

**Saturday, October 9, 2021 • 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

*Via Zoom*

<b>AGENDA</b>	
8:45 – 9:00 a.m.	<b>Registration – Zoom login information will be provided.</b>
9:00 – 9:10 a.m.	<i>Welcome</i> Christina Green, MATI President
9:10 – 10:00 a.m.	<i>Special Guest Presentation</i> Julie House
10:05 – 11:05 a.m.	<i>Press Start to Video Game Localization</i> Marina Ilari
11:05 – 11:15 a.m.	Break
11:15 – 12:15 p.m.	<i>Decrypt your Teams' Culture and Become THE Inclusive Leader</i> Ghada Shakir
12:15 – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch break
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	<i>Just a Taste: Introduction to Simultaneous Interpreting</i> Elena Langdon
2:30 – 2:40 p.m.	Break
2:40 – 3:40 p.m.	<i>Navigating Language Access in Education&gt; An Interpreter's Perspective</i> Mireya Pérez
3:40 – 3:50 p.m.	Raffle
3:50 – 4:00 p.m.	<i>Closing Remarks</i> Catherine Breckenridge, MATI Vice President

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## Special Guest Presentation

Interpretation in the United States Armed Forces adheres to a specific set of rules that are largely formulated based on a unique understanding of the definition of language interpretation. Generally defined as an intelligence-related or cryptologist specialist's function, interpretation carried out to support the U.S. Department of Defense's (DoD) operations abroad does not always achieve the ultimate goal of providing highly professional, accurate communication that is culturally acceptable by the stakeholders involved in the particular situation of communication.

This presentation will provide insight into my experience working first as an interpreter within the U.S. Navy intelligence community and then later, as a "civilian"-trained conference interpreter and translator. Specifically, I will discuss challenges that I have faced working as an interpreter in the military and security sectors of Africa and how that unique opportunity radically redirected my doctoral research path, ultimately resulting in a thesis focused on a detailed proposal that urges the DoD to re-think its current interpreter programs. The proposal's primary objective is to encourage development of interpretation practices that ensure sound communication for interlocutors of both the source and the target language, while ensuring that the interpreters themselves are not only protected under Status of Forces Agreements, but also held professionally and ethically accountable for their actions and service.

The war in Afghanistan has come to an end, and, with that, so has the DoD's reliance on thousands of local language professionals — most of whom were left behind to face unimaginable consequences. Within our profession, we are well aware that this is not the first time, nor will it be the last time, that local interpreters are forced to pay dearly for their service to an outside nation or opposition entity. During this session, I look forward to discussing the current military interpreter situation and gaining your insights on the matter in order to better understand how we, as interpreters, can advocate for our colleagues while also enhancing the level of service provided to our clients, regardless of the sector.

Dr. Julie House is a professional interpreter/translator, researcher and former U.S. Navy Intelligence Officer. She possesses extensive experience supporting conferences and training for national and international organizations including the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of State, NATO, the United Nations, and the African Union. Following a seven-year active duty period in the Navy, Dr. House served as a Navy Reservist for an additional 15 years during which she balanced education pursuits with a multitude of long-term active duty assignments in Africa and Europe. Most recently, she completed a six-year contract as the lead French interpreter/translator for U.S. Africa Command in Stuttgart, Germany.

Currently residing in Spain, Dr. House supports international conferences as a freelance interpreter and translator while pursuing continued research in collaboration with two Madrid-based think tanks, Fundación FAES and Instituto Elcano, as well as the Spanish Diplomatic School. Dr. House has a bachelor's degree in political science from the U.S. Naval Academy; a bachelor's degree in translation and interpretation from the University of Las Palmas (Spain); and a Master's in Professional French and a Ph.D. in French and Francophone Studies, both from the Autonomous University of Madrid. Her research is primarily focused on the cultural and sociolinguistic challenges of language interpretation in the defense and security sectors of Francophone West Africa.

Contact: [julie.house.presa@gmail.com](mailto:julie.house.presa@gmail.com)





## Press Start to Video Game Localization

Video games have blossomed into the most profitable entertainment industry in the world. The mobile technology boom in recent years has revolutionized the industry and allowed access to a new generation of gamers. This has led gaming companies to continue to focus on the localization of their games, and opened the door to new opportunities for talented translators. Translating video games can seem like a lot of fun, but this type of localization requires a broad skill set compared to other translation specialties. From in-game text, to user manuals, to marketing and promotional materials, the variety of texts for translation is just one of the many challenges that translators in this field must face. This presentation will outline the game localization process, the different type of content that needs translation, the profile of translators working in this specialization, the challenges translators can face, as well as opportunities to specialize in this area so you can press start to video game localization!

Marina Ilari, CT is an ATA certified English > Spanish translator with more than 15 years of experience in the translation profession. She has worked as a translator, editor, and quality assurance specialist for many companies around the world with a special focus on creative translations and video game localization.



