

European Society for Translation Studies

Summer School Scholarship - 2021

Report on Experience at the First International Summer School on Cognitive Translation & Interpreting Studies

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I received the EST Summer School Scholarship 2021 to attend the First International Summer School on Cognitive Translation & Interpreting Studies, hosted by The Laboratory for Multilectal Mediated Communication & Cognition (MC2 Lab) of the Department of Interpreting & Translation of the University of Bologna (Italy) and the IUED Institute of Translation & Interpreting of the ZHAW University of Applied Sciences (Switzerland) at the University of Bologna. The school was endorsed by the European Society of Translation Studies (EST) and the network of Translation, Research, Empiricism and Cognition (TREC).

This summer school was held online between 14 and 25 June 2021 and was aimed at students of final year of an M.A. or in the firsts year of a PhD program related to translation, interpreting, and/or cognition. To apply for a place, we wrote a statement of purpose that summarizes our interest and motivations, relevance of our recants or current activities as well as our academic interests.

Due to the sanitary situation caused by the COVID-19 crisis, the best and safer option for everybody was to hold the school online. It would have been a wonderful experience to meet the rest of students and faculty members "in real life" in Italy. Nevertheless, the organizing team did their best to provide us with tools to keep in touch with each other though virtual coffee rooms and daily exchange sessions at the end of classes to get to know each other during these two thought-provoking weeks. Moreover, each student had two individual tutoring sessions per week with different professors from the Summer School. Professors were assigned to students according to our research interest and projects previously expressed in the statement of purpose as part of the application process. I had the pleasure to have individual tutorial sessions with Prof. Sandra L. Halverson, Prof. Ricardo Muñoz, Prof. Sijia Chen, and Prof. Mellinger. These tutorial sessions gave me the opportunity to share my doubts and ask for advice. As a result, I received a very enriching and constructive feedback on my proposal that would help me to improve the quality of my research.

The Summer School played host to 29 students and 12 faculty members in the field of Translation Studies. More than 10 universities from different continents were presented in this diverse group, an impressive multicultural and heterogeneous group that created the perfect atmosphere. During the school classes were divided into the following diverse modules which were delivered by outstanding experts:

- Translation Studies → Prof Ricardo Muñoz
- Psychology → Prof Bogusława Whyatt
- Linguistic → Prof Sandra L. Halverson
- Neuroscience → Prof Alexis Hervais-Adelman
- Research Methods → Prof Elisabet Tiselius
- Research Concepts and design → Prof Sijia Chen
- HCI and Workplace Research → Prof Maureen Ehrensberger-Dow
- Statistics → Prof Christopher D. Mellinger

Apart from our daily classes, we had exchange sessions in small groups, which lead us to discuss with other students about what we have learned that day and address questions that emerged during our discussion or during the lectures. Thank to this exchange groups we had the opportunity to address some questions to professors that would be answered during the following lecture or through e-mails. The faculty members that worked at the exchange sessions were Serena Ghiselli, Christian Olalla-Soler, Nicoletta Spinolo, and Álvaro Marín. The dynamics of these sessions at the end of the day allowed a constant exchange that enriched the knowledge of all the parties involved, while, at the same time, made participants feel part of a research community.

One of the things that I like the most was the possibility of working in a multicultural group and students from different background and academic levels. Some of the students already finished their PhD and were working in fascinating projects as young academics and this also gave me hope to think that having your PhD done is just the beginning of you career. Besides, we shared bibliographic references that we though could contribute to the research of each other. I must confess that when I started researching, I thought that academia was a closed and narrow space, but this kind of courses help me to know that I may be wrong. It's very beautiful to share your research and get to know students and scholars that are also passionate about researching in the field of TIS.

At the end of the Summer School, participants could receive two types of certificates. The first, a *Certificate of Attendance* for those who attended to most of the classes and exchange sessions. The second, a *Diploma of Completion* which —for me— was the culmination of the Summer School. To get this *Diploma of Completion* we should write a paper between 3,000 and 5,000 words long that cover the introduction and the materials and methods parts of a regular article. This diploma was the best excuse to put into practice what we learned and apply it to our research proposal. Thus, I did not hesitate it and send my proposal right away. Once it was sent, two members of the Summer School faculty would assess our text, write suggestions, and give us a pass/no pass. When getting a pass, the best proposals will have the chance of sending an improved version

to publish it on the Schools 'web and optionally presenting a poster at the 3rd International Conference on Translation, Interpreting & Cognition (ICTIC) to be held on November 2021. As I said before, it was the best excuse to work on my research and try to present my research in an international congress that will contribute to my doctoral path.

In conclusion, as a third-year doctoral student, I approached the summer school as a place where my ideas about Cognitive Translation & Interpreting Studies would be challenged. While attending the summer school, I was working at one of the experiments of my PhD in which I research about translation, audiobooks and emotions and I cannot thank enough all these emergent and decorated scholars for the time they gave to read my proposal. Together, we went over my research proposal and discussed approaches to data collection, methodological issues, realistic timeframes, and expectations. I personally found this Summer School extremely useful and enriching. I am sure that the rest of students feel the same, we enjoyed a stimulating exchange of views with peers and experts. Thanks to this experience, I now have the necessary knowledge to test the data collection method that best contribute to my research as I am planning to carry out the final experiment of my PhD in the following months.

I would like ending saying a big thank you to the European Society of Translation Studies for the grant and their wonderful work on promoting research through different initiatives as this one. Doubtlessly, one of the best decisions I made on the crazy year 2020 was to become a member of the EST.

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