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ITI SCOTNET NEWSLETTER

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Reach for the prize

If you've been anywhere near some rooftops recently, you've probably heard the shouting about it already – but it's official, ScotNet is an award-winning network (see the [News](#) page for more details of our recent win at the ITI Awards), and it would be remiss of me not to start this issue by mentioning that!

As delightful as they are, of course, recognising ScotNet as an inspiring collection of people goes beyond the baubles of awards. As this issue illustrates, it's about what we do – whether that means attending our [spring](#) or [summer](#) workshops, conducting university [research](#), keeping up a [second language](#), committing to [CPD](#) or giving our time to [volunteering](#) in the network. And that's before we even mention [news](#) of gaining PhDs and being published in literary magazines! I hope this issue illustrates to you, as it did to me, our sheer range of interests and – to put it in black and white – our dedication to being really good at our jobs.

As one of our article writers said to me in an email exchange, ScotNet has something special going on – long may it continue, and happy reading.

Siobhan ♦

There are no traffic jams on the extra mile
~ Zig Ziglar



Image: Adriano Gadini on Pixabay

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Dates for your diary

ITI ScotNet autumn workshop: Saturday, 7 October 2023, Edinburgh, from approx. 10 am onwards. The call notice with all the details will be issued soon – in the meantime, please save the date!

ITI Conference 2024: Tuesday, 4 and Wednesday, 5 June 2024, John McIntyre Conference Centre, 18 Holyrood Park Road, Edinburgh, EH16 5AY (and online). Most excitingly for us all in ScotNet, the ITI recently announced that the venue for its main conference next year is none other than Scotland's capital (and if you'd heard it was going to be held on 6 and 7 June, the event has in fact been moved to avoid a clash with Taylor Swift and her fanbase!). The theme of this next conference is "New world, new work", focusing on the unprecedented changes translation and interpreting have seen in recent years. The conference will follow a hybrid model, enabling those unable to be there in person to attend sessions online. Tickets will go on sale in due course, but in the meantime, the ITI has issued a call for papers – emphasising that anyone, no matter their level of public speaking experience, is very welcome to submit ideas. For more information, visit the [2024 conference web page](#).

CIOL Scottish Society – Law in Scotland for translators and interpreters: Saturday, 25 November 2023, Trades Hall of Glasgow, 85 Glassford Street, Glasgow, G1 1UH. Aimed at translators and interpreters specialising in legal subjects, and students in this area, this full-day event with three specialist speakers will provide an overview of Scots law and an introduction to its history and structure, and will discuss strategies for translators and interpreters to use in their work. For more details and to register for the event, visit the [CIOL website](#).

ITI course – Setting Up as a Freelance Translator: Tuesday, 26 September 2023 onwards, online. The next iteration of the ITI's highly popular course for new entrants to the profession is commencing this autumn. Providing access to 10 established and successful professional translators (including ScotNet's own Karen Tkaczyk!), the course will cover the full spectrum of a freelance translation business, from marketing and specialising to getting paid on time. For more details and information on how to register for the course, visit the [ITI website](#).

For more events, remember to visit the online [ITI Calendar](#). Our own page at [itiscotland.org.uk](#) also contains all the latest details about upcoming ScotNet events.

If you would like to advertise your own event here, please get in touch: editor@itiscotland.org.uk

ITI ScotNet spring workshop – insights into inclusivity

For translators, it's essential to stay on top of the ways in which language changes – and that includes honing our awareness of the language that is preferred and deemed acceptable when handling aspects such as gender, ethnicity and disabilities. Fortunately, ScotNetter Alicja Tokarska is an expert in the subject and was able to guide the spring workshop attendees on correct approaches, as Susan Swann Higgins reports here.

The recent snows had melted, the birds were nest-building, and the crocuses were blooming...it was time for the ScotNet spring workshop! Many of us travelling by public transport made our way into Edinburgh on trains that were busy with rugby supporters heading to the Six Nations match at Murrayfield. In all, over 40 linguists assembled in Nicolson Square Methodist Church for this season's workshop on inclusive language.

ScotNetters made their way upstairs for tea and coffee from 9:30 before moving to round tables in the spacious meeting room to listen to Alicja Tokarska's comprehensive talk on "Inclusive Language: the What, Why and How". She presented the Council of the European Union's definition of inclusive language and a slide on motivations, then went into more depth on the "how". She covered typography in various languages (· in French, @ in Spanish or / in Polish), gender neutrality, non-binary forms, and thinking outside the box.

I was able to reflect on the fact that some languages are more "heavily gendered" than others, discovered alternative pronouns in English (ae, ze and em) and learned new vocabulary, such as "nibblings".

A lively Q&A session then followed, with speakers of various languages pitching in to discuss translating "they" into French; "man" in German; the political assumptions made about users of inclusive language in Spain; musing on just how heavily gendered Japanese actually is; and the fact that men can have breast cancer too. From the medical field, the conversation moved on to transcription and audiovisual translation (how a person looks vs how they sound vs how they identify). Using typography would be difficult in subtitling. The Q&A session was rounded off with input from Italian linguists, explaining the difficulty of translating video games. They try to address players of all genders, yet there are space constraints and Italian is often already longer than English.



Alicja addresses the group

More refreshments, and then we were organised into language groups for a practical exercise. Chinese, Danish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Polish and Spanish languages were represented, and each group was given a text to review and then had to discuss the challenges it posed for inclusive language.

