

## Sessions with ASL Interpretation at ALTA42

Friday, Nov. 8

9:00am – 10:15am Highland K

### **Translating Graphic Novels**

Following on the conference's theme of "Sight and Sound," this panel will explore the challenges—and rewards—of translating graphic literature. It will also highlight the differences in the marketplace for graphic novels, how the economics work, what goes into the production of graphic novels, ideas about craft, and much more. Three expert translators of graphic literature will discuss all of these issues and present their current projects.

Moderator: Susan Harris

Participants: Nicholas Theisen  
Laura Marris

10:45am – 12:00pm Highland D

### **With My Own Eyes and Ears: Conundrums of Identity in Translation**

The translator is sometimes conceptualized as a neutral "channel" through which the text flows, but we cannot deny the ways in which our identities influence our work. How do our own "eyes and ears" influence the ways we interact with authors and texts? Identity shapes all stages of the process of translation: from what we choose to translate, to quandaries of empathy and voice, to publishing decisions, and much more. In this workshop, we will push ourselves to confront some of these challenging questions of power, privilege, and perspective. Working in small groups, we will help each other consider the concrete implications of identity and power on our current translation projects.

Translators from all backgrounds are encouraged to join us.

Moderator: Eric Fishman

Participants: Somrita Ganguly  
Luke Leafgren

2:00pm – 3:15pm Highland A

### **Dirty Dancing: Handling the Explicit in Translation**

When a source text presents explicit language or content, how can we draw a line between mediation and censorship? Is this kind of intensity subject to the practice of localization? What happens when explicitness is edited away? Translations are often sanitized, but the translators on this panel share the view that explicit translation is, in fact, a worthy goal. In this panel, they will discuss the value of conveying the "dirty" parts of a source text, even if doing so means making some readers uncomfortable.

Moderator: Sam Bett

Participants: Anna Zielinska-Elliott  
Allison Markin Powell  
David Boyd

2:00pm – 3:15pm Highland G

### **Translation Visibility in the Academy: Scholarship, Teaching, Community**

The marginalized status of translation in academia is palpable and problematic, though the demand for more professional training and increasingly flexible disciplinary boundaries is leading to change. This panel addresses this tension and discusses strategies for making translation visible in the academy through research, pedagogy, and community development. It will ask questions such as the following: When teaching literature, how can we encourage students to think about the complex and enriching process of translation? How can scholarly writing be a place to highlight the dynamic practice of translation? How does translation inform literary studies, and vice versa? How can we develop translation communities, and how can this be a way of building relationships beyond the university?

Moderator: Sarah Booker

Participants: Katherine Hedeem

Denise Kripper

Olivia Lott

Gabriella Martin

Tal Goldfajn

**8:30pm – 10:30pm**

**Offsite: Cold Beer, Cold Readings**

Translators, seize the spotlight in this celebration of international drama! It's karaoke...for theater, as audience members jump in to act out scenes translated by their fellow ALTA attendees. Come to read, or just cheer your friends on. No acting experience required, and we'll provide the scripts. Suffering from stage fright? Soothe your nerves with drink specials at The Spirit Room, including phenomenal cocktails and punch!

The Spirit Room

139 State Street, Rochester, NY 14614

(585) 397-7595 | [www.facebook.com/TheSpiritRoomRochester/](http://www.facebook.com/TheSpiritRoomRochester/)

## Saturday, Nov. 9

9:00am – 10:15am Highland B

### **Is Once Ever Enough? The Case for Retranslation**

Many English readers come to know international literature through a single translation, but even a very good translation reflects the time and place of its creation, as well as the translator's sensibilities. If it is enduring, the "sight and sound" of such a translation can become canonical, while conveying only one interpretation of the original. This panel will discuss what retranslations can teach us about much-loved works, and whether all works need fresh translations. We will also take up controversial matters such as publisher agreements preventing retranslation, and how retranslation can make popular and enduring works that have not achieved success in English more "visible and audible" internationally. Audience questions welcome!

Moderator: Padma Viswanathan

Participants: Marian Schwartz  
Geoff Brock  
Breon Mitchell  
Adrienne Rose  
Somrita Ganguly

10:45am – 12:00pm Highland D

### **Arabic Translation Workshop**

From seemingly endless sentences, to repeated words, to rhyme, many qualities that signal high literary technique in Arabic have the opposite effect on an English reader. What's a translator to do? In this roundtable/workshop, Arabic translators of prose, poetry, and theater will each briefly present an elegant solution to a tricky, text-based translation conundrum, with discussion to follow. Are there strategies we can glean from our colleagues' hard-won translation triumphs? While aimed primarily at other Arabic translators and editors, this workshop welcomes those working from other languages.