She is the chief executive officer of Terra Translations and co-host of the podcast about translation, *En Pantuflas*.

Contact: [marina@terratranslations.com](mailto:marina@terratranslations.com).

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## Decrypt Your Teams' Cultures and Become THE Inclusive Leader

Navigating through cultural differences has always been challenging and became even more challenging with the absence of body language during the COVID-19 pandemic through the virtual meeting revolution. Only your emotional intelligence can help you navigate through these cultural differences and decrypt cultures far from your own, regardless of the setting. Emotional intelligence, analytical skills and other soft and person skills are emerging. Soft skills in the workplace are becoming increasingly important as organizations look to add additional value to their business. Soft skills allow organizations to effectively and efficiently use their technical skills and knowledge without being hampered by interpersonal and cultural differences.

Building an emotional intelligence foundation by understanding certain behaviors, personality traits, and sensing an individual's emotional energy will enable us to categorize behaviors and better understand what influences or shapes an individual's cultural background. Discover cross cultural effectiveness and communications in the workplace with an interactive session in team management that looks into the behaviors and culturally influenced aspects that impact business decisions.

In this session you will learn to:

- ▶ Improve effectiveness by decrypting cultural influences and/or cross border collaboration
- ▶ Shape the perspective on examining biases, power & identities, how to avoid veering into the realm of stereotypes
- ▶ Transform awareness, attitudes, and knowledge into competence, and to develop flexibility and adaptability in intercultural communication
- ▶ Identify shifts in your style to accommodate others' expectations, as well as shifts in your expectations to accommodate others' styles

Ghada Shakir is an Arabic into English translator, localizer, and interpreter. Born in Iraq and raised between Iraq and the United Kingdom, Ghada holds a Master's degree in Computer Science from Eastern Michigan University and a Bachelor's degree of Arts in Translation and Interpretation studies from Al-Mustansiriyah University in Baghdad, Iraq.



Early in life, Shakir's exposure to different languages and cultures drove her to pursue a career as a linguist. Currently, she works as part of the adjunct faculty in localization at the Middlebury Institute for International Studies, the Administrator of the Arabic Language Division at the American Translators Association (ATA) and the president and founder of Gingkos Inc. Localization, Translation and Culture, a virtual language service provider.

Shakir deals with the challenge of language barriers and cultural misunderstandings every day. Her ultimate goal is to ease communications and to better connect people. Shakir's Tedx Talk "Hobgoblins and Coca Cola: Beyond the Language Barriers" addresses language barriers in the era of globalization. Her presentation can be found on [Ted.com](https://www.ted.com).

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## Just a Taste: Introduction to Simultaneous Interpreting

This session will provide an introduction to simultaneous interpreting for established consecutive interpreters and/or translators. We will start with the basics of when and where to use this interpreting mode, and then look at some of the learnable skills behind it. We will practice two exercises that can be replicated on your own, and discuss onsite versus online interpreting.

Elena Langdon, M.A., CT, CoreCHI has been a Portuguese-English interpreter and translator since 2000. She is certified by the American Translators Association as a translator (Portuguese into English) and by the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters as a core-certified healthcare interpreter.



Elena teaches online courses for UMass Amherst and Glendon College, and is a founder and partner in Seven Sisters Learn, which specializes in rigorous workshops and courses for interpreters who take it personally. As a practitioner, she provides high-level online interpreting services through String & Can Multilingual Online.

Elena was chairperson of the National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters and a director of the American Translators Association. *Not Quite Magic*, a podcast about interpreters, was one of her favorite pandemic projects.

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## Navigating Language Access in Education

### *An Interpreter's perspective*

Professional interpreters and translators in K-12 education systems face a dual challenge; lack of specialized training and lack of internal systems to support the role and their work. Even though educational institutions are governed by federal, state and local laws, all of which address the requirement for language access, interpreters and/or translators often work in a vacuum and have a hard time being seen as a professional within their organization. Branding your role as a professional interpreter/translator within your school district is possible, the key is creating systems and procedures that help tell your story.

After this course you will:

- ▶ Understand how to brand the role of the interpreter/translator in your school district
- ▶ Learn 3 actionable steps to begin creating internal T&I systems of support to create meaningful and appropriate language access.

Mireya Pérez has been a professional interpreter for more than 10 years. After obtaining her certification from NBCMI, she began her interpreting career as a certified medical interpreter.



Currently, Pérez works as a K–12 school district interpreter/translator in California, where she has led efforts in the development of districtwide systems and procedures to help brand the role of the interpreter and translator in education.

Pérez holds a Master's of Science in Communications and is the creator and host of the *Brand the Interpreter* podcast, a communications platform dedicated to assisting language professionals tell their stories.