary translation policies in Ibero-America (2001–2022)*) alongside additional data gathered online, I will present an analysis of the Reading Colombia translation grant programme. The study focuses on the call for proposals’ criteria across its seven editions and examines the representation of male and female authors, genres, publishing houses, destination countries, and the target languages of the grant-winning Colombian works. These findings will be compared with existing research on the broader landscape of 21st-century Colombian literary translation to determine the impact of Reading Colombia on the internationalisation of Colombian literature.

#### **Panel 5: Funded Translations and Gender**

- **“Programes de traducció, poder tou i circulació de la dissidència sexo-genèrica a Iberoamèrica: el cas català”, Olivia Magaña-Andaluz (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain)**

This paper examines how public translation support policies mobilize sex-gender diversity as a symbolic resource within strategies of international cultural projection (soft power and nation branding). The research begins from a central question: what kind of diversity do public institutions promote when they fund the translation of works with LGTBI+ or queer content, and what normative frameworks and political limits condition this promotion?

Drawing on a theoretical framework that combines the sociology of translation, queer studies, and cultural policy analysis, the paper is based on a database of more than 12,000 translation grants awarded by primarily public institutions across the Ibero-American sphere between 2001 and 2022. From this corpus, I have built a gender-focused subdataset that makes it possible to identify grants linked to LGTBI+ identities, feminist narratives, and queer

narratives, and to analyse the extent to which these policies tend to privilege assimilable narratives—marked by homonormativity and liberal feminisms—or, alternatively, make room for proposals with a more radically critical potential vis-à-vis norms of gender, sexuality, and the economic system.

The presentation focuses especially on the Catalan context through the grants awarded by the Institut Ramon Llull (IRLL), and structures the analysis around two contrasting case studies. On the one hand, *Eren ells* (2016) by Carles Rebassa and its Arabic translation (2019), published by Sefsafa Publishing House, an independent publisher based in Cairo, are analysed as an example of an LGTBI narrative capable of fitting within homonormative and culturally exportable frameworks. This case makes it possible to examine how certain forms of sex-gender diversity become compatible with the logics of soft power, while also highlighting the role of local editorial mediations in the circulation of these narratives in sociopolitical and legal contexts that are complex with regard to sexuality.

On the other hand, *Ofert a les mans, el paradís crema* (2024) and the trajectory of Pol Guasch are approached as an example of contemporary queer narrative within a predominantly European sphere, with a more dissident potential vis-à-vis the norm in both aesthetic and political terms. This case makes it possible to observe the mechanisms of consecration, legitimation, and international circulation of this type of proposal within a literary system as strongly institutionalised as the Catalan one.

- **“Self-Translation as Feminist Resistance: the Circulation of VAWG in Beatriz Cabur’s Theatre”, María Herrera Cárdenas (University of Bielefeld, Germany)**

This paper examines how contemporary narratives of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) written by English/Spanish bilingual playwright Beatriz Cabur circulate internationally through self-translation and author-driven mediation, with particular attention to the role—and notable absence—of institutional funding in these translational processes. Focusing on works such as *Goodbye, Mother* (2020) and *The Mirror* (2023), the study analyses how Cabur’s decision to self-translate and self-finance the circulation of these texts operates as a form of feminist resistance to dominant systems of cultural gatekeeping within the global theatrical market. While Cabur’s earlier English-language work benefited from institutional support in the context of production and artistic development—such as commissions and residencies supported by the Spanish Consulate in New York (notably during plays like *Suite 207* at The Hotel Project, 2012), the Eugene O’Neill Theater Center, and professional networks fostered by institutions such as The Lark—her later plays addressing VAWG were translated and circulated without economic support from public

translation programmes, cultural institutes or publishing bodies. In the case of *Goodbye, Mother*, first premiered in London and later presented in a Spanish institutional setting at the University of Zaragoza, both the translation and its performative realisation were fully self-funded by the author and collaborators, without institutional financial backing for translation. These self-translations are not conceived as faithful reproductions but as culturally situated rewritings, in which linguistic, dramaturgical and contextual decisions are strategically adapted for specific audiences. The paper argues that this model of author-controlled, self-funded translation foregrounds translation as a space of creative and political agency, while simultaneously exposing the limits of institutional discourses of diversity, which often prioritise national representation and linguistic promotion over feminist or politically disruptive content. Drawing on feminist translation studies and cultural sociology, and informed by the work of Rosi Braidotti, Sara Ahmed, Rita Segato and Olga Castro, this study positions Cabur's self-translation practice as a counter-hegemonic strategy that challenges dominant narratives of diversity within translation funding policies and cultural programmes, redefining legitimacy, visibility and authorship in feminist theatre.

- **“Surveying Diversity in a Supply-Driven Context”, Olivia Hellewell (University of Nottingham, UK)**

This paper shares early insights from a bilateral research project (Universities of Nottingham and Maribor; funded by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency) designed to develop a nuanced understanding of gender equality within the specific national context of the Slovene literary field, and from an agent-focused perspective. The paper foregrounds methodological workings and early impressions from a survey that has sought responses from women and non-binary writers who write and publish in Slovene on their working practices, their attitudes towards translation and their perceptions around opportunities within existing mechanisms designed to subsidise and promote translations of Slovene literature (with focus on translations into English in this instance). Earlier research (Hellewell 2020; 2026) established that a number of historical and socio-cultural factors have fostered a cultural environment in which efforts to supply translations of Slovene literature are seen in Slovenia as both necessary and desirable, and where subsidised translations have become more prevalent as dedicated state support programmes expanded and subsumed previously independent organisations. A study of novels translated from Slovene into English during the first 25 years of Slovene independence (1991-2016) from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) showed that of the 32 titles published in the UK and US, just five were authored by women. Whilst the number of titles authored by women and translated into English has increased proportionately since 2016, publishing data alone does not provide

sufficient grounds for claims about gender equality. It is from this hypothesis that the survey was designed. This paper will offer insight from a specific national and supply-driven context, and will reflect on how an agent-focused approach is necessary to establish a nuanced picture regarding diversity, gender equality and published literary translations. It will argue that an agent-focused approach is of particular importance in a literary field where supply-driven approaches are commonplace, owing to the relative prevalence of support mechanisms and subsidies available within the source culture field.

