



A few weeks ago, I was taking part in a virtual reading group on the theme of translation and philosophy. One of the other participants was a professor of philosophy at a university in the USA. In a moment of somewhat startling frankness, he confessed that he'd never understood what translation studies was about. "What is Translation Studies trying to do?" he asked. "What is the point of Translation Studies?"

Somewhat to my own surprise, I had a ready answer up my sleeve. I realised that I must have been asked this question before, though perhaps never in such a direct way. This is the answer that I gave:

People tend to assume that translating is a transparent, straightforward process: even if it's done by humans rather than machines, we still think of it as input → output: nothing to see here. Most of the time, no-one pays any attention to translation – and that's its secret power. Translation Studies is there to tell us that when we translate, something always happens. There is always something to see. Of course, I wasn't telling the whole story. Translation Studies also has a more vocational "point" to it: it's there to train up professional translators and interpreters, equipping them with the skills and adaptability that they need to succeed in a booming and constantly evolving industry. A lot of research in Translation Studies is

## Translation for the Cultural and Heritage Sectors

This year we launched a new module introducing students to translation opportunities and challenges in the museum, libraries and archives sector. Led by Dr Mariam Aboelezz, the module included visits to the British Library and UCL's Petrie Museum. Students researched recent

Studying for a PhD can be a long and lonely road. Post-pandemic, we've been reviving our in-person programme for PhD students with an emphasis on social gatherings! It's been great to have staff and post-docs joining us too.

Huge congratulations to Anthony D. Mitzel, Lianda Liang, Irving Wolters, Anna Maria Cipriani and Anochao Phetcharat on the award of their PhDs since our last newsletter. Some other highlights from PhD Land:

## Staff News

Video games have become ever-present today, with thousands of deeply invested players. Localisation efforts have focused on making video games linguistically accessible to players worldwide, rather than on making games fully accessible for players with physical and cognitive impairments. Game accessibility has now become a priority in both industrial practice and academic research. Xiaochun is currently working on the [video game accessibility](#), which uses audio description to make video games more accessible.

[Prof Jorge Díaz-Cintas](#): Congratulations to Prof Jorge Díaz-Cintas for winning a Provost Education Award in 2022! Congratulations also to Dr Alejandro Bolaños (Faculty Education Award, 2022). Special mention to Daniela Ford, who perhaps holds the record for being shortlisted the most times for awards of various kinds but never winning!! Colleagues who have recently gained recognition as HEA fellows include Dr Alejandro Bolaños (SFHEA), Dr Tzu-yu Lin (FHEA) and PhD student Huihuang Jia.