The feedback from the various groups was most enlightening. The EN>FR duo introduced the term “épïcène” (meaning “gender-neutral”) and translated “boss” as “responsable”. Their other strategies were to use the present tense (to avoid past participles) and to convert feelings and adjectives to nouns. The EN>DE team felt that this type of text did not lend itself to typography and so would try to use neutral

Inclusive language is a respectful and empathetic way to communicate

nouns, such as “boss” and “colleague”. In such cases, the EN>IT translators opted for “splitting” (using two nouns) or sometimes chose either the male or female form. The EN>PL group chose the fairly informal 2nd person singular and again opted for splitting.

The DK>EN group had an interesting conversation on whether it was possible to take things too far, as well as a job ad with the abbreviation MWD (meaning approximately “male/female/diverse”). The Chinese/Japanese pair held similar views and had discussed strategies to avoid using “he/she”. Reiko mentioned that Japan has come relatively late to this issue. In Chinese, the third person pronoun can be problematic: it is pronounced the same yet written

differently, so an alphabet can be used to distinguish gender. FR>EN covered the difference between sex and gender, and the use of pronouns in the text they had to review.

The DE>EN text was a job ad that used the word “queer” in German: should this be translated as LGBTQIA+ or some other abbreviation? This is probably best discussed with the client. The second DE>EN group agreed that their translation challenges would be around acronyms rather than of a linguistic nature. The large EN>ES contingent again used splitting, changing adjectives to nouns, and had an interesting discussion around the perception of words selected. The ES>EN group asked, if the neologism “hije” were translated as “child”, would something of the Spanish intention be lost? They made the excellent point that the message conveyed through linguistic choices should not be lost in translation.



There were interesting group discussions throughout the event

In summary, Alicja suggested that inclusive language is a respectful and empathetic way to communicate. As language inevitably

changes, we must keep up to remain relevant. Ramon acknowledged that the purpose of the workshop had not been to find answers, but to raise awareness of inclusive language, and the participants generally felt that this had been well achieved. He thanked everyone – especially new members! – for coming along, congratulated Miranda Stewart on her new FITI membership status, and once again asked everyone to please, please, please fill out the feedback survey and share any ideas for upcoming workshops.



A well-earned lunch rounded things off!

Those who wished then crossed the street to Ciao Roma for lunch. The first thing that caught the eye was the amazing display of pasticceria at the entrance. We were shown to our tables in the incongruous yet impressive Treasure Island-themed room at the back of the restaurant. The menu was what you'd expect from an Italian in Edinburgh, with pasta, pizzas and mains. The ubiquitous spaghetti, fusilli and penne, however, were replaced by tagliolini, cavatelli and fregola. Two of my table companions had ordered the splendid-looking insalata Modena. But wait! Wasn't it supposed to have quinoa? A quick word to the over-enthusiastic waitress, who had simply lifted the plates from the kitchen too soon, and the

issue was immediately resolved. Quinoagate was avoided.

As we drifted away at the end of another successful workshop, our committee were gathering around a laptop at the top of the table, focused on the summer event in Edzell – more on that [later](#)!



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Why do metaphors matter?

Together with her fellow researchers Dr Khadidja Merakchi and Dr Sui He, Juliette Rutherford – a translator and Assistant Professor at Heriot-Watt University – recently conducted a research project on the subject of metaphor translation. The project involved an in-depth workshop that also examined how students responded to different types of learning. Juliette tells us more here.

You may have noticed the plethora of metaphors that permeated our daily lives during the Covid lockdowns: the invisible enemy, payment holidays, and more besides. The pervasiveness of metaphors in discourse has implications for translation at many levels. That's why we chose it as the topic for a workshop we designed to investigate the collaborative approach to teaching and learning.

As part of our research project, we delivered the workshop on four separate occasions – in person at Heriot-Watt University and Swansea University, and twice online. The languages of translation were restricted to those in which the research team are competent: Arabic, Chinese, English and French.

The in-person events promoted local participation, including several ITI members, while the online events enabled participants to join from many countries around the world, including China, Egypt, France, Libya, Malaysia and Serbia. The feedback from all of the events was very positive – participants appreciated the deep dive into metaphor theory and greatly enjoyed the opportunity to work collaboratively with others on this topic.

Our workshop content: what was it all about?

In order to compare collaborative learning (CL) to the more conventional individual approach, we asked participants to complete a 500-word translation of a metaphor-rich text prior to the event (on our favourite topic

of Brexit!). The first part of the workshop covered theoretical topics such as textual analysis for metaphor understanding and the cognitive foundations of metaphors. These

mini-presentations included some thought-provoking questions about the cognitive biases of certain metaphors such as colour metaphors, e.g. black sheep, black heart – ever wondered if this is racist language? It also included some guidelines for metaphor identification in text and how that helps in translation decisions – are there many metaphors in the text that are semantically connected? Well, that may not be a coincidence! The second part of the workshop gave participants an opportunity to reflect on their own translations and revise them, first individually and then in small groups, in light of the learning from part one.

Participants appreciated the deep dive into metaphor theory and enjoyed the opportunity to work collaboratively

Our survey: how was the learning experience?

These activities were followed up by a survey asking participants to evaluate their learning experience across four domains: learning, motivation, social interaction and belonging. There were 28 questions in total, and participants were asked to compare their experience of individual and collaborative activities on a scale of 1–5, with questions such as:

- Did the individual activities improve your understanding of how to identify metaphors within a text?
- Did the collaborative activities improve your understanding of how to identify metaphors within a text?

