



A Space for Translation: Thresholds of Interpretation

Presentation Details	
Title of Paper:	Translation at the Border
Speaker:	Marija TODOROVA, Adjunct Scholar, Center for Translation, Hong Kong Baptist University
Abstract:	<p>The border and crossing the border has often been used as a metaphor for translation activity. However, the actual real translation and interpreting happening at the border has not received the same attention. The border has recently become a very significant place of political contest. It is a place where large number of refugees are allowed, or more often not allowed, to cross, creating humanitarian crises. Some see the border as productive sites where cultures touch and intermingle. However, Mezzadra and Neilson discuss borders that are “conceived of as a site of struggle” (2013, 18).</p> <p>This paper draws on relevant theory in the area of translation and interpreting, with a particular focus on working with refugees, supplemented by the real-life experiences of field translators active during two significant refugee crises in the territory of the Republic of Macedonia.</p> <p>Tackling the question of the discrepancy between the prescribed neutrality and their real-life experience, the article will look at the different modes of work for translators and interpreters for refugees in emergency situations, especially situated at the border. It will especially look at the work of the translators and interpreters as agents for empowering the vulnerable. The analysis draws on aspects of intersection between translation theory and mediation theory.</p>
Reference	Mezzadra, Sandro and Brett Neilson (2013). <i>Border as Method, or, the Multiplication of Labour</i> . Durham and London: Duke University Press.

Author's Biography

Marija TODOROVA completed a PhD in English Language and Literature at the Hong Kong Baptist University's Translation Program in 2015, as well as a PhD in Peace and Development Studies at the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. Currently, she is an Adjunct Scholar at Hong Kong Baptist University's Center for Translation. She has published two research monographs, and a number of articles in refereed academic journals, on topics related to interpreters' role in conflict zones, multimodal translation, intercultural education, and translating for children.

She has worked as a professional translator and interpreter for more than two decades. She has translated over a dozen literary books, including works by J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Doris Lessing, Iris Murdoch, Philip K. Dick, Raymond Carver, Eoin Colfer, and Dick King-Smith, for which she received the National Translation Prize in 2007. As an interpreter, she worked for several major international organizations including UNHCR, UNDP, OSCE, etc.

Dr Todorova have been an Executive Council member of IATIS since 2010.