

## **Introduction**

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## **Overview**

The idea of the handbook is timely and came about after a suggestion from Graham Turner to Christopher (one of the editors) with an introduction to our editorial assistant Eleni at Routledge. Christopher then had a very enjoyable meeting with our other editors, Robert, Ronice, and Christian in Germany, where we were able to map out what we hoped to achieve with this volume. We are pleased as editors we are female and male, from the southern and northern hemisphere, from deaf and hearing families, multilingual people raised in English, German, and Portuguese speaking countries, have lived and worked in countries other than the countries we grew up in, and have LGBTQ+ people within the editorial team.

Like the editorial team, the volume was always intended to cross divides, between translation and interpreting, between the global north and south, between earlier and later career academics, and to be representative of different theories and debates within the sign language translation and interpreting transdisciplinary arena. We hope that we have achieved that although as always there were contributions we had hoped to receive, but time is often an academic's most precious commodity and there are some areas that we have not managed to cover such as tactile and pro-tactile interpreting, and some of the histories of translation and interpreting from around the world. Even so we would hope that our coverage is

comprehensive and gives readers access to some materials in English that may not have been available previously.

We have divided the volume into eight sections that cover traditional and newer areas of enquiry. In section one, the chapters focus on the cognitive processes and theoretical foundations of sign language translation and interpreting. In chapter one, Treviño, Ortiz and Quinto-Pozos present a view of interpreting as a multimodal-multilingual task as a consequence of the interactions between signed and spoken interlocutors. The authors describe the work of multilingual-multilingual interpreters who three or more working languages and modalities. They also describe the consumers of these professionals and their multilingual experience that impacts on the interpreting work both multimodally and multilingually requiring commensurate competencies and skills.

In the next chapter of this section, Stone then describes some of the factors that have been explored to judge interpreter aptitude. Typically, this has focused on hearing second language learners of sign languages (L2) in a new modality (M2) requiring attention to be give to language learning, as well as the required general cognitive skills to learn and facilitate interpreting. There is also an exploration of psychological traits that might shed light on good candidates for sign language translation and interpreting education.

Finally in this section, Wang discusses directionality in translation and interpreting. The author raises the common conception that professional spoken language simultaneous (conference) interpreters working from their non-native to their native language(s) is the most successful direction of work. However, this is not the case of sign language interpreters. These interpreters, instead, seem to prefer to work from their native language to their non-

native language. Then, Wang presents empirical directionality studies of sign language interpreters showing that sign interpreters seem to be accurate, and delivery successful renditions in both directions, both from sign languages and to spoken languages and vice-versa. Considering the experiments, she concludes that it is important to count on team interpreters including native and non-native (deaf and hearing interpreters) to achieve better results.

Section two focuses on sign language translation studies including three contributions. The first, chapter four is from Cantin and Encrevé who give us a history of deaf and hearing interpreters in France. They present a historical perspective through the high Middle Ages to the present day. This history shows the role of religious spaces in the provision of translation and interpreting. It also details the process of building professional careers, starting within deaf communities and later within other spaces of the mainstream society. The contribution challenges the 'anglosphere' providing a different trajectory and outcomes for translation and interpreting in the Francophone world.

Then in chapter five, Astrada and Claria present an analysis on Argentine Sign Language (LSA) sign language interpreter teamwork during sign language translation/interpretation of: Parliaments broadcastings on TV (or streaming), audiovisual contents, TV programs, and webcasting. The authors observed that there are new ways to organize the work in this domain. And a new role for deaf advisers to ensure the quality of the broadcast product. This role needs development and better working conditions and positively contributes to the preparation, performance, and revision of the product.

In the last chapter of this section, Brenner, Gloyer, Kubus , Sequeira, and Wurm also focus on teamwork, although specifically on sign language translation. Their goal is to deconstruct the idea of translation as a solitary concern. They present a module showing how teamwork can impact on the quality of the translation results in all parts of the process, i.e., preparation, translation and production steps.

Section three focus on sign language interpreting studies. In chapter seven, the first in this by section, Adam looks at the history of interpreting in deaf communities, which arose from contact between spoken languages and sign languages over the millennia, and describes how deaf people participated in judicial and legal systems through interpreters during medieval times and describes also how deaf interpreters, translators, language brokers and intermediators have worked in deaf communities around the world for as long as this work has been done by hearing practitioners, and concludes with an international perspective on sign language legislation and human rights.

In chapter eight Maliko gives us an African perspective on the intersectionality of the sign language interpreter identity. She gives us a context for sign language interpreting on a continent that is highly multilingual and deconstructs the colonialism present in much of the sign language interpreting literature. Moving forwards she gives us a different model of sign language interpreting that reflects on the lived reality of African sign language interpreters describing much of the complexity we must consider.