### **Round table II: *Translating and Translators***

#### **Rakefet Sela-Sheffy (Independent Scholar) and Adan Kovacsics (Literary Translator)**

Chair: Simona Škrabec (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain)

At this roundtable, we will reflect on the work of translators as intermediary agents who facilitate the entry of foreign works and authors into the local cultural field, with particular attention to the material conditions of the profession. To this end, Simona Škrabec—researcher, lecturer, and a prominent translator working between Catalan, Slovene, and Spanish—will interview Adan Kovacsics, a renowned translator from German and Hungarian into Spanish, known for his translations of Nobel laureate László Krasznahorkai, as well as the researcher Rakefet Sela-Sheffy, a senior scholar of the professional trajectories of both academic and professional translators.

Wednesday 22 April

#### **Keynote lecture III: *The Invisible Hand of Translation: Literary Agents and Public Policies in the International Circulation of Latin American Literature***

#### **Alejandro Dujovne (CONICET & Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Argentina)**

Chair: Lucia Campanella (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain)

This lecture examines the relationship between public and private actors in the processes of internationalization of Latin American literature. In particular, it focuses on the role played by literary agents and agencies as strategic mediators between public translation support programs, publishers, translators, and international rights markets. Based on a combined approach that brings together statistical analysis and in-depth interviews, the presentation reconstructs the landscape of agents and agencies, as well as the range of authors they represent, taking into account variables such as countries of origin, editorial genres, ages, and profiles of literary consecration. From this perspective, the talk analyzes the logics that organize the international circulation and commercialization of rights, and explores the

mechanisms—often little visible—that enable certain works, authors, and catalogues to project themselves beyond their national borders.

**Panel 6: *Translation Programs and minoritized languages***

- **“How institutional intentions meet divergent reader imaginaries in Stuart’s *Shuggie Bain*”, Elsje Fourie (Maastricht University)**

Douglas Stuart’s *Shuggie Bain* (2020) has become one of the most widely translated contemporary Scottish novels, supported by public funding schemes such as Creative Scotland and Publishing Scotland. These funding programmes position the novel as emblematic of contemporary Scottish literature and as a potential vehicle of cultural diversity in global publishing. This paper examines how these policy assumptions operate in practice by empirically analysing the transnational reception of this particular book.

Drawing on multilingual focus group sessions and a survey conducted among Scottish, Dutch, Japanese and Zimbabwean book club members, the analysis shows that readers do not take up these envisioned forms of cultural diversity in a uniform or predictable way. Each group activated distinct sets of imaginaries and attachments that systematically shaped how the book was understood. Zimbabwean readers found the novel the most engaging, finding local resonances in its depiction of poverty, social decline, and spousal abuse while also perceiving homosexuality as an important but more challenging theme. Dutch readers found the novel more relatable than other groups did, focusing strongly on translation choices and often mobilising romanticised imaginaries of Scotland. Of all the groups, Japanese readers experienced the book as the most disturbing and least enjoyable, learning about poverty and sectarianism in 1980s Glasgow but finding limited relevance to their own social context. Scottish readers produced the most polarised responses: some praised its authenticity, while others rejected it as an expatriate projection of Scotland. Across all sites, these “lay readers” described the novel as difficult and emotionally-demanding to read, demonstrating different motives for reading than do literary critics and publishing insiders.

These varied receptions demonstrate that diversity is not a fixed property transmitted through funded translations. Instead, it is actively reconfigured by locally and culturally situated interpretive repertoires. The findings show that translation funding and soft power initiatives cannot determine their own diversity effects: institutional intentions meet divergent reader imaginaries that reshape, resist, or redirect the cultural meanings of globally circulated literature. Reception studies therefore provide important evidence for evaluating the real social consequences of funded translations.

- **“Language, Territory, and Mediation: Mapuche Literature in relation to National Frameworks of Translation”, Roberto Elvira Mathez (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain)**

This paper examines the role of gatekeepers—cultural institutions, literary prizes, and publishers—in the processes of translation, legitimation, and circulation of literature written in Mapuzugun, the language of the Mapuche people in Argentina and Chile. It starts from the premise that Mapuche literary production has a transnational identity that challenges institutional frameworks organized around the nation-state, generating specific frictions within formal literary circuits.

The analysis is based on a corpus that includes the bilingual poetry of Elicura Chihuailaf and Leonel Lienlaf, translations of works by Graciela Huinao, and the literary and journalistic projects of Daniel Zenko and Adrián Moyano. Drawing on the sociology of literature, the paper examines how prizes, publishing markets, and cultural policies operate as mediating devices between two epistemological systems in tension: on the one hand, the national literary system, governed by dominant languages, market criteria, and institutional legitimation; on the other, an Indigenous literature that articulates language, territory, memory, and orality through non-state logics.

As comparative cases, the paper analyses the Chilean National Prize for Literature and the Santiago Municipal Poetry Prize, together with publishers such as Pehuén Editores, Veranada, and Ediciones CHM, in contrast with Argentine publishers such as Maizal Ediciones and Amauta & Jaguar, as well as the Argentine National Arts Prize and the Municipal Prize for Literature.

The paper is structured around three questions: how does Mapuche transnationality shape circuits of translation and circulation? In what ways do gatekeepers operate from national frameworks when faced with a non-state linguistic identity? And what role does translation play in the construction of a transnational Mapuche literature? It argues that translation constitutes a key space of cultural and political negotiation in which the terms through which contemporary Indigenous literatures are recognized are actively contested.

- **“Source languages choice as an instrument of survival: The Paul Zsolnay Publishing company between 1924 and 1938” , Tatsiana Haiden (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)**

In this talk, which is based on the results of my new monograph, I analyse the source languages of all translated books published by the Viennese publishing house Paul Zsolnay

from its founding in 1924 until the Austrian Anschluss to Germany in 1938. In its early years, the company published predominantly translations from English, French and Russian. From the mid-1930s, however, the focus shifted to translations from Scandinavian languages, Hungarian, Italian, Spanish and Chinese. Until 1932, Paul Zsolnay also managed to publish translations from Yiddish. I examine the factors that influenced the choice of the languages using Bourdieu's two scale dichotomy (large vs small scale publishing and established agents vs newcomers to the field). I demonstrate how translations from certain languages, or works by particular authors, were used by the publisher, as tools for gaining short- and long-term profit, countering rising antisemitism, and adapting to the new socio-political situation. Moreover, I show how the publisher's collaboration with certain translators influenced the introduction of new source languages into the publisher's catalogue. In some cases, translators initiated the introduction of a specific language to the company; in others, the publisher relied on translators' international networks to publish authors with particular source languages. In some cases, translators reshaped the publisher's translation policy in the long-term. Finally, I analyse publisher's attempts to introduce translations from languages rare or Austrian readers.

