

Report on the 30th CETRA Research Summer School in Translation Studies, University of Leuven, campus Antwerp, Belgium

Maura Radicioni – winner of the 2018 EST Summer School Scholarship

From August 27 to September 7, 2018 I participated in the 30th CETRA Research Summer School in Translation Studies, organized by the University of Leuven at the Antwerp campus, in Belgium.

The CETRA Research Summer School was created in 1989 by José Lambert as a special research program in Translation Studies at the University of Leuven with the aim to promote research training in the study of translational phenomena and to stimulate high-level research into the cultural functions of translation.

Following its best tradition, also the 30th CETRA Research Summer School has given participants the chance to have a fruitful exchange with prominent scholars and peers in an interdisciplinary frame, acquiring and further strengthening the necessary skills for their research project.

The summer school was a well-organized mixture between public lectures, theoretical-methodological seminars, tutorials, workshops and students' presentations. Before its official start, participants were provided with basic reading materials on topics, which were further developed during the program.

Professor Sandra Halverson from the Western Norway University of Applied Science was the 2018 CETRA Summer School Chair Professor.

The 2018 CETRA Summer School was officially opened on August 27, with contributions from CETRA Director Luc van Doorslaer and the Vice-Rector for Research Policy of KU Leuven Reine Meylaerts, followed by an insightful lecture by 2018 CETRA Chair Professor Sandra Halverson on cognitive linguistics in translation studies and remarks by CETRA alumnus Clem Robyns.

On the following days the Chair Professor held a number of thought-provoking and stimulating lectures on cognitive translation studies, translation universals and empirical approaches to them and the utility of a default translation concept in TS.

Participants also attended the following seminars held by outstanding TIS scholars:

- Scientific research: “philosophical”, social and technical aspects - Daniel Gale
- Translation process research methodology - Arnt Lykke Jakobsen
- Translational action and functionalism in the 21st century - Dilek Dizdar
- The global market for translation – a sociohistorical perspective - Gisèle Sapiro
- Methodological approaches in translation and interpreting research - Franz Pöchhacker
- Corpora and experimental methods in translation studies - Haidee Kruger
- Institutional translation: practices, norms and agency - Christina Schäffner
- Alternative forms of translation: adaptation, imitation and practice - Leo Tak-hung Chan
- Back to basics: rethinking TS concepts through an AVT lense - by Sara Ramos Pinto

Furthermore, participants had individual tutorials with the scholars. Tutorials were chosen based on topic and professors' availability. Several participants initially requested a limited number of tutorials, to then end up asking for a tutorial also with other experts after their seminars and the exchange with fellow-participants. This once again testifies to the interconnectedness of various areas within the broader domain of TIS.

On August 30, parallel workshops were held. Before the summer school, participants were asked to indicate which workshop they wished to attend based on their research area. I participated in the interpreting research workshop convened by Daniel Gile, Franz Pöchhacker and Heidi Salaets and attended by other young interpreting researchers. That was yet another useful chance to learn about other fascinating projects, some of which so different from mine in terms of methodology applied and interpreting modes analysed, and to listen to the comments made by the experts. I personally learnt a lot from the constructive feedback by Gile, Pöchhacker and Salaets, whose suggestions served as a great contribution to the quality of my research and gave me the tools to identify both its strengths and weaknesses.

During the second week of the summer school participants presented their own project. Participants' presentations were undoubtedly the result of the tutorials and the lectures they had had up to the moment of their respective talk, with some of the presented projects being somehow different from their initial design due to the so-called "CETRA effect". This expression turned out to be used by participants and professors alike during the summer school to indicate the fruitful process of reflection that led all participants to critically rethink and develop their own research project on the basis of the contributions and exchange with peers and experts. The CETRA effect on my work is likely to have repercussions on the reformulation of my research question following the fruitful comments by professors Gile and Pöchhacker, but also the insights coming from other contributions, e.g. the seminars by Sara Ramos Pinto on multimodality and Dilek Dizdar on Vermeer's functionalism, to name but just a few. In their talks I found very clear links with the topic of my research.

On the occasion of the 30th Research Summer School, in collaboration with the ID-TS, a two-day conference on Publishing in Translation Studies was held at the Antwerp Campus of KU Leuven to celebrate three decades of CETRA. For participants in the 30th CETRA Research Summer School, the conference was the chance to focus on latest trends and forces that directly influence the work of translation scholars and their strategies to disseminate the results of their investigations and provided participants with yet additional information and insights on current trends in TIS.

At the end of the CETRA summer school participants were informed of the forthcoming publication of the 2018 CETRA papers as an edited volume in the new CETRA series at Leuven University Press and were invited to discuss possible editorial teams and submit co-editing proposals.

I personally found the 30th CETRA Research Summer School an extremely relevant, useful and enriching opportunity for my research project. I particularly liked the constructive and stimulating exchange of views with peers and experts that testified to the high degree of convergence between various TIS sub-areas in terms of approaches, methodologies and settings. I also particularly liked the possibility to establish personal relations with participants from different professional and geographical backgrounds, which is a real gain in both academic and human terms. Participation in the 2018 CETRA Summer School provided me with a strong methodological awareness and improved knowledge of the trends in TIS in general, and consequently helped me consolidate the basis for my PhD project. I would definitely recommend the future editions of the CETRA Research Summer School to other TIS scholars.

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