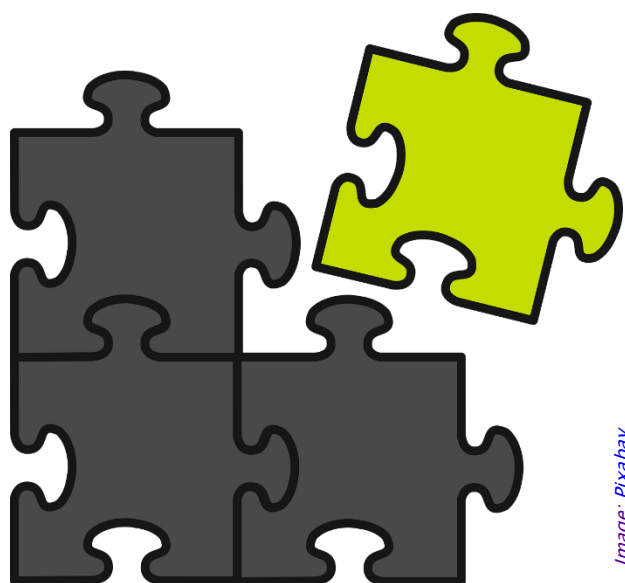


Image: Pixabay

Translators have to decide how to handle metaphors and connect them effectively to the wider text

Our results: what the responses were

At the in-person workshops in Edinburgh and Swansea, both students and professionals had a more positive response to the collaborative activities than to the

individual activities for all questions in the survey.

At the online workshops, while collaborative activities were reported to be more beneficial than individual activities for most questions, the exception was in the domain of motivation.

There were also notable differences between the responses of students and professionals – at the in-person workshops, professionals generally had more positive responses than students in all domains except social interaction, while in the online workshops, students generally had more positive responses than professionals in all domains except motivation.

Our conclusions and next steps

For the in-person workshops, the preference for group activities over individual activities for all 28 questions demonstrates the benefits of collaboration in all four domains – not just for the learning itself, but also for motivation, social interaction and belonging.

For the online workshops, the exception to this was a strong preference for individual activities over group activities in the domain of motivation. This provides insight into some of the challenges of online social interaction – participants still felt that they learned more in collaborative activities, but they found the collaborative activities to be less motivating. While students were generally more positive than professionals about the online experience, this domain was the one exception.

Motivation is a complex topic that can be affected by factors such as expectations, the social environment and perceptions of success. We plan to run a follow-up focus group for online participants in order to further investigate the reasons behind these results.

Students and professionals had a more positive response to collaborative activities than individual ones

Where you can find out more

Since completing the research project, we have adapted the workshop to develop a masterclass for the MSc Translation course at Heriot-Watt and received a very positive response from students. We also hope to develop the course as a CPD activity for professional translators, possibly in collaboration with the ITI Scottish Network, and to include Spanish as one of the workshop languages. So if you would like to learn more about metaphor translation and/or collaborative learning...watch this space!



In addition to her teaching work, Juliette translates from Chinese, French and Spanish into English, specialising in legal and financial documents.

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Book Festival picks

A few translation-related selections from this year's Edinburgh International Book Festival (follow the links for tickets and more info!)

[Daniel Hahn: The Work of Translation](#) – Wednesday, 16 August, 5:30 p.m. A tour through the process of translating literary fiction.

[Clemens Meyer & Claudia Piñeiro: From Leipzig to Buenos Aires](#) – Saturday, 26 August, 4:30 p.m. Two giants of the international literary scene discuss new translations of their work, with Daniel Hahn chairing.

[Kübra Gümüşay, R F Kuang & Irene Vallejo: A Short History of Language](#) – Monday, 28 August, 8:30 p.m. Three acclaimed authors discuss the past, present and future of language. in their works.

ITI ScotNet summer workshop – translating food and drink

Just as an army marches on its stomach, so too is a translator's work fuelled by a good collection of snacks! This year's summer workshop returned to the subject of food and drink, and it was the lovely village of Edzell on the Angus/Aberdeenshire border that played host this time round. Here, Ania Marchwiak and Isabel Stainsby talk about having their appetites whetted in the workshop's three expert presentations.

Translating Italian food, with Michael Farrell

On the Saturday of the workshop weekend, the ScotNetters met at the Panmure Arms in Edzell to begin a day of tasty workshops. The day started with a lecture and workshop delivered by seasoned (tee-hee) culinary translator and amateur cook Michael Farrell, who dived right in and discussed how food and culture are intertwined. We took a look at the surprising origins of haggis and also pondered links between immigration and food from the motherland. It made me reflect on my attempts at bringing Polish food culture to the UK and the way I execute it. Do I force-feed my friends and family with foraged goods and regional dishes like *gzika*? Well, maybe. But, as Michael emphasised, this is embedded in our nature and shows the need to maintain our links with home.

After a coffee break we started the first task of the day, which tested our knowledge of Italian dishes. We found out that garlic bread was actually an American invention and that the French sounding duck à l'orange was a favourite Italian dish that Catherine de' Medici brought with her to France.

During the next task we had a look at three different menu translations. Michael explained that menus can be translated in three different styles: summary style, pedagogical style and multilingual style. As we discovered, all three have their pros and cons: sometimes it works better to leave terms in the source language, and other times it is better to provide diners with a more extensive explanation of what they are eating. Aside from style, it is also important to consider the type of restaurant we are translating for: a higher-end restaurant will require different word choices to one that is designed to serve cheap and cheerful meals. Not only that, but it is always a good idea to have a line of communication with the chef, as they are sometimes the only person who can explain a dish properly. That way, we can avoid pitfalls and make sure that our translation doesn't become the next funny picture on the internet for everybody to laugh at.



