

Melissa Wallace, PhD

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Research interests

- ♦ Testing and accreditation models for translators and interpreters; court interpreting testing and policy; competency-based training and testing for court interpreters; language access activism; volunteer and non-professional translation and interpreting in legal and public services settings; translation theory and history; feminist and post-colonialist translation studies.

Education

Ph.D *Cum Laude* in Translation and Interpreting, Universitat d'Alacant, Spain, 7 November 2012

- ♦ Dissertation title: "Predictors of Successful Performance on U.S. Consortium Court Interpreting Certification Exams." Directed by Dr. Cynthia (Miguélez) Giambruno.
- ♦ Three *matrículas de honor* in coursework

BA in Spanish, BA in Linguistics, University of Wisconsin – Madison, 1989 - 1993

Certifications

LCI Licensed Court Interpreter (Spanish / English). Awarded reciprocity in Texas based on previous certification as court interpreter in Wisconsin, 23 January 2015 - present

CHI Certified Healthcare Interpreter (Spanish / English), 16 July 2013. Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters

Federal Court Interpreter Certification Exam, 21 August 2010

- ♦ Passed Phase I written exam in Minneapolis, MN. Now eligible to sit for oral exams

Bridging the Gap, Spring 2008

- ♦ Completed 40 hours of medical interpreter training.

Wisconsin Supreme Court Certified Judicial Interpreter, May 2005

Principle academic positions

Assistant Professor of Translation and Interpreting Studies, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, University of Texas at San Antonio, August 2013 – present

- ♦ Director of the Graduate Certificate in Spanish Translation and Interpreting Studies
- ♦ Graduate Advisor of Record for the MA in Spanish

Adjunct Instructor in Interpreting Studies, Department of World Languages and Cultures' Certificate in Community Interpreting, Viterbo University – La Crosse, May 2011 – July 2013

Senior Lecturer, Department of Modern Languages, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse, September 2006 – May 2013

Associate Lecturer, Department of Modern Languages, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse, August 2001 – June 2006

Grants, awards, and international teaching

Fulbright - University of Tampere Scholar Award. Project proposal entitled “**The Transposition of Directive 2010/64 EU in Finland and its Impact on University-level Court Interpreter Training.**” January – May 2016.

Two graduate seminars (full semester) taught as Fulbright – University of Tampere Scholar award in the spring of 2016: 1) Legal and Administrative Translation; and 2) Policy of Legal Interpreting Accreditation.

Four one-hour workshops for the second cohort of legal interpreters in Finland, invited, for TAKK, Tampere Adult Education Centre (through the Fulbright Speaker Program). Topics: (1) Language Access Legislation in the US and the European Union; (2) The US Criminal Justice System; (3) Court Interpreter Certification in the US; (4) Ethics for Court and Legal Interpreters. 22 February 2016

Jornadas de Interpretación, co-hosted by the Middlebury Institute for International Studies at Monterey and the Department of Translation and Interpreting at the Universitat d’Alacant, Spain. 1-3 July 2015

- ♦ A select group of 22 students from 10 Spanish universities gathered to receive master classes from Leire Carbonell Aguero and Cas Shulman-Mora (MIIS) in simultaneous and consecutive interpretation, and Dr. Melissa Wallace (University of Texas at San Antonio) on public service interpreting

Amber award for Inspirational Mentorship, University of Texas at San Antonio, February 2015

Consulting, public service, policy

Appointed, member at large, Society for the Study of Translation and Interpretation (SSTI). SSTI is a non-profit educational and research foundation founded to address concerns about the quality of translation and interpretation provided to limited English proficient (LEP) individuals in judicial settings. SSTI’s mission is to support research and to develop curricula for the profession and related fields. September 2015 – present

- ♦ **Treasurer**, January 2017 - present

Appointed, Licensed Court Interpreter Advisory Board to the Judicial Branch Certification Commission, State of Texas, August 2014 – present

- ♦ **Member, Licensed Court Interpreter Complaint Review Committee** of the Licensed Court Interpreter Advisory Board to the Judicial Branch Certification Committee, State of Texas, September 2014 - present
- ♦ **Chair, Standards of Practice Subcommittee** of the Licensed Court Interpreter Advisory Board to the Judicial Branch Certification Committee, State of Texas, June 2015 – April 2017
- ♦ **Member, Ethics Subcommittee** of the Licensed Court Interpreter Advisory Board to the Judicial Branch Certification Commission, State of Texas, September 2014 – February 2015