The next chapter by Stone and Russell draws our attention to interpreting in the media and emergency settings. This contribution focuses on the provision of access to emergency briefings during natural disasters and pandemics. The role of deaf interpreters and broader

notions of provisions are explored. There is also consideration of the social media presence of some interpreters and the ethics surrounding being highly visible during moments of national importance. The authors note that care needs to be given to ensuring that optimum access is provided during these times.

In the final chapter of this section Hoza explores work of interpreters in teams. He considers various team constellations between interpreter colleagues, deaf-deaf, deaf-hearing, and hearing-hearing. There is an exploration of the themes of both simultaneous and consecutive modes during team working. And the author discusses differences in open and closed collaborative work between the interpreters in the team, and the larger team of interlocutors involved in the co-construction of meaning during interpreter-mediated events.

Section four the education of sign language translators and interpreters is explored. The first of the four chapters by Sheridan and Lynch describes the use of transnational as a pedagogical tool. They suggest that translation can be used at various stages of learning to become an interpreter and give examples from their own institution. There is also discussion of translation exercises to better understand mediation with translation and interpreting. They call for more research in translation pedagogy, both in synchronous and asynchronous contexts.

Next in chapter twelve Winston and Roy draw our attention to the idea of discourse analysis as a threshold competence for translators and interpreters. After introducing discourse mapping, they promote the idea of infusing the curriculum at all levels with discourse analysis. This they suggest supports students' understandings of their role, and what happens

in interactions, helping to engage students in critical thinking. They argue that discourse analysis is the foundation that should drive curricula.

Russell and Nicholson then revisit consecutive interpreting. They review the literature available on the use of the consecutive interpreting mode for both spoken and sign language interpreters. They consider how it is used in the teaching of sign language translators and interpreters and how this might influence some of the practices observed in the field. They then move to considering the advances in technology and how blended approaches, i.e., using consecutive and simultaneous modes of interpreting within the same assignment, might provide optimum interpreter-mediated access.

Finally, Rodrigues draws our attention to developments in Brazil providing a model of intermodal simultaneous interpreting. He describes a study of working sign language interpreters drawing upon Relevance Theory to explore different approaches to working in different modalities for hearing interpreters comparing first language and second language learning of Brazilian Sign Language (Libras). He then discusses possible cognitive processing reasons for the findings and gives us insights into the interpreting strategies that are documented.

In section five the politics of service delivery for both sign language translation and interpreting. Wilks contextualises the role of sign language interpreters and translators within a Deaf jurisprudence framework. An examination is given of the currently legal framing of deaf people within the UK. Consideration is then given to the role of translators and interpreters within this framework. Principal to this consideration is the delivery of direct service vs interpreter-mediated services.

In chapter sixteen Pinheiro and Stumpf explore the personal trajectory of the professional life of Juan Carlos Druetta. This provides a better understanding of the context of deaf translator and interpreter work within South America. The multinational experiences of Juan coupled with his multilingualism have exposed him to and allowed for this development as a deaf interpreter. Some thoughts are shared around possible routes into the profession for deaf interpreters now.

Lutalo-Kiingi, Buyinza, De Clerk, and Turner look at the professionalisation of interpreting in Uganda. The authors give a history of sign language interpreters from the 1980s and 1990s to establish how interpreting was delivered, including the north-south partnerships that helped to develop the profession. There is then a description of the establishment of the first (and only) university sign language interpreter education diploma program developed in Sub-Saharan Africa. Finally the results of engagement with stakeholders regarding the needs for a BA program for sign language interpreters, and an Ma program for sign language interpreter educators are explored.

Hauser, Cherry, Hauser, and Poe, revisit the designated interpreter paradigm. The aim of the chapter is to introduce newer interpreters to the paradigm and to support deaf professionals to receive quality interpreting services. They emphasize the seamless news work between the deaf professionals and designated interpreters and to ensure the deaf professional's voice is truly represented, especially in social and networking situations. Some consideration is given to challenges to the paradigm in recent years.

Finally in this section, Coimbra Nogueira teamwork within booth settings in Brazil is discussed. The author shows that the teams' practices are collaborative and that they act in an interdependent manner. He presents the seven strategies used by teams of interpreters in these booth contexts. The research highlights the need for this collaborative work, and the need for interpreters to be prepared for the challenges faced in these settings.

