OPENING PLENARY

This plenary panel will examine the UK’s changing demographics, and what they might tell us about who translators are and where we might find them. How has the make-up of our cities changed? Will translators of the future be drawn mostly from second-generation urban immigrants rather than (as in the past) primarily Anglophones with modern languages degrees? Will Brexit make things worse, or better? How well is the diversity of our contemporary culture currently reflected in the translation profession, and what can we do to improve the breadth of that representation?

MORNING SESSIONS

TRANSLATION MASTERCLASS

Aimed at early career translators

A joint masterclass by a pair of translators who have recently been short-listed for a major translation award. They will present on their experience, practice and advice with reference to projects past and present, focusing on what they consider to be the key features of their translation work and success.

TRANSLATORS AT THE BRITISH LIBRARY

Mid-career

Hear from curators and our translator-in-residence about what the British Library can do for you. This session will introduce some of the extensive resources available to translators and explore their potential for use across a wide range of research, educational, professional and creative work. The Library’s collections include archives of literary translators, sound and oral history recordings, a vast array of print publications in most written languages of the world, historical dictionaries and much more.

With Rachel Foss, Head of Contemporary Archives and Manuscripts, British Library, Jen Calleja, Translator in Residence, British Library, and colleagues.

TRANSLATING POETRY

Experienced translators

What are the specific challenges of translating poetry? Who is best equipped to do it - the solo translator, co-translators or even collaborative groups - and why? How do you best engage with a source text, and how do you ensure that the end result ‘lives and breathes’ in the target language? Does it matter whether poetry translations are ‘marketable’, or do they exist primarily to further academic research? And could translation be a part of the UK’s poetry ‘renaissance’?

Join practising translator and academic Sophie Collins, Literature Across Frontiers director Alexandra Büchler and Poetry Book Society manager Alice Mullen to mull over the big issues of the day for poetry in translation. Chaired by Erica Jarnes, managing director of the Poetry Translation Centre.
How do you translate a social construct? What can translators do when confronted with a text whose sexual politics are potentially inscrutable to the culture they are translating into? This panel will discuss implicit and explicit representations of gender and sexuality, ways to contextualise cultural differences, and how these reflect the challenges and joys of translation.

PROGRESS IN TRANSLATION: NEW INITIATIVES FOR AND BY LITERARY TRANSLATORS

This session will look at how the career of the literary translator as we know it has been changing over the last year through new opportunities, working models and self-initiated sidelines. Coming together to discuss the significance, importance and, in some cases, necessity of these new developments will be British Library Translator in Residence Jen Calleja, Ruth Clarke of new translation collective The Starling Bureau, and a member of Shadow Heroes, a project bringing translation into schools. The panel will be chaired by Writers’ Centre Norwich’s International Director, Kate Griffin.

EFFIN’ AND BLINDIN’ - CHILDREN’S LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION

What is, and is not, acceptable in translated literature for children in different cultures? What to do when the story in the source language offends sensibilities in the target language? The panel will include Mélanie McGilloway, school librarian and founder of www.librarymice.com; Alessandro Gallenzi of Alma Books; and a children’s publisher; and will be chaired by Danny Hahn, noted translator and advocate of children’s literature.

TRANSLATING HUMAN RIGHTS

Join translator and academic Amanda Hopkinson who will present three South American authors she has worked with who never intended to address human rights in their work, but found it impossible not to. Professor Alison Phipps, head of Researching Multilingually at the Borders of Language; the Body, Law and the State at the University of Glasgow, will discuss the real life interactions that migrants face when fleeing their home countries. She will be joined by the project’s poet in residence Tawona Sithole. Samantha Schnee, Founding Editor of Words Without Borders, will chair the session.

TRANSLATING ARABIC

The 2008 London Book Fair’s Arab Market Focus programme promised a lot for the future of Arabic literature in translation, but did it ever actually deliver? Translators, publishers and authors come together for this panel delving into the state of Arabic literature in translation, what are the trends and is there an appetite for it in the west?

Journalist and author Bidisha chairs this panel that includes translator and researcher Alice Guthrie and Marcia Lynx Qualey, editor of the ‘Arablit’ blog.