#### ***Panel 7: Funded Translations under Religious and Political Constraints***

- **“Institutional Gatekeeping in Practice: How Funded Translations Shaped Salazar's International Image”, Isabel Chumbo (Instituto Politécnico de Bragança, CITEd-Transdisciplinary Research Centre in Education and Development, Portugal)**

This paper examines the translation of dictator Salazar's political speeches into English as a strategic soft-power practice of the Portuguese Estado Novo during the 1940s and 1950s. While soft power is generally associated with contemporary diplomacy, archival evidence demonstrates that Salazar's dictatorship systematically employed translation to shape Portugal's international image, particularly among Anglophone audiences. Drawing on Nye's conceptualization of soft power as the ability to influence others through attraction rather than coercion, this study argues that the regime mobilized translation as a tool of cultural diplomacy aimed at legitimizing its authoritarian project abroad using funded translations for the purpose.

Through extensive research in the Portuguese National Archive, the paper reconstructs the translational workflow behind foreign-language editions of Salazar's speeches, focusing especially on the collection Salazar says, published throughout the timespan mentioned, by the National Propaganda (SPN/SNI) office. These documents reveal a tightly controlled

process and decisions regarding which speeches to translate, which source texts to use, and which paratextual introductions to include. This course of action was overseen at the highest political level, indicating the regime's strategic concern with message management and audience targeting, as well as nation branding for foreign consumption.

A close reading of the speeches contained in the collection alongside their English translations shows how omissions, additions, and literal renderings contributed to a carefully constructed portrait of Portugal as economically competent, politically moderate, and distinct from other fascist models. The findings highlight the role of translation in projecting an attractive national narrative at a time when Portugal sought diplomatic relevance amid European turmoil during the war and post-war period.

By situating translation within the Estado Novo's broader communicative strategy, this work contributes to understanding how authoritarian regimes harness translation not only as linguistic mediation but as a deliberate soft-power tool.

- **“Ideology or Diversity: State-funded Outbound English Translation of Chinese Literature in the Anglophone World”, Yueran Wang (University of Leeds, UK)**

In the Republic of China, state-funded translation has long been integrated into national schemes from 1949 to the present for as a means of advancing national branding and amplifying global influence. During the 1950s - 70s, the state-owned institutions Chinese Literature and Foreign Language Press remained the two primary platforms for outbound English translations of Chinese literature, when the Anglophone publishers made very few translations of Chinese works. Yet the large amount of state-funded outbound English translations had never successfully entered the mainstream book distribution network in the Anglophone world. In spite of this, Chinese institutions have shifted from producing outbound translation to collaborating with Anglophone academic and commercial publishers in the 21st century.

However, this study finds that although the state-funded translated publications fail to enter mainstream distribution systems in the target culture, the translated texts were, in fact, reselected and published by the Anglophone commercial publishers during the Cultural Revolution in the 1970s. Contradictorily, the outbound translations originally intended for national branding were repackaged and marketed by the Anglophone publishers in ways that reinforce the stereotypical representations of communist China in the target culture.

This study then examines another contrasting case that involves different institutional actors and selection mechanisms. Between 2019 and 2020, through a partnership with the

Zhejiang Writers Association in China, Penguin Australia and Penguin China jointly published a series named Penguin Specials: Zhejiang Specials. This series displays more diversity in selections of texts featuring regional colours that have been ignored by both state-funded and commercial translation. By comparing these two cases, this study argues that participation of regional cultural institutions in the source culture might contribute to greater diversity in translated literature amid the ideology-driven state-funded translation and the profit-oriented commercial translation.

- **“Fo Guang Shan: Supporting Human and Machine Translations of Buddhist Scriptures for Over Three Decades”, Youheng Wong and Erdem Koyuncu (Fo Guang Shan and University of Illinois Chicago, United States of America)**

Fo Guang Shan (FGS), literally translated as Buddha’s Light Mountain, is an international Buddhist order with over 250 branch temples worldwide. Established by Venerable Master Hsing Yun in 1967, it comprises five universities, 27 art galleries, several publishing houses, editorial departments, bookstores, and mobile libraries. Fo Guang Shan has funded large-scale Chinese-to-English translation projects, such as the 20-volume Encyclopedia of Buddhist Arts and the 8-volume Fo Guang Dictionary of Buddhism. It has also established the Fo Guang Shan International Translation Center and Buddha’s Light Publications, which are dedicated to providing high-quality translations of classical and modern Buddhist texts. Additionally, academic journals, as well as educational books and booklets, are translated into English by the FGS Institute of Humanistic Buddhism and the FGS Foundation for Buddhist Culture and Education. Furthermore, Chinese-English exhibition catalogues are produced by the Fo Guang Yuan art gallery, and video subtitles are translated into English, French, Japanese, and Korean by FGS’s Beautiful Life Television. All these translated works are sponsored by the Fo Guang Shan order, responding to requests for translation wherever they occur.

Currently, the works of Venerable Master Hsing Yun have been translated from Chinese into English and into over 20 other languages, including French, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese. With the 100-volume Biographies of Eminent Masters, 110-volume Collection of Contemporary Buddhist Works, 132-volume Selected Chinese Buddhist Texts in Modern Language, 277-volume Fo Guang Buddhist Canons, and 395-volume Complete Works of Venerable Master Hsing Yun, all published in Chinese, Fo Guang Shan is dedicated to translating many more Buddhist texts from Chinese into English and other Asian and Western languages in the future. Beginning with human translations three decades ago, Fo Guang Shan is currently researching AI-based machine translation projects to expedite translation volume.