Michael provided a tour and history of Italian cuisine

Champagne translation, with Alison Hughes

The afternoon began with a talk from Alison Hughes, who gave us insights into the bubbly world of champagne. We started with a journey to the Champagne area of France, including the important fact that it is the only region where this alcohol can be made.



Alison taught us about the champagne-making process – and a whole new vocabulary

We then went on to learn about different soil and grape types that can be used to make champagne. Alison explained all the intricacies of the pressing process and fermentation – personally, I was amazed by the process that comes after the wine has been fermented: riddling. Known as *remuage* in French, this causes the inactive yeast cells to move down the neck of the bottle, and involves giving each bottle sharp rotations and tilting it slightly over a certain period. Although now a largely automated process, it used to be done by actual humans known as *remueurs*. At the end of the process, the bottles reach a *sur pointe* (upside down) position and are ready for disgorgement. When the champagne is rid of the yeast, the tasting can commence. Unfortunately, airport security prevented Alison from bringing across a bottle of bubbly for us to indulge in, but that certainly didn't stop us from

learning the most important phrases used when describing notes of champagne: *l'attaque en nez*, *l'attaque en bouche* and *finale*. We were all in awe of Alison's knowledge on the subject and thanked her with a big round of applause at the end of her talk.



Ania translates between English and Polish, and specialises in medical and pharmaceutical texts.

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The language of chocolate, with Marian Dougan

As a lifelong foodie, when I heard what was to be the subject of this year's summer workshop, I knew I had to be there. And as an unapologetic and unashamed chocoholic, when I heard that there would be a session on chocolate, with a chocolate tasting, I had to check that I hadn't actually died and gone to heaven.

Marian started her presentation by introducing herself and clarifying that most of her work is financial, not food related, then she stated that popular confectionery such as Mars Bars and Milkybars are not actually chocolate, as they do not contain enough cocoa solids (much to my delight, as I have long thought this!). She then described the cocoa plant's life cycle from flowers to beans, illustrated with photos of cocoa pods, which actually contain rather more pulp than bean, though the pulp is edible too.

Chocolate also has a fascinating history: it can be traced back to at least 1500 BCE, as evidenced by ceramics found in the Amazon region. The Aztecs used green cocoa beans as currency, rich people drank the ground powder, warriors consumed it before battle, and it was also used as an aphrodisiac – emperors would drink chocolate before visiting their harems. The Spanish were the first to bring chocolate to Europe, where it remained a drink and spread gradually. By the 17th century, it was more widely available but still was barely recognisable as the substance we know today. In fact, the first chocolate bar – and this was confectionery, not proper chocolate – was not invented until 1935.



Marian addressed the rich subject of chocolate – and yes, we did get samples

We then had a quick introduction to making chocolate. The cocoa pods are harvested, labour intensively, and the beans extracted and left to dry. There are three main varieties of cocoa bean: forastero, criollo and trinitario. The first is a robust workhorse bean, the second has the best flavour but is more fragile and the trees give a low yield, and the third is a cross between the other two. Each cocoa tree produces enough beans for around 1 kg of chocolate per year (or a week's supply, if I'm having a bad week...).

This also included a vocabulary lesson, as we were introduced to the concepts of nibbing (separating the cocoa nibs from the shell), conching (which reduces water and acidity and releases fragrant oils) and tempering (slowly heating and cooling the chocolate so the fat molecules crystallise evenly).

Before we reached the bit we'd all been eagerly awaiting – the actual tasting – Marian explained how to taste chocolate and what to look for. Rather to my surprise, you should start with the lowest cocoa content, which generally means the sweetest; I'd always assumed that the higher sugar would make the others seem more bitter by comparison, but the cocoa content is what is important. Start by sniffing the aroma, then look at the chocolate and note what you see. Then touch the surface – is it smooth, rough, sticky? – before breaking it and listening to the snap. Then smell it again, and only now can you taste it, but start by analysing the texture, not the flavour!



Chocolate samples laid out and labelled in the name of science (and yumminess)

And that's just the simple method. The more in-depth method involves all of the above, then chewing a piece of chocolate a little, allowing it to melt on your tongue and focusing on any changes in flavour and in

mouthfeel. Do the flavours evolve over time, or interact with each other? How intense are they? Is there any bitterness or acidity? If it's milk chocolate, is there a hint of rancidity? We tasted five different chocolate bars: a 49% milk chocolate, dark chocolates of 65%, 75% and 85%, and a whole fruit chocolate bar of 100% – sweetened with the pulp from the cocoa pod – which was far and away the most interesting, with a citrusy, almost sumac-like flavour. That's the one I'll be looking out for in future.



Safe to say the chocolate tasting was one of the attendees' favourite parts of the day!

This was a fascinating and informative session, and I'm sure I wasn't the only person to be surprised by some of the things they learned. Many thanks, Marian!



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Women in Translation Month 2023



Did you know that August marks Women in Translation Month? Established by book blogger and biophysics student [Meytal Radzinski](#), it is an initiative that seeks to promote translations of works by female writers and invites everyone to join through discussions, dedicated events and recommendations. You can find out more about it [here](#) and start your own reading journey – why not try out the bingo card on [this page](#)?

