International Conference

Indirect Translation: A Two-Arched Bridge between Cultures

Call for Papers

Conference dates: **15-17 April 2026**

Location: **Tashkent, Uzbekistan**

Organisers: University of Malta, Shanghai Foreign Studies University, National University of Uzbekistan

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The Organising Committee invites submissions for the international conference *Indirect Translation: A Two-Arched Bridge between Cultures*. Indirect Translation, also known as bridge or pivot translation, may be succinctly defined as 'the translation of a translation' (*'traduction de traduction'*, see Gambier 1994: 413). The metaphor of a 'two-arched bridge' is intended to highlight the dual mediation processes and cultural negotiations that define Indirect Translation in diverse fields related to translation and interpreting.

Despite its marginal and low status in the field of Translation Studies (Davier et al. 2023), Indirect Translation occupies a very important position in translation history and contemporary translation practice. Indirect Translation is much more widespread than commonly thought, spanning from religious, philosophical and literary translation in past centuries to current media content localisation workflows, scientific popularisation, international policy dissemination, multilingual journalism and relay interpreting. Researchers of Indirect Translation face a range of theoretical, methodological, and institutional challenges due to its elusive nature and the broader sociocultural and technological contexts in which it operates. However, these very challenges also make Indirect Translation a fertile ground for interdisciplinarity and stimulate a deeper insight into how cultures connect and evolve through language. Recently, initiatives such as the IndirecTrans project (Pięta and Bueno Maia, http://www.indirectrans.com) have been set up to create a conceptual and methodological framework for Indirect Translation research.

As recent scholarship has demonstrated (Pięta 2019), Indirect Translation has the potential to be an invaluable instrument of dialogue between peripheral and central languages, as well as for cultural and knowledge dissemination.

The Organising Committee would like to bring together researchers from different parts of the world to discuss Indirect Translation in its various aspects. The conference (in-person only) shall be held in the Uzbek capital of Tashkent, which is situated on the ancient Silk Road that connected East and West. In its role as a trading hub, the city was a crossroads where merchants exchanged goods, ideas, and cultures, contributing to a vibrant cultural and commercial network from Western Europe to Southeast Asia for many centuries.

It welcomes proposals addressing, but not limited to, the following topics:

Theoretical and Historical Perspectives

- Indirect Translation and Descriptive Translation Studies (DTS)
- Indirect Translation as a norm-governed cultural practice (see Toury 1995)
- The role of Indirect Translation in the development of literary and scientific systems
- Power, hegemony, and peripheralisation through pivot languages

Media and Modality

- Relay interpreting in conference and community settings
- Subtitling, dubbing and audio description via pivot language scripts and templates
- Indirect Translation in digital platforms, apps, and machine translation systems
- The role of Indirect Translation in localisation and internationalisation processes
- The impact of AI on Indirect Translation workflows

Ethics and Professional Practice

- Visibility and attribution in Indirect Translation
- Plagiarism, copyright, and relay rights
- Payment and recognition of mediators (relayers, pivot creators)
- Best practices and quality assurance in Indirect Translation workflows

Sociological and Applied Dimensions

- Case studies from postcolonial and multilingual settings
- Corpora and machine learning for identifying Indirect Translation
- Indirect Translation in multilingual journalism and social media
- The role of Indirect Translation in policy communication and public service translation

Training and Pedagogy

- The marginalisation of indirect translation in training programmes
- Developing competences for translating from or for further translation
- Indirect Translation in the EMT competence framework
- Teaching strategies for multiprofessional, multilingual team collaboration

Submission Details

Abstracts in English of not more than **300 words** (excluding references) should be submitted by **15 January 2026** via email to sergio.portelli@um.edu.mt and giselle.spiteri-miggiani@um.edu.mt.

Submissions should include:

- Title of the paper
- Author(s) and institutional affiliation(s)
- Contact email
- Keywords (3–5)

Notification of acceptance will be sent by **15 February 2026**.

Accepted papers will be eligible for consideration in a planned peer-reviewed volume or journal special issue on Indirect Translation.

Conference Format

The language of the conference will be **English**.

Keynote speakers:

- Hannelore Lee-Jahnke (Honorary President of CIUTI)
- Maialen Marín Lacarta (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

Registration Fee and Practical Information

Registration fee: €75. Lunches and dinners are not included.

A conference dinner shall be offered at an additional cost.

An optional 3-day tour to Samarkand and Bukhara before or after the conference shall also be offered at an additional cost.

Tashkent is well connected with Europe through various airlines. The country is known for its rich history and culture, the cities of Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva, its food and atlas silk. EU citizens do not require a visa or additional vaccination to visit Uzbekistan, which is a safe, well-ordered and low-cost country. Participants from non-EU countries are requested to check visa requirements well before departure.

For further info and updates, check out our conference webpage.

For direct queries, please contact the Organising Committee at:
sergio.portelli@um.edu.mt

For more information about the Department of Translation, Terminology and Interpreting Studies at the University of Malta, check out the webpage.

Organising Committee

Tashkent Conference 2026

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