### **Round table III: *Institutions***

**José Diego González Mendoza (Cerlalc, Colombia), Gustavo Sorá (CONICET, Argentina), Imanol Otaegi (Etxepare Euskal Institutua)**

Chair: Diana Roig-Sanz (ICREA / Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain)

This round table brings together representatives from CERLALC- and the Etxepare Euskal Institutua to discuss with Prof. Gustavo Sorá (CONICET, Univ. Nacional de Córdoba) and Prof. Diana Roig-Sanz (ICREA/UOC) about translation policy, nation branding, soft power and cultural diplomacy, and the sociology of publishing. In this respect, the speakers will discuss issues related to translation as a tool for cultural exchange, but also as a tool which reproduces asymmetries. In this respect, the speakers aim at reflecting upon the different ways institutions navigate the tension between fostering cultural diversity and reinforcing or resisting dominant translation flows, especially toward English. On a different note, the speakers will also deal with fundamental issues related to how institutions connect multiple minor languages and literatures, or how translation policies genuinely promote small/minor and less-translated languages or reshape global literary hierarchies. Likewise, the speakers will address insights related to the role of intermediary languages like Spanish, but also other issues regarding the extent public institutions intervene in literary circulation, or if they function within pre-existing or parallel power structures (for example, the market). Finally, the speakers will discuss questions related to who decides what gets translated (national or international markets, institutions, or variables related to symbolic capital, prestige or sales). Or how do we avoid turning literature into an instrument of soft power, rather than preserving its critical autonomy. In other words, the table aims at reflecting about potential risks that state-supported internationalization standardizes cultural production for global consumption.

### **Bionotes**

**Alonso de Caso, Marina (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain)**

Marina Alonso de Caso is a PhD candidate at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya. As part of the Global Literary Studies Research Lab, she is currently working under the supervision of Diana Roig-Sanz on a doctoral thesis that explores literary agents from a socio-historical and gender perspective, with a particular focus on hidden mediation processes within the literary field. Prior to this, she completed a master's degree in Linguistic and Literary Competence at the Universitat de les Illes Balears. She also pursued studies in Sociology

and Comparative Literature at institutions such as Sorbonne University, Université libre de Bruxelles, Paris Descartes University, and Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Her interest in the world of books is closely tied to her professional experience as an editor and literary agent prior to starting her academic research, during which she worked with publishing houses such as Éditions Gallimard. She is currently working as a Senior Research Technician at the Universitat de les Illes Balears, where she is part of the Edicions UIB Lab.

**Alshamran, Sarah (Prince Sattam bin Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia)**

Dr. Sarah Abdulaziz Alshamran is an Assistant Professor in Translation Studies at Prince Sattam bin Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia. She holds a PhD in Translation Studies from the University of Birmingham (2025), where she focused on ideological translation and critical discourse analysis (CDA). Her research has since expanded to encompass translation policy, AI applications in translation, and cross-cultural communication. Dr. Alshamran is currently focusing on translation within policy frameworks, the impact of artificial intelligence on translation practice, and ideological dimensions in translated texts across cultures. She has presented at international conferences, including the EST Congress (Leeds, 2025), and is a member of the Saudi Translation Association (SATA) and the Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI).

**Barreiro Carril, Beatriz (Rey Juan Carlos University, Spain)**

Beatriz Barreiro Carril holds a PhD in Human Rights (Universidad Carlos III, Madrid) and a Master in European Union Law (Université Libre de Bruxelles). Beatriz is Professor of International Public Law at the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos. She works on specific legal topics, which revolve around International Cultural Law, and Human Rights with a special focus on the culture-trade relationship, cultural diversity (and its relationship with biodiversity, the environment and sustainable development, and digitalisation). Besides, Beatriz is interested in interdisciplinary research, that includes the links between International Law and other Social Sciences, Humanities and the Arts, as well as in applied research with a particular focus on human rights, especially cultural rights.

**Campanella, Lucia (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain)**

Lucía Campanella holds a doctorate in Comparative Literature from the Université de Perpignan, obtained through an Erasmus Mundus scholarship. Her doctoral dissertation focused on the housemaid character in the literature of France and the Río de la Plata region. Her subsequent research engaged with translators' archives and the historical anarchist press to study translation networks in the context of political movements. From

2023 to 2025, she led the Marie Skłodowska-Curie postdoctoral project ARGOT, 'The Anarchist Translation Flows and World Literature Project'. In parallel, she has explored various aspects of literary translation in Uruguay. She is a member of the group 'History of Translation in Uruguay', which leads the R&D CSIC project '150 Years of Literary Translation in Uruguay', recently awarded the LASA Archives Section Award for Best Public Interest Project. She is currently a senior researcher with the GlobalS group and a member of the research team for the Trad-Divers project.

**Cardona, Maria (Aevitas Creative Management, Spain)**

Maria Cardona is a literary agent at Aevitas Creative Management, where she represents a prestigious international roster including 2020 Booker finalist Avni Doshi, Alana S. Portero, and Elena Medel. Based in Barcelona, she specialises in literary fiction and upmarket titles written in both English and Spanish. With an extensive background in foreign rights and global publishing, she has previously held fellowships in Frankfurt, Taipei, and Turin. Maria is known for her close, long-term collaboration with authors and her passion for diverse, global voices. She is particularly drawn to compelling narrative voices, modern love stories, crime fiction, and narrative non-fiction exploring women's experiences.

**Chumbo, Isabel (Instituto Politécnico de Bragança, CITeD-Transdisciplinary Research Centre in Education and Development, Portugal)**

Isabel Chumbo is an Assistant Professor at the Bragança Polytechnic University, Portugal. She holds a PhD in Translation Studies, with a dissertation on the English translations of Salazar's speeches and their role in the history of translation during Portugal's 20th-century dictatorship. She also holds a DEA in Translation and Intercultural Studies and a Master's degree in English Culture, Language and Literature, following a degree in Modern Languages and Literatures (English and German) with a specialization in translation. Her research focuses on the history of translation under the Estado Novo, particularly the translation of propaganda and political texts into foreign languages.

**Défachel, Clara (University of Stirling & University of St. Andrews, UK)**

Clara Défachel is currently a Lecturer at the University of Stirling and a final-year PhD candidate in Comparative Literature at the University of St Andrews. Her interdisciplinary doctoral project combines comparative literature, translation studies, and cultural diplomacy research to analyse literary translations produced in the Maghreb in the past ten years. It is funded by the UK's Arts and Humanities Research Council through a Scottish Graduate School for the Arts and Humanities Doctoral Training Partnership.

**Dujovne, Alejandro (CONICET & Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Argentina)**

Alejandro Dujovne holds a PhD in Social Sciences and is a researcher at CONICET. He directs the Master's programme in Sociology of Culture and Cultural Analysis at IDAES-Universidad Nacional de San Martín, where he also teaches several postgraduate courses in the field. His research expertise covers the production and international circulation of symbolic goods, academic publishing, book fairs, and translation policies. In addition to his academic work, he is deeply involved in the design, implementation, and evaluation of public policies and legislation for the Argentine book sector. He is a member of the selection committee for Programa Sur, Argentina's national translation grant programme, and is a frequent contributor to Argentine media, writing on the publishing market and cultural policy.