Section six looks at the delivery of sign translation and interpreting services in public service settings. We start with Shaffer describing interpreting in clinical healthcare settings in the US. The chapter focuses on the systematic, institutional, and technological barriers that deaf people experience trying to gain access to healthcare. She assesses the role that interpreters play in those moments and questions how deaf people can gain authentic effective communication and appropriate healthcare.

From health we move to mental health, with Hamerdinger and Crump. They outline the challenges that interpreters and clinicians face working together to provide interpreter-mediated therapy. Although it is challenging they give a comprehensive account of the various complexities and nuances that need to be navigating when engaging in this area of interpreting work. Although they are careful to acknowledge that greater depth of consideration is possible over and above what is presented here. They draw upon their experiences of mental health services within the US.

We then look at interpreting in police settings with Skinner and Monteoliva. With a focus on policing within the UK, and Scotland specifically they identify the role of the police in wider society and the different ideologies behind policing as it has evolved through the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. They try to better understand the role of community policing and how interpreting



mediation should and should not be deployed. This calls for interpreters to think about how they engage with the police in their interactions with deaf peoples and deaf communities.

Brunson, Clark, and Tester also look at interpreting in the legal sphere. They address sign language interpreting within the courtrooms of the US. They identify four different areas for discussion, the unique characteristics of legal discourse and the courtroom, trust, specialized training, and working with jurors and juries. And go on to discuss the role of deaf interpreters, and video mediated interpreting in legal proceedings. There is also thoughts on where the future might lead.

Finally in this section, Santos and Stumpf who provide a literature on the issues of legal sign language interpreting within Brazil. They compare some of the provision and suggestions of provision in the world with the reality of legal sign language interpreting in Brazil. While Libras has an official status that does not mean that all areas of sign language interpreting provision have been equally developed. The authors draw our attention to the growth that needs to occur for greater professionalisation of this domain of work.

Section seven focusses on diverse linguistic-cultural deaf communities and opens with chapter 25 by Homström and Sivunen who discuss the experiences of deaf migrants who have to navigate the government systems in Nordic countries, many of whom are emerging readers, without having been able to learn to the signed or the written language of the new country, or in many cases, any experience of using the sign language services.

This is followed by chapter 26 by Kurz on interpreting for deaf children in education setting, the largest sector of the sign language interpreting fields, and discusses the knowledge and

skills required for working in this domain and closes with suggestions for training and research directions.

Chapter 27 by de Oliviera and Müller de Quadros discusses translations in similar settings and the implications of sign language legislation for this provision in education, and how this service provision has been both positive and a hindrance for deaf children in schools, now that sign language translators have been positioned in education of deaf children.

Finally chapter 28 by Sze, Wong, Lo, Chew, Sun and Yanai discuss sign language interpretation training, testing, and accreditation in Asia, which is very varied and where it is not provided, has an impact on accessibility and employability for deaf people.

Section eight which takes us around the world by focusing on Current status of interpreting and translation on continents. Chapter 29, about the provision of sign language interpretation in Asia where Sze, Wong, Lo, Chew, Sun and Yanai discuss the variability in availability of sign language interpreting services cities/countries in but in most countries, deaf people have little or even no access to services because there are not enough interpreters, or they are not in a position to be able to pay for interpreting services. In some places, society as a whole does not have sufficient understanding of deaf people and accessibility.

Chapter 30 is about sign language interpreting and interpreters in the Arab world by Semreen who carried out a survey on interpreting in the region, and discovered a great variability in availability of interpreters, and recommends cooperation with deaf community organisations and development of practice guidelines, and training and education.

The current status of sign language translation and interpreting in East Africa by Busingye and Nantoko in Chapter 31 which is also based on a survey and discusses the availability of interpreting services in the region where in some countries there is none, and in some only very short weekend training is available. The authors conclude with a recommendation to empowering EAC countries to aim at professionalisation and the availability of interpreting services, to benefit deaf communities everywhere.

In chapter 32, Komarova discusses the long history of sign language interpreter provision and training in Russia and neighbouring countries, and outlines some of the significant milestones in interpreter provision and training in Russia – giving us a greatly different perspective on this than from the Western perspective.

This volume closes with chapter 33 on North America by McDermid, Williams and Ortega who discuss the supply and demand issues facing interpreters in the USA, Canada and Mexico, and the rise of deaf interpreters working particularly in the covid-19 pandemic and increased demand for Black and Brown sign language interpreters working in the profession.

We hope that you enjoy reading the numerous chapters on, we think, a wide variety of topics. Each chapter is organised with the same structure, suggests further reading for avid students, and poses questions for you to think of either individually or in discussion with your peer. We thank the authors for their sterling work and of course our editor for her patience and diligence – happy reading.