Appointed member, Advisory Council, The Voice of Love (U.S.-based nonprofit that develops training and resources to support interpreting for survivors of torture, war trauma and sexual violence), February 2014 – December 2016

- ♦ **Chair**, April 2014 – December 2016

Elected, Executive Board member, American Translation and Interpreting Studies Association, April 2013 – May 2015

Appointed member, Standards and Training Committee of the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care (NCIHC), June 2012 – December 2016

Co-lead, Home for Trainers Webinars Work Group of the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care (NCIHC), appointed 27 February 2012 - present

Member, Supreme Court Committee to Improve Translation and Interpreting in Wisconsin Courts, appointed November 2010 to March 2013

Member, Character and Fitness Subcommittee of the Supreme Court Committee to Improve Translation and Interpreting in Wisconsin Courts, appointed 27 January 2011 – March 2013

Edited volumes

Co-editor of forthcoming special issue: *The ethics of non-professional translation and interpreting in public services and legal settings*, with co-editor Dr. Esther Monzó Nebot from the Universitat Jaume I, Spain. *Translation & Interpreting Studies*, volume 15, issue 1. John Benjamins, Amsterdam. March 2020

Co-editor of forthcoming special issue of *Revista de Llengua i dret / Journal of Language and the Law* with co-editor Dr. Esther Monzó Nebot from the Universitat Jaume I, Spain. *Les institucions i la traducció no professional / Institutions and non-professional translation*. Special “dossier” edition, issue 71, June 2019

Legal translation and court interpreting: Ethical values, quality, competence training. Annikki Liimatainen, Arja Nurmi, Marja Kivilehto, Leena Salmi, Anu Viljanmaa, and Melissa Wallace (eds), September 2017. *Forum für Fachsprachen-Forschung* series. Berlin: Frank & Timme

Articles published in refereed journals

In press: “The Body / Text: Translation, Betrayal, and Rewriting in *L’Últim patriarca* by Najat El Hachmi.” Parianou, Anastasia and Panayotis Kelandrias (eds.). *mTm Translation Journal*, volume 9. Diavlos Publications.

“Language Access for Asylum Seekers in Borderland Detention Centers in Texas”. *Revista de Llengua i Dret*, n. 68 (December 2017), pp. 143-156, DOI: 10.2436-rld.i68.2017.2940. Co-authored with Carlos Iván Hernández.

“A further call to action: Training as a policy issue in court interpreting.” Monzó Nebot, E. (ed.) Special issue of *The Interpreter and Translator Trainer*, Volume 9, Number 2, June 2015. Routledge.

“Resisting Market Disorder and Ensuring Public Trust: Reimagining National Registers for Legal Interpreters in the United States and the European Union.” Blasco Mayor, María Jesús and Maribel del Pozo Triviño (eds). *MonTI 7* (April 2015) – *Legal Interpreting at a Turning Point*. ISSN 1889-4178.

“Current Dilemmas in Court Interpreting: Improving Quality and Access through Smarter Testing and Administration Protocols.” Ortega Herráez, Juan Miguel and Catalina Iliescu (eds). *MonTI Special Issue* (June 2015) – *Insights in Interpreting: Status and Developments*.

“Writing the Wrongs of Literature: The Figure of the Feminist and Post-Colonialist Translator”, *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association*, Fall 2002, Volume 35, Number 2, ISSN 0742-5562.

Chapters published in edited volumes

In press: **“Competency-Based Education and Assessment: A Proposal for US Court Interpreter Certification.”** Elsa Huertas-Barrios, Sonia Vandepitte, and Emilia Iglesias-Fernández (eds). *Quality Assurance and Assessment Practices in Translation and Interpreting*. IGI Global, early 2018.

Forthcoming 2018: **“Transmission, Legacy, and Desire in the Urban Cosmos of *Amic / Amat*.”** *Memory and Nostalgia in World Cinema. An Anthology of Critical Essays*. Nancy J. Membrez, Ed. McFarland Publishing.

