International Forum on Translation and Interpreting 2025

SCIT® and FIT, 29 March 2025, Ljubljana

Introduction of the panellists, their topics, and the hosts

Panellists

Alison Rodriguez

Alison Rodriguez is the President of the Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs (FIT), representing the New Zealand Society of Translators and Interpreters (NZSTI). A linguist and translator in legal, human rights, and technical fields, she has diverse experience in strategy policy and promotion of the arts. She is known for her strong advocacy of multilingualism, multilateralism, and cultural and linguistic diversity, with a particular interest in indigenous languages and building a sustainable profession. She also has an interest in the ethics of AI and in promoting International Translation Day, each 30 September, as the premier day to celebrate the work of translators, interpreters, and terminologists.

- **Topic: Global Trends in the Translation and Interpreting Profession**

The rise of AI is reshaping society—and our profession—in profound ways. As technology evolves, it intersects with demographic, economic, political, and communication shifts, redefining how we work and train. In short, the world is changing, and so is our role within it. Much of this change is driven by technology. This transformation isn't just inevitable—it's both exciting and challenging. Our perception of technology has shifted; we now see it as a tool that empowers us to do more, even as our numbers may shrink. That scarcity will create value, making the contributions of skilled translators and interpreters even more essential. There is no reason to believe that a changing future cannot also be a bright one.

Ivan Bratko

Professor Ivan Bratko is a professor of computer science at the University of Ljubljana. He has researched several areas of AI, including machine learning, qualitative modelling and reasoning, intelligent robotics, heuristic methods, and applications of AI in medicine and the control of dynamic systems. He is also interested in ethical issues in AI, including Explainable AI and AI bias. He has participated in activities related to UNESCO and GPAI (Global Partnership for AI). Professor Bratko has published numerous scientific papers in AI and several books, including *Prolog Programming for Artificial Intelligence* (Addison-

Wesley/Pearson Education, 4th edition, 2012). He is a member of the Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts, a Fellow of the European Association for AI (EurAI), and a member of Academia Europaea.

- **Topic: Artificial Intelligence**

The description of the presentation topic will be available soon.

Mojca Schlamberger Brezar

Professor Mojca Schlamberger Brezar is a French Language and Linguistics professor at the Department of Translation and Interpreting, at the University of Ljubljana, where she has taught since 2001. She specializes in contrastive grammar and translation from French to Slovene. She earned her PhD in Linguistics in 2000 with the dissertation *Les aspects syntaxiques et pragmatiques des connecteurs dans les textes argumentatifs français*. In the academic year 2007/2008, she was a guest lecturer at INALCO (Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales) in Paris. Her research focuses on contrastive grammar and discourse analysis. She has translated several literary works. Since October 2021, she serves as the Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Ljubljana.

- **Topic: Training Future Translators and Interpreters in Slovenia**

With Slovenia's accession to the European Union, the path to multilingualism significantly expanded. In preparation for this milestone, a Translation and Interpreting program was established at the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana in 1997—the first of its kind in Slovenia. It originated from the former translation tracks within the English and German departments. At the time, the shortage of interpreters and translators posed a major challenge. With the support of DGT (Directorate-General for Translation), the department developed its expertise in teaching and training, while also contributing to the establishment of new programs at other Slovenian universities. Twenty years later, the European Union has shifted its focus from multilingualism to security and economic stability. This shift calls for a reassessment of translation and interpreting competencies in the context of global and national languages, as well as the advancements in artificial intelligence. So, does this mean the demand for translation is decreasing? Will the profession of translator disappear? Paradoxically, with the rise of artificial intelligence and machine translation, the need for highly skilled translators and language experts is actually growing—although training and education in the field will inevitably evolve.

Jan Christopher Næss

Jan Christopher Næss is a FIT Council member and the Chair of the FIT Standing Committee Translation for Publishing Houses and Copyright. He is also the Vice President of the Norwegian Association of Literary Translators (NO). Næss translates mainly genre literature and children's books from Swedish, Danish, and English into Norwegian. In addition to translation, Næss is also an author of novels and children's and young adult literature. In 2007, he received the Riksmål Society Literature Prize for his novel *Det begynner med sex og ender med døden* (*Eng*. It Starts with Sex and Ends with Death).