**Elvira Mathez, Roberto (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain)**

Dr Roberto Elvira Mathez is a Juan de la Cierva Postdoctoral Researcher at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya's GlobalS lab, where his current project explores the translation and global circulation of Indigenous Latin American literature. With a PhD from the City University of New York and master's degrees from Stockholm and Porto, his academic trajectory reflects a deeply international background. His research specifically examines the intersections of writing, territory, and urban marginality across Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina. In addition to his scholarly work, Dr. Elvira Mathez is an accomplished author of three short story collections and a translator of Scandinavian and Lusophone poetry. He was recently awarded the Ciudad de Badajoz Poetry Prize for his debut collection, *Lenguas extintas*.

**Erkalan Çakir, Nesibe (Karamanoglu Mehmetbey University, Turkey)**

Nesibe Erkalan Çakır holds a Ph.D. in Translation and Cultural Studies, with a focus on comics in translation. She is currently an assistant professor at Karamanoglu Mehmetbey University in Türkiye. She has been teaching translation theory, linguistics, lexicology, text linguistics, and French as a second language for three years. Her research focuses primarily on the theory of comics, literary translation, terminology, semiotics, eco-translation, and new media studies.

**Ferrarons i Llagostera, Joan (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain)**

Joan Ferrarons i Llagostera holds a cum laude PhD in Translation and Intercultural Studies from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, where he serves as an assistant professor and a member of the Contemporary Catalan Translation Study Group (GETCC). His research focuses on the reception of Yiddish and German literature in other languages and on the

impact of linguistic minoritisation processes on translation. As a literary translator, he has rendered into Catalan works by authors such as Franz Kafka, Hermann Hesse, Siegfried Lenz, Friedrich Nietzsche, Theodor W. Adorno and ByungChul Han, as well as Leyb Rokhman's *Mit blinde trit iber der erd*, the first Yiddish novel translated directly into Catalan.

**Fólica, Laura (ILLA/CSIC, Spain)**

Laura Fólica is a Senior Research Scientist at the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), within the Institute of Language, Literature, and Anthropology (ILLA). She currently co-directs the project "Translating Diversity," which examines institutional agents and translation policies in Ibero-America. A founding member of the Global Literary Studies Research Lab (GloboLS) at the UOC, she previously served as a postdoctoral researcher on the ERC-funded MapModern project, mapping Hispanic and Lusophone literary modernity. Dr Fólica's research integrates the sociology of translation and Latin American studies with digital humanities. Her current work employs data mining and digital tools to analyse literary translation within Ibero-American newspapers from a large-scale, transnational perspective. In addition to publishing over thirty scholarly articles, she is an accomplished translator of landmark works in the humanities and social sciences, having translated authors such as Pascale Casanova, Gisèle Sapiro, and Roger Chartier.

**Fourie, Elsje (Maastricht University, Netherlands)**

Dr. Elsje Fourie is an Associate Professor of Global Sociology at Maastricht University's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Her research broadly examines how knowledge, narratives, and cultural artifacts flow and are interpreted across borders. Through cases such as the reception of the 'China Model' of development in East Africa, the use of Japanese productivity methods in Ethiopian factories, and (in her current project) the reception of so-called 'global novels' among readers in four countries, she employs a sociological lens that examines how imaginaries are shaped by globalisation along different scales and among different social groupings.

**Garcés, Marc (Tigre de paper Publishing House, Spain)**

Marc Garcés is an editor at Tigre de Paper, a Manresa-based publishing house founded in 2011 that operates as a cooperative. The press takes its name from Mao Zedong's famous phrase describing imperialism as a "paper tiger"—seemingly fierce but easily torn apart. However, the publisher subverts this idea; as Garcés notes, they believe that paper, despite its apparent fragility, can "build a tiger of popular culture that roars and provokes change." With over 120 titles published, this Manresa label strives to be a global counter-cultural

force. It also promotes collaborative projects designed to support one another and weave a broader social and cultural network.

**González Mendoza, José Diego (Cerlalc, Centro Regional para el Fomento del Libro en América Latina y el Caribe, Colombia)**

Technical Director of the Publishing Ecosystem at Cerlalc, a UNESCO Category 2 Centre based in Bogotá. He has coordinated various publications for the Centre and participated in numerous research projects concerning the publishing sector. He holds a Master's in Publishing from Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona) and a degree in Literature from the University of the Andes (Bogotá).

**Haiden, Tatsiana (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)**

Tatsiana Haiden is a visiting researcher at the University of Copenhagen. She holds a PhD in Transcultural Communication from the University of Vienna (2024), Master's Degrees in Translation from University of Turin (2015) and from Belarusian State University (2012). She was previously Postdoc Track Fellow (Austrian Academy of Sciences and University of Copenhagen), IFK Fellow (University of Arts, Linz and Oxford University), and Literar Mechana Fellow. She investigates publishing companies as translation spaces both contemporarily and historically. Her research interests are at the intersection of translation history, cultural history, sociology of translation, publishing studies.

**Hellewell, Olivia (University of Nottingham, UK)**

Olivia Hellewell is Assistant Professor in Spanish and Translation Studies at the University of Nottingham, UK, and a published literary translator from Slovene into English. She is currently guest-editing a forthcoming Special Issue for *Target* (Vol. 39, 2027), along with Olga Castro (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona; University of Warwick) and Laura Linares (University College Cork) on the changing landscape of literary translation and/as soft power in the 21st century. Her first monograph, *Supplying Literary Translation: Slovene Literature and Routes into Translation for 'Small' European Literatures* is forthcoming with Routledge in 2026.

**Herrera Cárdenas, María (University of Bielefeld, Germany)**

María Herrera is a postdoctoral researcher at the Universities of Bielefeld and Jyväskylä (Germany and Finland), working at the intersection of Gender Studies, Digital Humanities, Comparative Literature, and Medical Humanities. She examines the cultural, political, and technological conditions that shape women and girls' experiences of medical violence across

the globe. Since completing her International Double PhD in Languages and Cultures (Summa Cum Laude, Universidad de Jaén, Università degli Studi di Siena, and Université BordeauxMontaigne), she has focused on how the representation of VAWG contributes to the recuperation of women's agency and the legitimation of their lived experiences.

