

## **PERSONAL REPORT**

**30<sup>TH</sup> CETRA RESEARCH SUMMER SCHOOL  
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**Gisele Dionísio da Silva**  
Nova University of Lisbon

This report offers a brief account of the highly productive fortnight I had while at the CETRA Research Summer School, held at the Antwerp campus of KU Leuven. Now in its thirtieth edition, the Summer School has become an institution in its own right within the field of Translation and Interpreting Studies (TIS), a forum in which both established and young scholars – at doctorate or postdoctorate level – have the opportunity to present their research and to exchange ideas on epistemological, theoretical, and methodological issues pertaining to the discipline. The diversity of participants' backgrounds in this particular edition – both geographical and institutional – is a strong indicator of the considerable outreach that the CETRA Summer School has acquired over the years.

This report covers four major topics, a summary of my attempts to integrate the Summer School's organisational structure with the broader scenario of TIS: 1) theory, methodology and epistemology; 2) methodological awareness; 3) disciplinary prospects; 4) positioning of one's research. Needless to say, this division serves purely didactic purposes and reflects only my own perceptions of the entire experience.

As regards the first topic, the lectures given by this year's CETRA Chair Professor, Sandra L. Halverson, as well as the seminars given by the international staff members, all prominent experts in the field, offered insightful perspectives on the current theoretical, methodological, and epistemological frameworks adopted by TIS scholars. Topics addressed by the seminars were wide-ranging and included cognitive linguistics in TIS; scientific research; translation process; translation and functionalism; methodological approaches to TIS; corpora and experimental methods; institutional translation; adaptation and imitation; audiovisual translation. Since such a "map" of the discipline could not be complete without signalling to the interdisciplinarity at its core, the Summer

School invited sociologist Gisèle Sapiro to give a lecture on the global translation market. Moreover, the parallel workshops we attended in small groups on one afternoon (workshop topics being corpora and big data; ideological approaches to translation; interpreting research; literary transfer; multilingualism and translation) were also designed to encourage discussion of the major theoretical, methodological, and conceptual underpinnings of current TIS research.

As far as the second topic is concerned, the individual tutorials given by the CETRA Professor and staff members were particularly useful in boosting (my) methodological awareness, despite also touching on issues of theory, terminology, and topic relevance. Receiving feedback on my research proposal from experts with different academic backgrounds and working in various research areas was at the same time extremely fruitful and thought-provoking – such a (relative) diversity of viewpoints helped to challenge some of my original assumptions while shedding new light on issues which I had overlooked or not even considered. Nevertheless, there was also considerable shared ground in tutors' feedback, another indicator that TIS can retain its disciplinary cohesion amid its ever-growing scope.

As regards the third topic, participants' presentations over the course of the second week offered an overview of the multiple avenues of research which currently make up TIS. This multiplicity stems both from the increasing role of technological tools in translation and interpreting practice and research as well as from the continuing incorporation of theoretical, methodological, and conceptual frameworks from neighbouring disciplines. In practical terms, presentations took place in a very friendly environment and were followed by question-answer rounds in which participants and CETRA staff members put forward questions, suggestions, and general comments. Some of the students even made explicit reference to the changes they had effected on their original proposal following the individual tutorials, particularly with regard to methodology.

In relation to the fourth topic, over the course of the Summer School I was able to position my research more clearly and effectively within the broader disciplinary spectrum of TIS. Towards achieving this, I benefitted not only from feedback given during tutorials and my presentation, but also from access to KU Leuven's library facilities on a daily basis. The library has a wide array of recent publications on the subject, including major handbooks and collections of essays,

which enabled me to add new titles to my current bibliography and to have a clearer view of what kind of research is currently being conducted in my chosen line of inquiry.

I must also highlight the bonus of this year's commemorative edition of the CETRA Summer School: the two-day international conference "Publishing in Translation Studies", which presented an overview of publishing initiatives related to the discipline in different geographical and academic contexts. Following presentations by keynote speakers which addressed topics such as journals' norms and requirements for publication, the international circulation of academic books, and the role of geopolitics in TIS publishing, the conference came to an end with an enlightening round table involving five editors of major TIS journals. In addition to discussing practical aspects of editorial work, most of which refer to communication with authors and reviewers, editors touched on ethical issues and stressed the need to account for diversity when circulating knowledge produced by TIS researchers.

In summary, I can safely state that my PhD research proposal has progressed considerably over a short period of time, due to the extremely stimulating environment, both social and intellectual, offered by the CETRA Summer School. I take this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge the EST Summer School Scholarship Committee for awarding me one of this year's scholarships, which certainly made this rewarding experience possible.