Forthcoming 2018: **“Traducción e interpretación,”** chapter co-authored with Vicente Guillot for the textbook *Humanidades Hispánicas: Lengua, Cultura y Literatura en los Estudios Graduados* compiled by Francisco Marcos Marín. To be published by Peter Lang.

“Lessons from Finland: Diversity and flexibility in the authorization of court interpreters.” Annikki Liimatainen, Arja Nurmi, Marja Kivilehto, Leena Salmi, Anu Viljanmaa, and Melissa Wallace (eds), September 2017. *Legal translation and court interpreting: Ethical values, quality, competence training*. *Forum für Fachsprachen-Forschung* series. Berlin: Frank & Timme.

“Access and Protection: Civil Court Remedies for Victims of Domestic Violence and the Current State of Free Language Mediation in US Courts.” Del Pozo Triviño, M., C. Toledano Buendía, D. Casado-Neira and D. Fernandes del Pozo (eds) 2016. *Construir puentes de comunicación en el ámbito de la violencia de género/ Building Communication Bridges in Gender Violence*. Granada: Comares.

“Team-Based Learning in Introductory Translation Courses.” *Handbook of Research on Teaching Methods in Language Translation and Interpretation*. Released in the *Advances in Educational Technologies & Instructional Design (AETID)* Book Series, IGI Global, October 2014.

“Rethinking Bifurcated Testing Models in the Court Interpreter Certification Process.” T sagari, D. & R. van Deemter (eds.) (March 2013). *Assessment Issues in Language Translation and Interpreting*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang GmbH. (Language Testing and Evaluation Series, Vol. 29) ISBN: 978-3-631-63603-9.

Academic conference presentations

(Accepted) **“Examining how Court Interpreters Perceive, Use, and Access Research”** at the conference of the American Translation and Interpreting Studies Association, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, 29 March – 1 April 2018. To be co-presented with Dr. Aída Martínez-Gómez, John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

(Invited) **“Beyond Certification: Gauging the Quality of Certified Interpreters in US Courtrooms”** at Forum on Language and the Law: Non-Native Speakers of English in the Legal System, University of Utah, 20 April 2018

(Invited) **“Improving Court Interpreter Certification Exams with Basic Concepts from Testing Theory”** at Multilingualism, Forensic Linguistics, and the Law, University of Oslo, Norway, 11 October 2017

“Interrogating Quality in an Integrated Healthcare System: A Case Study of Dual Role Providers” at the Third International Conference on Interpreting Quality, University of Granada, Spain, 7 October 2017

(Invited participant, plenary panel debate) **“Research, Practice and Training: Cross-fertilisation or Compartmentalisation?”** at the Third International Conference on Interpreting quality, University of Granada, Spain, 6 October 2017

(Invited) **“Court Interpreter Certification in the United States: Construction and Assessment”** at seminar of the *Development of Professional Specialist Education in Legal Interpreting* (O-ERKO) workgroup, funded by the European Social Development Fund, coordinated by the University of Tampere, Finland. 3 March 2017

“Language Access for Asylum Seekers in Borderland Detention Centers in Texas” at *“De la traducción jurídica a la jurilingüística: Enfoques interdisciplinarios en el estudio de la lengua y el derecho / From Legal Translation to Jurilinguistics: Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Study of Language and the Law*, Pablo de Olavide University, Sevilla, Spain. Co-presented with Carlos Iván Hernández. 27-28 October 2016

“The Ethics of Service Learning: Visibility and Volunteerism for Interpreters and Translators in Training” at the Third International Conference on the Didactics of Translation (didTRAD), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 6-8 July 2016

“Alternative Models for Court Interpreter Certification: Lessons from Finland” at the Southwest Fulbright Symposium, San Antonio, Texas, 4 June 2016.

Invited plenary speaker: **“Partnering with the Profession: A Model for Meaningful Access to Justice through Training, Testing and Policy”** at *TransLaw 2016: Translation and Interpreting as a Means of Guaranteeing Equality under Law*, University of Tampere, Finland, 2-3 May 2016

(Invited) **“Justice for the Most Vulnerable: Language Access for Women, Children and Gender Non-Conforming Immigrants”** at the Department Research Symposium, School of Language, Translation and Literary Studies, University of Tampere, Finland. 11 April 2016

(Invited plenary speaker) **“Justice for the most vulnerable: Women, children and gender non-conforming immigrants,”** Kurki&Käki Graduate Student Conference of the School of Language, Translation and Literary Studies, University of Tampere, Finland. 8 April 2016

“The Transposition of Directive 2010/64/EU in Finland and its Impact on University-level Court Interpreter Training,” Fulbright Forum 2016: Education, Innovation, Science and Art, Jyväskylä, Finland. 16 March 2016

“Theorizing Standards for US Court Interpreter Training Programs” at Transius 2015, Centre for Legal and Institutional Translation Studies, University of Geneva, Switzerland, 24-26 June 2015.