**Hostová, Ivana (Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia)**

Ivana Hostová is a senior researcher in Translation and Literary Studies. Her work addresses hierarchy, canon formation, and cultural circulation through interdisciplinary lenses, including feminist, queer, and ecological theory, and actor-network approaches. She leads the project *Information Flows and Zones of Resistance: Translation in Slovak Cultural and Literary Periodicals since the 1990s* (NextGenerationEU), exploring intersections of translation and periodical studies. Her monograph *Chvála odchýlok* (In Praise of Aberrations, 2025) analyzes English translations of Slovak poetry, and she recently translated Nóra Ružičková's *What Now Is Now Is Now* (Seagull Books, 2025).

**Ikoff, Ventsi (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain)**

Ventsislav Ikoff is a postdoctoral researcher at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC), where he contributes to the project Trad-Data Translating diversity: institutional agents and literary translation policies in Ibero-America (2001-2022). He holds a PhD in Language Sciences and Translation from Universitat Pompeu Fabra, with a doctoral thesis focused on literary translation flows and cultural mediators between Bulgaria and the Hispanic world. Specialising in the sociology of translation and digital humanities, Dr Ikoff employs computational methods to analyse cultural transformation processes. His current research explores Ibero-American Translation programmes and subsidies for translation. He has previously worked on major data-driven projects regarding the circulation of books between Spain and Latin America, Ibero-American modernist journals, film mediators, and the institutionalisation of Ibero-American cultures.

**Jiménez, Manel (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain)**

Manel Jiménez-Morales is a Professor of Communication and Vice-Rector of Alliances, Community and Culture at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC). Previously, he was a lecturer at Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF) from 2000 to 2023, where he also served as Vice-Rector of Educational Transformation, Communication and Culture. He holds a PhD and a Master's in Social Communication (UPF), alongside Bachelor's degrees in Audiovisual Communication and Comparative Literature. Dr Jiménez-Morales has been a visiting researcher at the University of Oxford, UCLA, and the British Film Institute. He also served

as the Rector's Delegate for New Technologies and Director of the Centre for Innovation in Education at UPF. His teaching experience spans Ramon Llull University, several German universities, and Royal Holloway, University of London. Additionally, he co-directed postgraduate programmes in television writing and innovation in collaboration with *El Terrat* and *Televisió de Catalunya*. As a researcher, he has led numerous studies, served as programming director for the European Cinema Festival in Barcelona, and edited the journal *Formats*, combining academic work with roles in the media industry.

#### **Kovacsis, Adan (Literary Translator, Spain)**

Adan Kovacsis is an esteemed translator from German and Hungarian, he has received numerous prestigious accolades, including the Spanish National Translation Prize and the Austrian State Prize for Literary Translation. His contributions to Hungarian letters were further recognised by the Hungarian government with the "Pro Cultura Hungarica" honour. Notably, he is the Spanish-language translator of the 2025 Nobel Laureate, László Krasznahorkai. Parallel to his translation work, he is a distinguished essayist whose writing explores the dimensions of language and its profound relationship with socio-political and historical contexts. His work particularly examines how language undergoes metamorphosis during turbulent times, as seen in his significant titles *Guerra y lenguaje* (2007) and *Karl Kraus en los últimos días de la humanidad* (2015).

#### **Koyuncu, Erdem (University of Illinois Chicago, United States of America)**

Erdem Koyuncu is an Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Illinois Chicago. His research bridges machine learning, networking, and signal processing, with an emphasis on distributed and federated learning, compute-adaptive neural inference, and robust intelligence for resource-constrained edge systems. He received his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from the University of California, Irvine, in 2010. He received the Best Paper Award at the IEEE International Symposium on Local and Metropolitan Area Networks (LANMAN) in 2025.

#### **M. Ali, Hisham (KU Leuven, Belgium & HBKU, Qatar)**

Hisham M. Ali is a Research Fellow in Arabic Studies at KU Leuven, where he earned his PhD in Translation Studies. He is the recipient of the 2025 Martha Cheung Award for Best English Article in Translation Studies. His work has appeared in journals such as *National Identities*, *Pragmatics*, *Language Problems and Language Planning*, *Modernism/modernity*, *Perspectives*, and *Middle East Critique*. He is also a Senior Translation Specialist and Lecturer at Hamad Bin Khalifa University in Qatar, where he oversees MA translation

internships, develops professional training programs, and coordinates the university's interpreting unit.

**Magaña-Andaluz, Olivia (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain)**

Olivia Magaña-Andaluz is a PhD candidate at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) and a member of the Global Literary Studies Research Lab. Her research lies at the intersection of queer studies, translation studies, and cultural policy, with a particular focus on how institutions shape the transnational circulation of literary diversity. Working within the project *Translating Diversity* (Spanish Ministry of Science), she combines Digital Humanities and qualitative methodologies to analyze large-scale datasets of publicly funded translations. Her dissertation investigates the global visibility of LGBTQ+ narratives through translation policies, contributing to ongoing debates on soft power, cultural diplomacy, and the politics of literary circulation.

**Manterola, Elizabete (University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU, Spain)**

Elizabete Manterola is a Senior Lecturer in Translation and Interpreting at the University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU. She completed her PhD in 2012 on the translation of Basque literature into foreign languages. She has been a member of the research group TRALIMA/ITZULIK since 2010 and is currently its principal investigator. She has contributed to research projects funded by the Spanish Ministry of Culture such as TRACE (UPV/EHU), EACT (UAB), and she is currently a member of the research team for the Trad-Divers project (UOC). Manterola is the author of the book *La literatura vasca traducida* (Peter Lang, 2014). Her research interests include translation in minority language contexts, asymmetrical power relations, Basque literature and translation, and self-translation.

**Marín Colorado, Paula Andrea (Universidad de Antioquía, Colombia)**

Doctora en Literatura (Universidad de Antioquia). Profesora de tiempo completo en la Facultad de Comunicaciones y Filología de la Universidad de Antioquia. Directora de la revista *Estudios de Literatura Colombiana*. Sus líneas de investigación son la sociología de la literatura y los estudios sobre cultura escrita e impresa en Colombia.

