

Conference report:
Inspirations for Translation Pedagogy. 1st CTER
Congress

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ABSTRACT

The following is a brief report on *Inspirations for Translation Pedagogy. 1st CTER Congress*, a conference held in Kraków, Poland in March 2016 which gathered teachers of translation and in-service translators from 15 different countries and 31 institutions, who met to debate current trends and future directions in translation pedagogy. At the same time, it was an opportunity to hold the first formal meeting of the members of the Consortium for Translation Education Research (CTER), a body established to promote translation pedagogy and translator education as academic disciplines. The report provides an overview of the congress, including information about the participants, the themes discussed and the major events.

Keywords: conference report, CTER, translation pedagogy, translator education

1. Introduction

In mid-March 2016 Cracow, Poland hosted *Inspirations for Translation Pedagogy. 1st CTER Congress*, a European-Society-for-Translation-Studies-endorsed conference organised by the Consortium for Translation Education Research (CTER) in association with the Jagiellonian University and the Pedagogical University of Cracow.

The Consortium is a non-profit organisation whose aim is to consolidate the efforts of parties involved in translator education, on both individual and institutional level, that intend to elevate the academic status of Translation Pedagogy and help it achieve a fully acknowledged position in the academy.

The conference venue was the Przegorzały Guesthouse of the Jagiellonian University, which is a complex combining a magnificent castle and more modern accommodation, located 10 minutes' drive from the centre of Cracow, on the edge of the picturesque Wolski Forest and on top of a hill overlooking Poland's longest river, the Vistula.

2. Participants and conference themes

The CTER 2016 participants were 67 instructors and professional translators from 31 translator education institutions, representing 15 different countries; 56 of

them delivered conference papers, which was an opportunity to share expertise and research results in the field and reflect on the findings in order to pave the way towards the development of Translation Pedagogy in the nearest future.

The Congress papers covered a wide range of topics in Translation Pedagogy, including issues which fell into 11 themes:

- Audio-Video Translation (AVT)
- Literature
- Special Needs
- Curricula in Contexts
- Methodology of Teaching Translation
- Specialised Translation & Terminology
- Directionality & Multilingualism
- Technology in Translation
- Interpreting
- Professional Issues
- Miscellaneous

3. Major events

The Congress was officially opened by CTER President Prof. Maria Piotrowska from the Pedagogical University of Cracow, and honorary guest Prof. Dorota Szumska, the Dean for Research and Development at the Jagiellonian University.

The two guest speakers who delivered plenary lectures at the conference were: EST President Prof. Anthony Pym from the University of Rovira i Virgili in Tarragona, Spain and Prof. Christine Schaeffner from Aston University in Birmingham, UK. Professor Pym's lecture, *Teaching what you don't know: the challenge of future technologies*, focused on the challenges faced by translator educators due to the dynamic nature of translation practices and the professional market of today. While Professor Schaeffner, in her lecture entitled *An integrated approach to translator education: didactic challenges*, discussed the aims of translator training, curriculum and course design, methodological approaches and learning outcomes of contemporary Translation Pedagogy.

The other conference presentations were delivered in 30-minute parallel sessions, with 20 minutes allocated to presentation and 10 minutes devoted to discussion.

The first conference day was concluded with a general meeting of CTER members and member candidates, which covered issues such as:

- CTER-organised workshops for translator trainers carried out so far
- current and future CTER research projects
- an update on the CTER website, available at <http://www.cter.edu.pl>
- the establishment of the TETS Journal

In addition, CTER presidential elections were held, in which Professor Maria Piotrowska was elected for a second term of office.

The social pinnacle of the Congress was the official conference dinner, held at the legendary Wierzynek Restaurant in the city's Main Square, where – as legend has it – in 1364 Polish King Casimir the Great, in association with a well respected Cracovian merchant Nicholas Wierzynek the Younger, organised a feast for European monarchs who gathered in the city for the Congress of Cracow. The event, which reportedly lasted 21 days, turned out to be a spectacular success.

The Congress was officially closed by Professor Piotrowska, who delivered a lecture on the realities of contemporary Translation Pedagogy entitled 'Ghosts in the classroom' or 'self-reflecting semi-professionals'. How innovative are we in Translation Pedagogy? As CTER members agreed, CTER congresses will be held on a tri-annual basis, thus the 2nd CTER Congress will be held in March 2019.