If you have any recommendations of good translations you've read recently, why not write a review for the newsletter? Just drop us a line via editor@itiscotland.org.uk

Of course, no summer workshop would be complete without the traditional dinner, ceilidh and Sunday morning walk! Here are a few snapshots of ScotNetters enjoying the fringe events – with special thanks to Sue Anderson, our contact on the ground, for planning the walk, hosting us at her home afterwards and generally being an excellent guide to Edzell!



Biting the Bullet(in)

CPD doesn't have to mean hours of laborious work – it can be picked up from all sorts of places, and sometimes you don't have to look any further than what drops onto your doormat (or into your inbox). Deputy Newsletter Editor Kathleen McNish recently decided to see what she could add to her CPD log through the ITI Bulletin.

A few months ago, I decided to tackle my embarrassingly large stack of unread ITI Bulletins; the pile was teetering and looking very unloved. Every time the newest issue arrived in the post, I would promise myself that I'd get round to it. Finally, I did.



The holy trinity of tea, cake and a good read

I read them (roughly) in chronological order from oldest to newest, picking out the articles I thought looked interesting. Susan Bassnett's articles on all sorts of language-related topics were a firm favourite. I knew I wouldn't have enough time to read the Bulletins from cover to cover, but it turns out that I read at least five articles per issue, so I didn't feel too guilty about the trees that had gone into making my paper copies. Some of the oldest issues went back to 2019, and it was very interesting to see how trends and hot topics in the industry have changed over the last few years.

Importantly, I kept a note of dates, article titles and time spent as I went along. This made everything much easier when it came to logging my CPD, which I tried to do within a couple of days of reading a batch of articles. It might have been a bit of a nightmare otherwise! But I didn't stop there. It was a good opportunity for some online networking, so I got in touch with the article writers on LinkedIn. I sent them a message saying how much I enjoyed their article (who wouldn't want that?) and so many of them replied, connected with me and were absolutely lovely. They also reassured me that I wasn't the only one with a hefty reading list.

The backlog of Bulletins helped me achieve a very surprising 75 hours of CPD. It proves that with enough tea and homemade cake, anything is possible! Following in the footsteps of Marian's very successful workshop on chocolate, I wonder if making delicious French and Spanish baked goodies would count as CPD...?



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On maintaining your second language

If you live in a country where the language you translate into is the dominant one, it can take some effort to stay on top of your source – or second – one. But much like CPD, these days there are numerous opportunities for immersing yourself in a language even if you can't head off on holiday to practise as much as you'd like. Lisa Barrett tells us more about how she does it here.

I read with interest the recent [LinkedIn post](#) on this subject by translator trainer Corinne McKay, in which she highlighted the importance of maintaining your second (or source) language to translators and interpreters, and shared her own top tips for keeping your skills nimble. Indeed, I was moved to add some of my own comments to hers. Given the pressures of time and personal circumstance that exist for us all, ultimately, I believe that linguists will surely benefit from planning and prioritising their second language maintenance, with a view to making their activity relevant to their professional requirements. In my own plan, reading comes first, followed by listening, then speaking and, lastly, writing (in terms of the amount of time I dedicate to each skill), as this reflects the order of their importance to my trade, which is translation. This would look very different for an interpreter, I'm sure, and even more so for a student, say, or a non-professional linguist such as an expat trying to establish themselves in France.

There is, however, a very reasonable chance that I have this all wrong and that I could be maintaining my French skills more evenly across the board. Perhaps I should be speaking as well as that lucky expat? As I develop as a professional, I may find that my approach changes – and in fact, I would be surprised if it didn't. However, at least for

now, these are the types of things I try to do to maintain my French, and why.

Reading. I read a couple of news articles in the morning, normally via the France 24 app, to keep abreast of current terminology and journalistic expression. Since some of the articles are also offered in English, reading the same one in both languages can also be a useful exercise. At night, I read a chapter of a French novel in order to maintain comprehension fluency and pick up advanced vocabulary. I don't look up all the words I don't know, however, as the comprehension goal always pips the vocabulary one.



Image: Pixabay

Lisa keeps up with the news in French using an app

Listening. With so much choice available regarding types of content to consume, I still find the most effective listening activities hard to pin down. However, I try to cover the bases of audiobooks/podcasts, video and radio. I'm currently re-reading Jules Verne's "Around the World in 80 Days" while following along with the audiobook, which keeps me moving apace through the text and enhances my listening experience at the

same time. I also have a [Lingopie](#) subscription, and I've started watching the same shows over and over to immerse myself more fully in the content. Radio is the area I spend the least time on, although I sometimes find a drama serial on the [France Culture](#) channel (broadcast by Radio France) that keeps me hooked for a few days. I also still use apps like [TV5 Monde](#), which provide short listening exercises, quizzes, and transcripts too.



Lingopie, which creates interactive TV and film media, is among the resources that Lisa uses

Speaking and writing. I have an [italki](#) teacher and try to chat with her about once a fortnight – although I appreciate that this isn't a lot, we talk about anything and everything for about half an hour then switch the focus to writing, going over a piece I've sent her to mark in advance or discussing subjects like email conventions. Aside from that, my speaking practice comes in more subtle forms: I try and talk to my little boy in French (until he tells me to stop), sing complex sentences to myself in French, make French vowel sounds while cooking dinner, shadow the characters (i.e. repeat what they say) in my Lingopie series, or read aloud. I also keep a phrase book for sentences/expressions I find particularly

jolies! I don't write as much as I should, though, and I think the only way to rectify that is to find an e-pal. Let me know if you fancy it!