**Meylaerts, Reine (KU Leuven, Belgium)**

Reine Meylaerts is a Professor at KU Leuven, where she currently serves as the Vice-Rector for Research Policy. A prominent figure in Translation Studies, she is a member of the Translation and Intercultural Transfer Research Group and teaches across the fields of Comparative Literature, the Sociology of Literature, and Multilingualism. Her extensive

academic career includes a PhD on interwar Belgian culture and a tenure as a prestigious FWO postdoctoral researcher. Professor Meylaerts's research focuses on translation policies concerning minorities, migrants, and refugees, as well as intercultural transfer within multilingual cultures. With over 150 publications to her name, she has coordinated numerous international research projects and supervised more than 20 PhD candidates. Her leadership roles include serving as Director of CETRA (Centre for Translation Studies) and Secretary General of the European Society for Translation Studies (EST). An internationally renowned scholar, she has been a visiting professor at institutions such as Harvard University and Beijing Foreign Studies University, and she continues to serve on the editorial boards of several leading international journals.

**Muñoz Macías, Ana (University of Tartu, Estonia and Jean Moulin Lyon 3 University, France)**

Ana Muñoz Macías is a master's student specialising on Russian and Slavonic philology. Her MA thesis explores the image of Russia before and after the 2022 full-scale invasion of Ukraine in French media outlets using imagology, discourse analysis, and mediallynguistics. In 2025, she presented this research at the Young Slavists Conference at the University of Helsinki and at the GranaSlavic International Conference at the University of Granada. In addition, an article based on this study has been accepted for publication at *Hortus Semioticus*, a peer-reviewed journal within the Semiotics Department of the University of Tartu. She also translates for Novaya Gazeta Europe and write cultural pieces on Central Asia for the online magazine *Lossi 36*.

**Otaegi, Imanol (Etxepare Euskal Institutua, Spain)**

Imanol Otaegi holds a degree in Audiovisual Communication and a diploma in Tourism, bringing over 15 years of experience to the cultural sector. Throughout his career, he has managed high-impact international projects across various artistic disciplines. His professional background includes three years at the Donostia / San Sebastián Foundation, where he was responsible for the city's cultural initiatives abroad, and a tenure at the San Sebastián International Film Festival, where he coordinated production for the *Zabaltegi-Tabakalera* section and the International Film Students Meeting. Previously, he worked as a producer for several television series and entertainment programmes for ETB, as well as for various theatre and dance productions. He currently serves as the Director of the Basque Culture Promotion and Diffusion Department at the Etxepare Basque Institute.

**Ribera Fumaz, Ramon (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain)**

Ramon Ribera Fumaz is a Professor of Urban and Economic Geography and the Director of UOC-TRÀNSIC (Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Social and Cultural Transformations) at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya. He has been co-founder of the Urban Transformation and Global Change Lab (TURBA). His research focuses on the geographies of urban transformation and uneven development. He has made significant contributions to four key areas: the interconnection between economy and culture, how the digital economy reshapes the built environment, critical perspectives on digital urbanism, and interdisciplinary approaches to inclusive urbanism. He holds a PhD in Geography from the University of Manchester. His latest book is *The Politics of Late Urban Entrepreneurialism. The Innovation District* in the RIPE series in Global Political Economy, co-authored with Greig Charnock and Jose Mansilla.

**Roig-Sanz, Diana (ICREA Full Professor, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain)**

Diana Roig-Sanz is an ICREA Research Professor at UOC, where she coordinates the Global Literary Studies Research Lab together with Natàlia Cantó-Milà. She was the PI of the ERC-funded project "MapModern- Social Networks of the Past," and she currently leads, with Laura Fólica, the Spanish project "Translating Diversity: Institutional agents and literary translation policies in Ibero-America (2001–2022)". Her research deals with global and sociological approaches to translation and literary history, and applies digital humanities, gender perspectives, and a decolonial approach to the circulation of small, minor, and less-translated literatures. She also develops research in the field of ecological humanities. She has held visiting positions and fellowships at the Barcelona Super Computing Center, the Oxford Internet Institute, KU Leuven, and the École Normale Supérieure, in Paris. Her publications include: *Contemporary Global Thinking from Latin American Women. Writings from the Margins* (De Gruyter 2025, with L. Fólica and A. Mota), *Culture as Soft Power* (2022 De Gruyter, with E. Carbó), or *Literary Translation and Cultural Mediators in 'Peripheral' Cultures* (2018 Palgrave, with R. Meylaerts). She has recently co-edited two special issues on translation and soft power (*Perspectives*, 2025, with L. Campanella and Carbó-Catalan) and on translation and relational approaches (*The Translator*, 2025, with N. Ashrafi and R. Meylaerts). She is an elected member of the Spanish Young Academy.

**Saki Demirel, Ayşe (Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal University, Turkey)**

Ayşe Saki Demirel holds a Ph.D. in Translation and Cultural Studies, with a focus on feminist translation practices in Türkiye. She is currently an Assistant Professor at Ankara Bilim University, where she teaches courses on Translation Theory, Translation Technologies,

Audiovisual Translation, Sight Translation, Consecutive Interpreting, and Women's Studies and Translation. Her research interests include feminist translation studies, sociology of translation, translation agents, translation technologies, translator in/visibility, and critical discourse analysis.

**Sánchez-Lata, Ada (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain)**

Ada Sánchez-Lata is a predoctoral researcher at GlobalS (UOC) and an FI-SDUR fellow. She holds a degree in Hispanic Philology from the University of Barcelona and a Master's in Literary Theory and Comparative Literature from the University of Salamanca. Her research interests sit at the intersection of gender studies, the sociology of literature, and literary language theory. Her current doctoral project, "From the Local to the Global," examines the transnational circulation, internationalisation, and translation of contemporary "regional" literatures, with a specific focus on recent works from Catalonia, the Canary Islands, and Galicia.

**Sela-Sheffy, Rakefet (Independent Scholar)**

Rakefet Sela-Sheffy is a cultural researcher whose work explores the formation and transformation of social identities. Her research specifically examines the intersection between individual identity construction and the development of cultural fields. Methodologically, she focuses on identity as expressed in natural speech, primarily analysing semi-structured interviews and online verbal interactions. Currently, her research is concentrated on professional identities within loosely structured occupations, as well as environmental identity and activism within unstable or transformative social environments.

**Škrabec, Simona (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain)**

Simona Škrabec is a prominent translator working between Catalan, Slovene, and Spanish, as well as a specialist in literary theory and comparative literature. Throughout her career, her work has examined the position of minoritised languages and cultural identity within a globalised market, with a particular focus on the cultural relations and exchange between Slovenia and Catalonia. Her extensive body of work includes numerous books, research reports, and articles, alongside the coordination of various collective volumes and contributions to international conferences. Since 2014, she has served as the Chair of the Translation and Linguistic Rights Committee of PEN International. Her previous leadership roles include serving on the board of PEN Català and as the director of a journal founded by the organisation's Catalan chapter.

