

# Living translation in transition: the human translator in the next decade

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Digital transformation and demographic change are profoundly affecting the way our societies and economies function, confronting the translation profession with challenges, but also with opportunities. Accelerating technological developments, especially artificial intelligence, are reshaping the way translators work, changing processes, tasking and demand structures in the language industry. The advance of machine translation (MT) into the routine cognitive work hitherto done by human translators has been creating an increasing demand for MT post-editing and related technology-led skills, but it is also opening spaces for adaptive experts able to identify, deliver and advise on the added value of human translation services. Moreover, demographic developments and socio-ethical requirements to provide inclusive, user-centred access to information and services are extending the mediatory roles and responsibilities expected of human translators, supported by assistive technologies, in a growing variety of contexts. User-centred design and intercultural mediation are gaining prominence, (sub-)professions such as transcreation are expanding and the growing convergence of translation work with professions like organisational, technical and accessible communication is yielding new interprofessional forms and fields of work oriented towards strategic trust- and reputation-building, user experience and social inclusion. Yet, research on translators' status and self-concept indicates that they may be underequipped to embrace the changes, suggesting that competence profiles, role awareness and the education that shapes them should better accommodate the added value of adaptive human translation expertise to serve the broadening needs of a transitioning industry.

This panel seeks to launch a sustained and constructive debate about the need to reposition *human* translation in the coming decade. With particular reference to professional activities, competences, roles and/or education, contributions are invited on relevant research, practice, theory and/or pedagogy related, but not limited, to

- Modes and forms of value-added human translation (e.g. inclusive/accessible and/or multilingual text design and production, transcreation, co-creation, intercultural mediation)
- (Re-)Positioning the human translator in complex sociotechnical environments and/or at the interface with assistive technologies
- Evolving translator roles and responsibilities
- New translator competences, profiles and/or their development
- New approaches to human translation in translator education
- New practices, workflows and/or (quality) processes centred on human translation
- Value-adding interprofessional convergence and interfaces (e.g. with organisational communication, strategic communication, corporate communications, usability, technical communication, inclusive/accessible communication)

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