So, there you have it – my approach to French CPD at home in three cluttered steps. Just writing this down has helped me tighten my mental grasp of something that can often feel quite nebulous. It has also convinced me even more that organisation is key to the effective maintenance of your second language. If my activity is not targeted and systematic, I just don't feel the benefit of it and can easily end up out of balance, knowing words like “breastplate” but not “badger” (the latter surely being the more useful) or singing along happily to Juliette Gréco but losing the thread while reading “Winnie l'ourson” to my son, which won't do at all.

I hope this round-up of tips has been useful to some of you. I would, of course, value any you may have to offer in return. Thanks for reading, and, as a newish member of the group, I hope to meet some more of you soon.



Lisa has recently embarked on a translation career, working from French into English, and is working on her specialisms (& Spanish).

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Convenor reflections – seven ScotNet summers

Lynda Hepburn recently switched from her long and productive stint as Convenor of ScotNet to deputising in the role, and the move has given her some pause for reflection on ScotNet's flagship event: the summer workshop. Indeed, Lynda's time was marked by some significant challenges, largely as a result of Covid, but she always oversaw our summers to great success. Here's her look back at some of her most memorable moments.

It has been eight years and seven workshops since I took the lead in organising ScotNet's always-special summer event. You might wonder why I wanted to do it? Simply, the ScotNet summer workshop is a great occasion. I'd enjoyed attending a good handful in my first few years in the network and I wanted a job on the committee when I returned to Scotland after a sojourn in Italy.



Lynda (front left) at the Friday evening dinner in Edzell, this year's summer workshop venue

As I'm now about to (finally) stand down from the committee, this seemed a good time to reflect on these seven events and share a few of my memories. Maybe my reminiscences will remind others of what they found special about some of these meetings – or maybe, if you are relatively new to ScotNet, it might whet your appetite to attend future summer workshops. This is a personal take on the events; just what

popped up into my mind as I thought about each of them. It's not a list of what we studied or learned, not even a list of all the speakers and what they presented, but more of a lucky dip for each of those years, and I hope you enjoy my reminiscences.

2016: Birnam Arts Centre, Dunkeld: The workshop in the woods

Building Your Resources and Honing Your Skills: Corpora, Editing and Proofreading With Ana Frankenberg-Garcia and Sabine Citron

Birnam Arts is a fabulous community hub where everything we asked for was no trouble, the event ran smoothly and we all enjoyed the pleasant venue. For me, it was the workshop in the woods because, just a short walk down from the Arts Centre, there was the Birnam Oak, a huge old tree noted for being the last of the Birnam Oaks made famous by Shakespeare's "Macbeth". Near to the oak was an equally impressive old sycamore tree. Our traditional Sunday morning walk started by passing by these two giants, then continuing upstream and into the Hermitage of Dunkeld. Here we found another famous tree, this time a Douglas fir that was at one time the tallest tree in Great Britain and had reached a height of 201.1 ft (61.3 m) when it was blown down in a gale in 2017. We got there just in time.



Sunday in Dunkeld: setting out on the traditional workshop walk!

2017: Boat of Garten Community Centre: The VIP workshop with 3* catering
Head to Head and Side by Side: A Translation Duel and Multilingual Workshop
With Chris Durban and Ros Schwartz

Why Boat of Garten? Well, I found it had this beautiful new community centre where we were made very welcome. It was what I think of as the VIP workshop, as we had the company and expertise of two very well-known translators, Chris Durban and Ros Schwartz, who, in addition to a translation duel, each gave an interesting presentation on translation challenges.

We had been recommended the services of a local lady for our lunch and dinner – why not? It turned out to be the most delicious food I've ever eaten at a summer workshop. Here's a sample supper menu:

Starters: a selection platter served on each table: homemade hummus, crowdie cheese, pecorino, salami, Parma ham, chorizo, olives and sundried tomatoes

Mains: smoked salmon and fresh salad terrine, tarragon chicken (cooked in wine, cream and tarragon), and cheese and herb roulade

Puddings: lemon posset, chocolate mousse, and red fruit salad



ScotNetters chatting to Roz Schwartz in Boat of Garten

2018: Melrose Rugby Football Club: Big helpings down in the Borders
Client Relations: Both Sides of the Story
With Gaston Dorren, Sam Bennett and Helen Robertson

I think of this workshop as the year we went south and entered the world of Scottish Borders rugby. The venue was black and yellow (the team's colours) and the walls a mass of photos and trophies. It didn't actually smell of mud and blood...but you could imagine it. And the catering (a theme for me) was in harmony with this – by which I mean that the portions were enormous. I particularly remember the tea break, where they served us up huge slices of various cakes along with the tea, certainly enough to keep the game going for another couple of hours!



Ceilidh in the setting of Melrose rugby regalia



Sue and Fiona enjoying dinner in Aberdour

2019: The Woodside Hotel, Aberdour: The seaside workshop

Revision Club: Collaborative Professional Development for Translators
With Tim Gutteridge and Simon Berrill

This was the year when we stayed close to the Central Belt; in other words, just a short train journey across the Forth Bridge. The aim was to keep it cheap and save money for the planned Shetland workshop in 2020. But it was no “cheap” workshop, in that we were initiated into the methods and benefits of setting up a revision club with colleagues – which I personally followed up on, and have found to be one of the most useful means of CPD I’ve come across. And what of the seaside? The sea was just a couple of minutes’ walk downhill from our workshop venue and of course beckoned for our Sunday walk. For one ScotNetter, it did more than this. Kay, our previous Convenor, had not only sailed across from Edinburgh to attend, but also spent the night on her little boat and then sailed home afterwards. An enduring memory is of us all on the East Beach waving her off in rather rough conditions.