**Sorá, Gustavo (CONICET, Argentina)**

Gustavo Sorá holds a PhD in Social Anthropology and is currently an Independent Researcher at CONICET, based at the National University of Córdoba (UNC). His extensive body of published research focuses on the sociology of the book and the intellectual field. Rather than treating the book merely as an object, his work examines the complex dynamics between editors, writers, translators, and cultural mediators, offering deep insights into the broader landscape of written culture.

**Tarrida, Joan (Galaxia Gutenberg Publishing House, Spain)**

Joan Tarrida is a prominent Catalan editor. He has served as the Managing Director and Publisher of Galaxia Gutenberg since 2004. His entire professional career has been dedicated to the publishing industry, beginning with his role as Director of Publications for the Barcelona Olympic Games (1990–1992). In 1992, he joined the Bertelsmann Group, where he served as the Editorial Creative Director for Plaza & Janés until 1999. Following this, he held the positions of Editorial Director and subsequently Managing Director at Círculo de Lectores, further consolidating his leadership within the Spanish-language publishing landscape.

**Uribe, Jorge (Universidad EAFIT, Colombia)**

Professor at the School of Arts and Humanities at Universidad EAFIT (Colombia) and responsible for the Research Seedbed in Poetics and Translation of the undergraduate program in Literature. Ph.D. in Literary Theory from Universidade de Lisboa (2014); postdoctoral researcher at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (2015-2016) and the Universidade de São Paulo (2016-2018); B.A in Literature with a minor in History from the Universidad de los Andes (2007). Uribe is a member of the critical editorial project “Estranhar Pessoa”, based at the Universidade Nova de Lisboa, and co-responsible for the edition of [pessoadigital.pt](http://pessoadigital.pt), an initiative developed in collaboration with the Universität Rostock. He has edited the works of Fernando Pessoa in Portuguese and translated into Spanish authors from the Portuguese language, including Valério Romão, Mário de Andrade, Pepetela, Machado de Assis, and Eça de Queirós. He has received funding for research and academic projects from the Direção Geral do Livro, os Arquivos e as Bibliotecas (DGLAB) of Portugal; the Coordenação para o aperfeiçoamento de pessoal de nível superior (CAPES) of Brazil; the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT) and the Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian of Portugal.

### **Valencia, Margarita (Independent Scholar, Colombia)**

Margarita Valencia is an editor, literary critic, and translator with a career spanning forty years in the Colombian literary and publishing sectors. She has served as the Director of the National Library of Colombia and as the manager of the Bogotá, Capital Mundial del Libro project. She founded the Master's programme in Publishing Studies at the Instituto Caro y Cuervo (Colombia), where she has been a professor and researcher for the past eight years.

### **Vázquez-Álvarez, Iñaki (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain)**

Iñaki Vázquez-Álvarez is a Serra Húnter Professor in the Department of Business Organisation at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, holding a PhD in Business from the University of Barcelona Business School. A specialist trainer in marketing, market research, and international trade, he has been a professional in the book industry since 2002 and is the proprietor of the consultancy *Valor de Cambio*. His career reflects a deep engagement with critical thought and independent publishing. Between 2013 and 2017, he was a member of the coordinating team for the Spanish edition of the *New Left Review*, and he previously worked for the critical essay publisher *Traficantes de Sueños*. His professional background also includes serving as the Head of Communication for the Health Inequalities Research Group (GREDS-EMCONET) at Universitat Pompeu Fabra and as the Director of Marketing and Sales for Ediciones de Intervención Cultural, overseeing prominent imprints such as *El Viejo Topo* and *Revista Quimera*.

### **Vilajosana, Xavier (ICREA Academia Professor, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain)**

Xavier Vilajosana received his B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in Computer Science Engineering from the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya in 2004, and his Ph.D. in Computer Science from the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) in 2009. He is currently a Full Professor and Vice-Rector for Research, Knowledge Transfer and Entrepreneurship at the Open University of Catalonia, where he also holds the distinction of ICREA Academia Professor. Throughout his career, he has combined academic excellence with industrial leadership, holding research and innovation positions at Orange Labs, UC Berkeley, and HP, where he led R&D in thermal control for HP's 3D printing technologies. His research focuses on cyber-physical systems, with particular emphasis on reliability, sustainability, and industrial deployment. He has authored more than 90 JCR journal papers and 70 conference papers, contributed to 5 standards, and co-invented 32 patents. Over the last six years, he has been included in Stanford University's list of the world's top 2% most-cited scientists. Prof. Vilajosana is strongly committed to innovation, knowledge transfer, and talent development.

He has supported the creation of start-ups, supervised several PhD researchers, and actively promotes research dissemination through standards, patents, tutorials, and leading international scientific forums.

**Wang, Yueran (University of Leeds, UK)**

Yueran Wang is a PhD candidate at the School of Languages, Cultures and Societies, University of Leeds. Her current doctoral research focuses on the paratexts of the English translation of contemporary Chinese literature published by Penguin Random House and its imprints, investigating the cultural images of China constructed in the paratextual materials. Her research interests revolve around print and digital paratext of translation, literary translation and ideology, translation and image-formation, and intersemiotic translation.

**Wong, Youheng (University of Illinois Chicago, United States of America)**

Youheng Wong (aka Venerable Youheng) is a PhD candidate in Computer Engineering at the University of Illinois Chicago. After joining the Fo Guang Shan order, she served as the editorial director and chief editor of the Encyclopedia of Buddhist Arts English edition, where she developed a computer program to accelerate the massive task of translating 10,000 specialized entries. She has interpreted and presented at renowned conferences, including the World Buddhism Forum, Harvard East Asian Society Conference, and LREC-COLING Conference. With over 25 years of experience in translation, her current research focuses on neural machine translation of Chinese Buddhist scriptures. Erdem Koyuncu is an Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Illinois Chicago. His research bridges machine learning, networking, and signal processing, with an emphasis on distributed and federated learning, computeadaptive neural inference, and robust intelligence for resourceconstrained edge systems. He received his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from the University of California, Irvine, in 2010. He received the Best Paper Award at the IEEE International Symposium on Local and Metropolitan Area Networks (LANMAN) in 2025.