- **Topic: Copyright in Translation**

A brief definition of the concept of literary translation will be provided at the beginning of the presentation, followed by an analysis of the opening lines of recent English translations of Homer's Odyssey to illustrate why literary translation is regarded as intellectual property and protected by copyright. Examples of FIT's efforts to promote and protect the rights and interests of literary translators will then be presented. To conclude, some of the most pressing copyright-related challenges currently facing the field of literary translation—particularly those arising from the introduction of generative artificial intelligence and Large Language Models such as ChatGPT—will be summarized.

Alan Melby

Professor Alan Melby is an emeritus full professor at Brigham Young University (USA), where he taught general linguistics and translation technologies for 37 years. He began his career in 1970 with a machine translation project but shifted his focus in 1979 to developing tools for translators. In the 1980s, he became a certified translator (French–English) with the American Translators Association (ATA) and actively participated in the leadership of both ATA and FIT. He is also interested in philosophical questions. Currently, he serves as the Chair of the FIT North America Regional Centre, the Chair of the FIT Standards Standing Committee, and the President of LTAC Global, a nonprofit organization dedicated to terminology, translation, and language acquisition.

- **Topic: The Labels Project**

Various labels for translation output have been proposed since the beginning of the project in November 2021. Importantly, developments in AI-based translation have revealed that, in some instances, the work of a non-qualified human translator is not always clearly distinguishable from the raw output of automatic systems. Extensive discussions in 2024 within ASTM International, a standards body older than ISO, resulted in the current set of labels: Professionally Verified Translation and Un-Verified Translation. These labels are being standardized and will be explained during the presentation, along

with the certification mark PVTQ. Consumers of translation output are the primary target audience for these labels, but from FIT's perspective, one benefit of their adoption is to increase the visibility of professional translators. Visibility is one of FIT's strategic aims. All stakeholder groups in the translation community will benefit from widespread adoption, including speakers of Indigenous languages, for which digital resources are not yet highly developed. These labels are not a temporary measure until AI advances further. They will remain applicable even if Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) is achieved and will continue to be a key element of risk management and respect for humankind.

Tiina Tuominen

Professor Tiina Tuominen is a professor of English with a specialisation in translation at the University of Turku, Finland. She has previously taught translation at the Universities of Glasgow and Tampere and worked as a developer of subtitling and translation for the Finnish public broadcaster Yle. Her research focuses on subtitling, particularly audience reception and subtitlers' professional communities. She is also interested in fostering collaborations between practitioners and academia. She is a FIT Council member and the Chair of the FIT Standing Committee on Audiovisual Translation. She has also worked as a translator and subtitler for several years.

- **Topic: Audiovisual translation**

The field of audiovisual translation is undergoing major changes. The volume of audiovisual materials requiring translation has been increasing, and language diversity is expanding, as audiovisual productions in languages other than English gain popularity and are translated more frequently. At the same time, machine translation and artificial intelligence are being used to automate and streamline audiovisual translation workflows while reducing costs. However, automation does not always serve audiovisual content well. In audiovisual translation, the translator must always consider how sounds and images that coexist with the text influence its meaning. Automated systems cannot sufficiently do that, which limits their usefulness. Audiovisual translation typically requires creative rewriting, which is best done by humans. Amid these changes and tensions, audiovisual translators face significant challenges as they strive to maintain sustainable working practices and adequate quality standards. Associations and federations such as FIT and Audiovisual Translators Europe (AVTE) could play a crucial role in enabling audiovisual translators to collaborate internationally and advocate for sensible working conditions, appropriate norms, and quality expectations, while also ensuring that audiences' interests are taken into account.

Viktorija Osolnik Kunc

Viktorija Osolnik Kunc teaches German at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, with a primary focus on translation from Slovene into German and professional communication. She began working in translation during her studies in the 1980s and later specialized in legal and scientific translation. In 2012, she founded the Association of Sworn Court Interpreters and Legal Translators of Slovenia (SCIT®). She plays a key role in connecting the translation and interpreting community at both national and international levels and is committed to developing standards for continuing professional development (CPD). She is a FIT Council member and the Chair of the FIT Standing Committee on Communication.