2020: Shetland Part One: A dream...just a dream

Organised down to the last detail and then – not totally abandoned but postponed.



The puffins would have to wait!

2021: Online and Local Groups: Meeting up again

Translating Scottish Heritage
With Pauline Côme

This workshop consisted of one online session with a talk on translating heritage, followed by groups meeting up in local areas to beat the Covid restrictions. I still remember the excitement – almost delirium –

of joining a group of Edinburgh translators in Greyfriars Kirkyard in the rain. Despite the grey drizzle, we couldn't help smiling. And then there was the almost illicit cup of coffee in a café afterwards...But, seriously, it was a very interesting workshop, as we discovered when we regathered online and shared experiences of how well (or badly) heritage is translated across sites from Glasgow and Edinburgh to Dundee and Perth.



Reiko, Heather and Norma exploring Edinburgh in a local group

2022: Islesburgh Community Centre,
Shetland: The far north workshop
Renewable Energy and the Environment
With Tom Wills, Sue White and Birgit Wagner

Determination, hard work and faith all played a part in getting the postponed Shetland workshop back on the calendar. So much could be said about it, but perhaps just a couple of highlights of varying kinds: a very interesting and inspiring talk from Tom Wills on marine renewables, a stunning pre-workshop trip to Noss to view the seabirds, a guided tour of Jarlshof, which was fascinating and freezing in equal measure, and a ceilidh like no other, with Shetland music and two Shetland ladies who demonstrated the

dances while we tried to follow. While we all knew this was the best workshop ever, the ITI has now recognised this fact too and given us an award in the ITI Networks – Best Event or Initiative category.



Lynda works from German into English, specialising in areas including the environment, technical subjects, science and philosophy.

Contact: lynda@summittranslations.co.uk



ScotNet's always on top!

Member news

Here's where we welcome new members to the network. Also, please remember to notify the Membership Secretary (membership@itiscotland.org.uk) of any changes to your ITI membership category since you joined the network. In particular, let the MemSec know when you upgrade to MITI, as your details can then be made available to the general public online.

New members:

→ **José M. Conde:** I am a Spanish professional interpreter and translator. I have a degree in English Studies from the University of Seville – the city of my birth – and another one in Translation and Interpreting from the University of Granada, where I specialised in conference interpreting. I have done some translation and proofreading work, but most of my career has been devoted to conference interpreting and teaching at Pablo de Olavide University in Seville and at Heriot-Watt University, where I have been teaching since 2009. As a conference interpreter, I have worked in a range of different countries and for several organisations, including the United Nations, Transparency International, Interpol and EU institutions.

→ **Fergus Dickson:** I am approaching the end of my Master's in Translation and Interpreting at Heriot-Watt and looking to take the first steps into a career in translation. Over the course of my degree programme, I've managed to gain some valuable translation experience while working with experts in many areas of the field. My language pairs are French/Spanish to English. I am currently completing my dissertation, which is focusing on translating French translation policy. This is an area that interests me greatly and I may look to specialise in legislative/legal texts going forward. I am excited to have the opportunity

to join ScotNet and I look forward to meeting and learning from fellow translators.

→ **Rachel Isaacs:** Hi everyone! I have carried out freelance French-English translation for a few years now, alongside my undergraduate studies in French at the University of Oxford. Since graduating last summer, I have tried my hand at public service interpreting, with appointments tending to be in medical or local government settings; these are becoming specialisms of mine as a result. In translation, my university work mostly focused on literary and journalistic texts, and my professional work ranges from documentary subtitles to podcasts to technical or legal documents. I lived in Montpellier, France from 2020 to 2021, so I got a (hopefully) pretty unique glimpse of the country in its locked-down state, which was both bleak (6 pm curfews) and somehow quite special (peacefully empty streets). My primary interests are LGBTQ+ rights and gender equality (in language and society), and the provision of medical and social care – specifically, the role of language work in providing care equally to all. I tend to spend my free time reading and cycling (and worrying about the future of AI in translation). I look forward to meeting other translators and interpreters who, I am sure, will be a great inspiration to me as I begin my own journey.

Other news:

→ Congratulations to...us! **ScotNet** was honoured recently at the ITI Awards, held in an online ceremony in early July. Specifically, ScotNet was the winner in the ITI Networks – Best Event or Initiative category, in recognition of the (significant!) efforts that were made to hold the unique Shetland workshop. Special thanks go to **Lynda Hepburn**, who was Convenor at the time and oversaw the workshop's staging, and **Birgit Wagner**, our indispensable and hard-working contact on the ground in Shetland. And well done to committee member **Sue Anderson** for keeping the cat firmly in the bag until the ceremony!

→ Huge congratulations also go to **Laila Ennia**, who we are very proud to say was also honoured in the recent ITI Awards! In each round of awards, the two candidates who achieve the highest marks in the assessment for MITI Qualified status in translation and interpreting are given a special accolade – and this year, Laila (who works from English into Spanish) came out on top in the interpreting assessment. A stellar achievement – well done, Laila!



→ ScotNet achievements have also been recognised outside the ITI: congratulations to **Ramon Inglada**, our Convenor, on receiving the accolade of Highly Commended Teacher following his nomination in the Heriot-Watt Student Union Oscars. Ramon, who holds the position of Assistant Professor in Spanish and Translation Technologies, also received nominations for Innovation in Teaching and Assessment, and Most Supportive Member of Staff. Truly inspirational!