“The Body/Text: A Discourse of Translation and Betrayal in *L’últim patriarca* by Najat El Hachmi” at “Transfictions 3: The Fictions of Translation / Les fictions de la traduction” at Concordia University, Montreal, Canada. 27 – 29 May, 2015

(Invited) **“Community Interpreting: *Una introducción a la Interpretación en los servicios públicos.*”** Invited lecture, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts, 9 March 2015

(Invited) **“Advocacy and Interpreting”**, 2014 International Translation Day, University of Texas – Arlington, 30 September 2014

“Access and Protection: Civil Court Remedies for Victims of Domestic Violence and the Current State of Free Language Mediation in US Courts.” The First International SOS-VICS Conference: Building communication bridges in gender violence at the University of Vigo, Spain, on the 25th and 26th September, 2014

(Invited) “You’ve Got Work to Do: TI Graduates as Changemakers in Policy, Research, Training and Practice”, The First UTB International Translation Day Colloquium, University of Texas at Brownsville, 30 September 2013

(Invited) **"Prioritizing Quality through Bifurcated Oral Certification Testing and Centralized Interpreting Services Protocols,"** QUALITAS work group meeting, European Union, QUALITAS: Ensuring Legal Interpreter Quality through Testing and Certification, Alicante, Spain. 29 January 2013

"Current Dilemmas in Court Interpreting: The Case for Bifurcated Oral Certification Testing and Centralized Interpreting Services Protocols" at the *IV Coloquio Internacional Lucentino* de la Universidad de Alicante. Alicante, Spain, 8-10 November 2012

"Transmission, Legacy and Desire in the Urban Cosmos of *Amic/Amat*" at the conference "Ventura Pons: The Unconventional Gaze of Catalan Cinema" at the University of Colorado – Denver, 4-6 October 2012

"Team-Based Learning and Worked Examples: Two Teaching / Learning Strategies for the Undergraduate Translation Studies Laboratory" at the ATISA 10th Anniversary Conference: University of Texas, Brownsville and Texas Southmost College - South Padre Island, Texas, March 29-31 2012

(Invited) **"A Call for Research in Community Interpreting"** on the panel "Global Partnerships in the Coulee Region: Research and Service Learning for Community Interpreters-in-Training" at Citizenship and Community: Second Annual La Crosse Area Latino/a Collaborative (LALAC) Workshop on Teaching, Service and Research, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse, 2 April 2011

"Space and Memory: The City and the Human Heart in Ventura Pons" at the Memory in World Cinema Conference hosted by the University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, TX, 25 September 2010

"The STAT Hypothesis: Towards an Expanded and Refined Use of Sight Translation for Assessment and Training in University-Level Translator and Interpreter Training Programs" at the First International Symposium for Young Researchers in Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 23 June 2010

"The Body/Text: A Discourse of Translation and Betrayal in *L'últim patriarca* by Najat El Hachmi" at the 33rd Annual Colloquium on Literature and Film: "The Global and the Local in Contemporary Literature and Film" organized by West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV, 10 October 2009

"Caótico Medem: Linking the Feminine with Violence and Performance" Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, 17 April 2009

"Exile from Life, Bridge to Art: Mercè Rodoreda's '*Cartes a l'Anna Murià*' and the Birth of '*22 contes*'" at the XVII Congreso Internacional de la AILCFH: Mujeres transatlánticas: Cruce de lenguas, Zonas de encuentro. Hosted by the Asociación Internacional de Literatura y Cultura Femenina Hispánica, Seville, Spain, 24 October 2007

"Trencadís literari: The Poetics of Fragmentation and Annihilation in Mercè Rodoreda's '*Mirall trencat*'" at the 32nd Annual European Studies Conference, University of Nebraska at Omaha, 4 October 2007