- **Topic: Standards for Continuing Professional Development**

Today, most professional translators have a background in translation or linguistics, but many also enter the field by chance—whether through language needs in their environment, studying abroad, market opportunities, or other circumstances. Regardless of formal education, continuing professional development (CPD) is widely recognized as essential for maintaining quality and staying competitive. In Slovenia, the range of seminars, workshops, and training opportunities is constantly growing. Professional associations are working on CPD standards, though their development depends on qualified trainers, financing, and broader social and cultural influences. The discussion will look at key factors shaping professional growth in translation and interpreting, as well as the challenges and adjustments translators and interpreters face in a changing industry.

Henry Liu

Dr. Henry Liu is a former President of FIT and Honorary Advisor to FIT. Liu works as a court and diplomatic interpreter with extensive experience in refugee law and forensic linguistics. He has held many advisory roles in various jurisdictions, including serving as a Special Advisor to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Aotearoa (New Zealand). A seasoned keynote speaker and insightful futurist, he is often described as someone "you simply have to hear speak."

- **Topic: Court interpreting and legal translation**

What does it mean to be court interpreter or a legal translator in the 21st century, in Slovenia, with ever increasing regional mass migration, nationalism, ever tightening public finance, remote hearings and now so called artificial intelligence. How do these trends affect the roles of our profession? What are our wider social responsibilities? In an attempt to summarise all of the earlier eminent speakers in this forum, Dr. Liu will bring

together some of these strands sprinkled with sporadic unexpected and even controversial ideas for the breakout session that follows.

FORUM MODERATOR

Guy De Launey

Guy De Launey has been the BBC News Balkans correspondent since 2012. He covers eight countries in the region, covering stories ranging from the European refugee crisis and war crimes cases to Novak Djoković's arrest in Australia. He previously reported for the BBC in Southeast Asia, covering the Khmer Rouge Tribunal for eight years while based in Phnom Penh. Guy is also a correspondent for Monocle magazine – covering diplomacy, business, and design, among other topics – and frequently presents The Globalist, The Briefing, and The Daily for Monocle Radio. Other clients include The New European, Deutsche Welle, and the Canadian national broadcaster CBC. Guy De Launey will moderate the forum, guiding the discussion towards a meaningful debate on the translation and interpreting profession while engaging the audience.

EVENT PRESENTER

Mateja Stražar

Mateja Stražar pursued a career in music after completing her studies in Slovene language and comparative literature at the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana. She graduated in opera singing from the Academy of Music in Ljubljana and made her debut on the stage of the Slovenian National Opera in 2001. She has performed nationally and internationally, collaborating with various orchestras and renowned Slovenian artists. During her time in Brussels, she engaged in artistic and pedagogical work with Professor Marie-Martine de Gueldre from the Royal Conservatory and pianist Itzhak Solsky. Her professional and research interests focus on phonation and articulation. She has further refined her expertise through the Werbeck singing method and collaborates with experts from Brussels, Zagreb, and Ljubljana. At the International Forum, Mateja Stražar will host the program, introduce performers, and contribute to shaping a meaningful and cohesive event.

HOST OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM

Viktorija Osolnik Kunc

Viktorija Osolnik Kunc, founder and president of the Association of Sworn Court Interpreters and Legal Translators of Slovenia SCIT®, founded in 2012, hosts the International Forum on Translation and Interpreting 2025. At the XXI FIT World Congress (2017) in Brisbane, Australia, the association was accepted as a regular member of FIT. At the XXII International Congress (2022) in Varadero, Cuba, Ms. Osolnik Kunc was elected as FIT Council member, becoming the first representative of Slovenia in this highest international body for translators and interpreters. By inviting the FIT Council to hold its working meeting in Ljubljana, which will also be the last regular Council meeting of this term, she aims to enhance the visibility of the International Federation of Translators (FIT) in Slovenia and the Western Balkans. Through the International Forum, she seeks to raise awareness among the wider professional community about key issues and challenges in translation and interpreting.