

Translation in Times of Cascading Crisis

Call for Abstracts

We understand now more than ever that clear, accurate and timely communication is essential for well-being during a crisis situation and that this information is also crucial during other stages of a crisis (mitigation, preparedness, recovery). Increasing attention has been paid to the need for and importance of translation and interpreting in the provision of this information (e.g. Federici 2016; Federici and Cadwell 2018; Filmer and Federici 2018; O'Brien et al. 2018; Federici and Declercq 2019; Cadwell 2019; O'Brien and Federici 2019; O'Brien 2019; Federici et al. 2020; O'Mathuna et al. 2020).

The envisaged book will describe, reflect on and evaluate the role of translation and interpreting (henceforth "T&I") in crisis settings, including but not limited to pandemics, health emergencies, severe weather events, earthquakes, terrorist attacks, mass accidents etc. Empirical and theoretical contributions will be considered. We particularly want to encourage reflections on practice, implementation and recommendations for future action that would allow for more effective multilingual communication in the case of future crises across all stages - mitigation, preparation, response and recovery.

In addition to standard contributions from the academic community, shorter chapters from those operating in key international crisis response organisations will also be considered. Chapters written jointly by academic and response representatives are also encouraged.

We foresee a book structured around communities of users, of translators/interpreters, and of commissioners. Contributions that focus on the following communities (among others) will be considered:

- Asylum seekers and refugees or other marginalised people
- Children, especially in relation to the provision of education during crises
- The Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Blind Communities
- Older adults, especially those who have limited literacy or digital literacy
- Those with disabilities
- Frontline workers, emergency responders
- Foreign workers
- Professional translators and interpreters, including sign-language interpreters
- Business travellers and tourists
- Community, citizen, or activist translators and interpreters
- Crisis managers working with T&I and translation trainers
- Journalists

Themes that could be picked up by contributors include (but are not limited to):

- Language rights and translation/interpreting
- Risk management and communication
- Terminology of crises; terminology management in crises

- Technology and how it impacts on the provision of essential crisis information through T&I (e.g. language technology and its use/misuse, collaborative platforms, video conferencing tools, tools for remote service interpreting, but also social media platforms, internet connectivity)
- Quality of translated/interpreted content
- Clarity, including plain language
- Cultural factors, including translatability
- Accessibility (e.g. of format and channel)
- Translating debates on the new normal and the post-pandemic economics
- Translation as a tool to disseminate or fight rumours/fake news
- Communicating science relating to crises across languages and cultures
- Legal aspects: decrees, acts, certifications, regulations and their translations and reception
- Impact on business and organisational continuity in the translation profession
- Ethical dilemmas
- ...

Abstracts of between 300-500 words (including references) should be submitted by email to Sharon.obrien@dcu.ie AND f.m.federici@ucl.ac.uk by July 13th 2020. The abstracts should include the following information:

- Proposed (working) title of chapter
- Author(s) and Affiliations
- Email addressed for all authors
- **A clear proposal of the topic**, the data that will be used (if relevant), the methodological approach and, importantly, the overall **contribution to the field** that is envisaged.

Abstracts will be reviewed and those that best meet the objectives of a coherent volume with approximately 15-20 chapters will be included in a formal proposal to Bloomsbury, with whom the editors have already been in touch.

Important Dates

- Submission of abstracts: **July 13th, 2020**
- Notification about inclusion in proposal: **July 17th, 2020**
- Notification of acceptance by Publisher: **Mid-September, 2020 (estimated)**
- Submission of first drafts: **January 15th, 2021**

References

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