"Moral and Intellectual Legacy in Ventura Pons's '*Amic/Amat*'" at the Romance Languages Film Symposium hosted by the Wake Forest University Department of Romance Languages and Film Studies, Wake Forest University, NC, 13 October 2006

"Vestiges of Exile in Mercè Rodoreda's '*Cartes a l'Anna Murià*': Marriage, Death and Suicide from Rodoreda's '*22 contes*'" at the conference of the Midwest Modern Language Association, Milwaukee, WI, 11 November 2005

"Entrapment, Abuse and Alienation: War Metaphorized in Mercè Rodoreda's '*El Carrer de les Camèlies*'" at the 45th Annual Conference of the Midwest Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL, 7 November 2003

"Un cuento lleno de ventajas: Interconnectivity and Cyclicity through Discourse, Time, Space and Nature in Julio Medem's '*Lucia y el sexo*'", Romance Languages Film Symposium sponsored by the Wake Forest University Department of Romance Languages and Film Studies, Wake Forest University, NC, October 23

“The Figure of the Translator: Feminist and Post-Colonialist Visions” at the 43rd Annual Convention of the Midwest Modern Language Association, Cleveland, OH, 1-3 November 2001

Presentations at professional conferences and other events

(Invited) **“Community Interpreting at a Turning Point: Big Questions Facing the Profession”** at the 5th Annual Ramp Up the Conversation Interpreter Conference. To be hosted by Viterbo University, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 28 April 2018

(Invited) **“Linguistic Presence and the Critical Fear Interview: Professional and Non-Professional Interpreters and Asylum Proceedings.”** Co-presented with Carlos Iván Hernández, meeting of HITA (Houston Interpreters and Translators Association), Houston, Texas. 1 April 2017

(Invited keynote speaker) at the 2017 COLFA Spring Research Conference, University of Texas at San Antonio, 23 March 2017

“Partnering with the Profession: A Model for Meaningful Access to Justice through Training, Testing and Policy” at the 37th Annual Conference of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, San Antonio, Texas, 14-15 May 2016.

(Invited) **“The academy in dialog with the profession: An open conversation about authorized translation.”** meeting of the SKTL (Finnish national professional association of translators and interpreters). Tampere, Finland. 20 April 2016.

(Invited) **“‘Everyone here is bilingual’: The Complications of Training Translators and Interpreters in South Texas,”** invited talk, American Studies Seminar of the Association of Teachers of English in Finland. Kuopio, Finland. 16 April 2016

“Healthcare Interpreting, Market Disorder, and a Proposal for a National Register of Community Interpreters.” At the 8th Annual Educational Symposium of the Texas Association of Healthcare Interpreters and Translators (TAHIT) in San Antonio, Texas, September 5 and 6, 2014

“National Standards for Healthcare Interpreter Training Programs” one-hour long workshop / presentation at the 2014 International Medical Interpreters Association Annual Conference on Medical Interpreting. Houston, TX, 16-19 January 2014

(Invited) **“Sight Translation in Wisconsin Courts”** at the Seventh Annual Conference of the Midwest Association of Translators and Interpreters, Milwaukee, WI, 11 September 2010

Professional affiliations

- ♦ **ATISA** (American Translation and Interpreting Studies Association). Elected member of the Executive Board April 2013 – May 2015.
- ♦ **Critical Link International**
- ♦ **EST** (European Society for Translation Studies)
- ♦ **EULITA** (European Legal Interpreters and Translators Association)
- ♦ **IAFL** (International Association of Forensic Linguistics)
- ♦ **MATI** (Midwest Association of Translators and Interpreters)

- ♦ **NAJIT** (National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators)
- ♦ **NCIHC** (National Council of Interpreters in Health Care). Appointed member of the Standards and Training Committee (2012-2016); Co-Chair of the Webinars Work Group in the "Home for Trainers" initiative, 2012 - present
- ♦ **San Antonio Fulbright Association**
- ♦ **SSTI** (Society for the Study of Translation and Interpretation). Appointed board member 2015-2017; Treasurer 2017 - present
- ♦ **TAHIT** (Texas Association of Healthcare Interpreters and Translators)
- ♦ **TAJIT** (Texas Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators)
- ♦ **T&I Program Directors group** (national but informal)