I-LanD Journal – Identity, Language and Diversity
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Call for Papers for Special Issue (1/2027)

Translation at a Crossroad: AI, Language, and Identity

This Special Issue of the *I-LanD Journal* aims to foster critical reflection on translation in an era of artificial intelligence, interrogating how emerging technologies challenge traditional notions of language, authorship, and identity within translational processes. The issue will be edited by **Flavia Cavaliere** (University of Naples Federico II) and **Jorge Díaz Cintas** (University College London).

Submission of abstracts
Authors wishing to contribute to this issue are invited to send a 300-word abstract (excluding references) of their proposed article in English in MS Word format with keywords (max. 6) and a short biosketch of the author(s), of no more than 50 words, to the Editors of the special issue by **9 March 2026**. Proposals should not contain the authors' name and academic/professional affiliation and should be accompanied by an email including such personal information and sent to j.diaz-cintas@ucl.ac.uk and fcavalie@unina.it. Please use as subject line **"I-LanD Special Issue 1/2027 – abstract submission"**. Notification of acceptance/rejection will be sent to authors via email by **23 March 2026**. When an abstract is accepted, the full article should be submitted before **28 August 2026**. The final article length should be between 7,000 and 8,000 words (references excluded from the word count).

Important dates:
- Submission of abstracts to guest editors: **9 March 2026**
- Notification of acceptance: **23 March 2026**
- Submission of chapters to guest editors: **28 August 2026**
- Submission of proofs to contributors: **by December 2026**
- Submission of final manuscript: **by March 2027**
- Expected publication: **2027**

Description
Advances in artificial intelligence have radically altered how languages are processed, translated, circulated, and interpreted, reshaping the very foundations of translation studies and language-mediated communication. Once understood largely as a human-centred cognitive and cultural practice, translation now unfolds in an environment where neural machine translation, large language models, multimodal generative systems, and hybrid human–machine workflows mediate everyday textual, visual, and sonic exchanges. This Special Issue aims to explore this transformation in depth, examining not only its technological components but also the profound cultural, cognitive, affective, and ethical implications that accompany it.

The proposed theme examines translation at a historical and conceptual crossroad. On one side lies human translation, grounded in creative decision-making, contextual awareness, cultural specificity, and the ability to interpret emotions, identities, and social nuance. On the other lies AI-driven translation, which operates through pattern recognition, statistical prediction, and access to unprecedented large amounts of multilingual data. Between these poles emerges a

complex space of negotiation, where meaning is co-created, contested, and reshaped by interactions between human translators, AI systems, and the sociotechnical infrastructures within which they operate.

The Special Issue addresses the following overarching questions:

- How does AI influence the construction and transmission of meaning across languages, cultures, and media?
- What happens to creativity, authorship, and interpretative agency when translation is partially or fully automated?
- How do AI systems handle emotionally, ideologically, or culturally charged content such as political discourse, sensitive language, brand storytelling, religious texts, or climate-related neologisms?
- Does AI-mediated translations reproduce, reinforce, or disrupt existing biases related to gender, identity, or sociolinguistic hierarchies? If so, to what extent?
- What new forms of multilingual, multimodal, or hybrid communication emerge as translation tasks increasingly involve interaction with AI?
- How should translator education and training evolve in response to AI-assisted and AI-driven translation, particularly with regard to developing critical agency, ethical awareness, and reflective decision-making in human–AI collaboration?
- What competencies, literacies, and pedagogical models are required to prepare new generations of translators to work effectively with AI tools while maintaining creativity, cultural sensitivity, and responsibility for meaning-making across languages and contexts?

The Special Issue welcomes empirical, theoretical, methodological, and critical contributions that investigate these issues across a broad range of domains in which translation and AI intersect. Possible areas include, but are not limited to: discourse-based approaches to AI-mediated communication; metaphor and ideology in narratives surrounding AI; audiovisual translation and the evolving semiotics of speech recognition and synthetic voices; AI in religious or sacred-text translation; brand communication and AI-generated storytelling; translation of emergent or innovative linguistic varieties; climate-related lexical innovation; affect theory and the translation of emotion; pedagogical models and curricula for training translators in AI-rich environments; and the ethics of algorithmic decision-making in multilingual contexts.

By bringing these strands together, the Special Issue aims to provide a comprehensive, interdisciplinary overview of how translation is being reconceptualised in an age of accelerating technological change. Its goal is to expand current debates beyond questions of efficiency or accuracy and to foreground the symbolic, cultural, and affective dimensions through which AI is reshaping linguistic and communicative practices worldwide. Ultimately, the issue seeks to offer researchers, practitioners, and educators a critical framework for understanding translation not simply as a technical process, but as a dynamic human–AI interface with far-reaching implications for identity, representation, and global communication.

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