→ Yet more congratulations go to **Karin Bosshard** – or should that be Dr Karin Bosshard – on passing her PhD viva in April! Karin, formerly our Deputy Convenor, wrote her thesis on translating [heteroglossia](#) in contemporary Scottish fiction into German, and has now taken up a full-time teaching position at the University of Edinburgh. While she says that this leaves her with little time for translation work, she intends to keep her ITI membership and continue attending ScotNet events. Great news, and congratulations, Karin!

→ **Membership details:** Have any of your details changed since you joined ScotNet – such as your address, email or phone number? Or do you now have a different ITI status from when you first joined – for example, have you upgraded to MITI? If so, please do drop us a line so that we can keep our membership details current. **Sue Anderson** is our Membership Secretary and can be contacted on stewart.translations@btinternet.com.

→ **ScotNet** also has something new: a photo platform to provide a repository for the many pictures taken at our fantastic events. Called **Yogile**, the platform is available for anyone to

use and our Digital Coordinator, Elisa, has kindly put together a guide – [How to Use Yogile for ScotNet Photos](#).

→ The ITI has a new addition to its networks: the **ITI Marketing Network**, designed to provide a supportive, collaborative space for translators who specialise in marketing, copywriting, transcreation and SEO. The network intends to hold its events and meet-ups entirely online to cater to members from a wide geographical area. To find out more and to join the network, visit its [website](#).

→ **Whose Voice is it Anyway?** Back in February, this series of annual events held its fourth outing, focusing on ethical challenges in translation and interpreting, at the University of Edinburgh. The day's sessions included a panel discussion, with members including ScotNetters **Catherine Roux**, **Alicja Tokarska** and **Denise Muir** reflecting on ethical issues faced in their own professional lives. Those who were interested in the event at the time but unable to attend will be pleased to know that video recordings of the talks are now available to watch on the University of Edinburgh [website](#).

Shelfies

→ A short story translated by **Isabel Stainsby** has been published in the Continental Literary Magazine; entitled "Growing Up", it is a translation from a Slovak work by fiction author Ivana Gibová. An excerpt is now available to read [here](#), and Isabel would also be delighted to hear from anyone who would like a scan of the full story – feel free to contact her via [email](#). And we're sure you'll agree that it's great to see the translator's name front and centre on the page!

So who needs a translator anyway?

Perfavore usare l'acqua del bagno con RESPONSABILITA' e chiudere SEMPRE il rubinetto

Bitte Wasser mit VERANTWORTUNG benutzen und der Hahn IMMER schliessen

Please use the water in the bathroom with RESPONSABILITY and close ALWAYS the tap

Many thanks to Lynda for this timely reminder from an Italian rifugio to use our water with RESPONSABILITY!

*Please send your own **So who needs a translator anyway?** photos to editor@itiscotland.org.uk*

Social media

Twitter/X: [@ITIScotNet](#)

Facebook: [ITI Scottish Network](#)

E-group: itiscotnet.groups.io

Event photos:
www.yogile.com/scotnet2023

You can also stop by the ScotNet [website](#) for all the latest information and details of events.

ScotNet grants

The ITI Scottish Network offers 2 levels of grants to members as a contribution towards the costs of attending ITI events:

- 1) Grants of up to £30 are available for attending Scottish Network meetings.
- 2) ScotNetters may also apply for grants of up to £70 for attending national ITI events.

How to apply for a grant

Contact our Treasurer (currently Victoria Dalrymple) at treasurer@itiscotland.org.uk **before** registering for the meeting. Subject to availability and meeting the eligibility criteria, she will approve the grant and notify you. In due course, forward her a copy of the receipt for the event or transport expenses and provide her with your bank details. She will then pay the respective amount into your account.

General conditions: Maximum of one grant per person per subscription year. You must be a member of ITI, so Friends of the Network are not eligible. Also members living in the central belt are not eligible to receive

grants for network meetings in Edinburgh or Glasgow. All recipients must be willing to contribute a report on the event they attended to the ITI ScotNet Newsletter.

The level of grants is reviewed every year at ScotNet's AGM. Under the current budget, 10 grants of £30 and 10 of £70 are available each year. From time to time, the Committee may also decide to offer additional grants to enable ScotNetters to attend particular events such as the ITI Conference, for example.

ScotNet support fund

Grants to help pay ITI membership fees and interest-free loans to cover living expenses also continue to be available to ScotNetters, following the discussion at the 2022 AGM and decision to make a hardship fund a permanent part of ScotNet's operations. Anyone who is a member of both ITI and ScotNet is eligible to apply, so please contact Victoria at treasurer@itiscotland.org.uk if you could use a financial helping hand. (And once again many thanks to members who have so generously donated to this fund.)

Looking forward to the next issue...

Following up on the very exciting news from the recent ITI Awards, in our next issue we'll be getting a closer insight from one winner of our awards (did we mention there was more than one?!). To reiterate the message in the editorial, ScotNet is a network with a lot of inspiring people – and we hope it provides you with inspiration, support and motivation. That's also why it's always great to hear what members have been up to and find even more inspiration. So let us know if you've been at an event you'd love to tell others about, if you've been working on a project at home or if you've done some interesting CPD. If you'd be interested in contributing a piece, please do get in touch via editor@itiscotland.org.uk or siobhangorrie@gmail.com – looking forward to hearing from you! ◆

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