Moderators: Elisabeth Jaquette  
Mona Kareem

Participants: Mohammed Albakry  
Robyn Creswell  
Chip Rossetti

2:00pm – 3:15pm Highland A

### **Ekphrastic Translation and Translation Across Modalities**

This panel explores translating across modalities and ekphrastic translation. What unique challenges and opportunities are presented by translating between written, oral, aural, visual, and embodied modalities? This panel includes presentations on: translations between linear spoken/written English works and three-dimensional, embodied American Sign Language; translator journals with diagrams, charts, sketches, and images as a type of ekphrasis; and collaboration with a visual-textual artist on translations to produce art installations.

Moderator: Corine Tachtiris

Participants: Miriam Lerner  
Aubrey D. Jones  
Amaia Gabantxo

3:30pm – 5:00pm                      Grand Lilac Ballroom

**Keynote Address: Flying Words Project**

The Flying Words Project’s presentation will be accessible to both hearing and deaf audiences. There will be interpretation during the Q&A at the end.

Sunday, Nov. 10

9:00am – 10:15am Highland D

**Storied Realities of the Lived Experiences of Deaf Translators**

A growing body of research about translation between written and signed languages, specifically as performed by Deaf translators, has raised questions about the Deaf individuals who performed this work. I discuss four key societal elements—social, educational, political, and cultural—in relation to the work of Deaf translators. Drawing on Mertova and Webster's (2009) construct of critical event narratives, I collected seminal moments in their lives as they relate to their work as translators. Applying frameworks of social constructionism, feminism, and Deaf Studies to these critical events, I found the identities of the Deaf translators were constructed and shaped by their experiences in societal systems.

Moderator: Janis Cole

Participants: Kendell Charles  
Hayden Orr  
William Hayes  
Marissa Woodruff

10:45am – 12:00pm Highland J

**Imageless Figures: Translating Noise**

Composer Morton Feldman writes, "Noise is a word of which the aural image is all too evasive. On the one hand sound is comprehensible in that it evokes a sentiment...But it is noise which we secretly want, because the greatest truth usually lies behind the greatest resistance..." But what can be made of noise within a text: senseless sounds, stream of consciousness ramblings, utterances? What happens to communication? How can truths buried in linguistic chaos emerge? Poet Norma Cole discusses the *sphota*, defined by Sanskrit grammarians as *bursts*, the existence of words without forms. Can we translate imageless figures? We will explore different methods of unearthing poetic noise and play with versions, rewriting, and making new iterations, and engage with the acoustic pre-history of writing.

Moderator: Allison Grimaldi Donahue

Participants: Nerina Cocchi  
Jacqui Cornetta  
Todd Portnowitz  
Laura Marris  
Taije Silverman

10:45am – 12:00pm Highland D

**Bookselling and Translation**

What makes a translated book fly off the shelves? How can you work with your local independent store to support your translation projects? What drives reader's decisions? What translation-related events are the most successful? These questions and many more will be addressed by our panel of independent booksellers who are also advocates for international literature.

Moderator: Chad Post

Participants: Tom Roberge  
Merril Speck  
Jonathon Welch  
Abby Lembersky

2:00pm – 3:15pm

Highland J

**I See What You Mean: Visualization as a Stage in Translation**

A crucial stage in translation is that of visualization. We cannot convey in English a scene, a gesture, a movement, an object, until we can picture it accurately to ourselves. How exactly does visualization fit into the translation process? What strategies can be brought to bear to enhance this crucial skill?

Translators working from Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Spanish, and Tagalog will share examples of visualization in translating both poetry and prose.

Moderator: Bill Johnston

Participants: Soleil David

Jamie Lauer

Anni Liu

Alan Reiser

Nidhi Singh

2:00pm – 3:15pm

Highland EF

**Becoming a Full-Time Literary Translator**

Award-winning full-time literary translators discuss the long path towards “living the dream,” practicing the art of translation every day, not as a moonlighting gig or hobby. How can other translators at all stages of their careers work toward this goal, and what can be done within the industry to help make translation a viable full-time career option? Discussion between translators Larissa Kyzer and Ellen Elias-Bursac, and AmazonCrossing Editorial Director Gabriella Page-Fort.

Moderator: Gabriella Page-Fort

Participants: Ellen Elias-Bursac

Larissa Kyzer