



## ***Translation in the times of crisis: Technology and human factors***

**Olga Witczak & Olha Lehka-Paul**

Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan

Although the connection between a crisis setting and translation might seem obvious, until recently it has been scarce in research. According to O'Brien (2022: 89f) as well as Cadwell et al. (2019: 2), studies on communication in crises (e.g., disease outbreaks, mass migrations, military conflicts, natural disasters, etc.) have overlooked written translation, despite interpreting being included more often (in crisis and crisis-adjacent settings, such as health, peacekeeping, police and military contexts, among others). Fortunately, as reported by Maria Stasimioti in Slator (2022): "a considerable body of research investigating translation as a crisis communication tool is currently emerging" (Stasimioti 2022), thus contributing to the constantly-evolving field of crisis translation (O'Brien 2016).

Technology—from the specialised kind like translation memory tools and terminology management software through much more general-purpose solutions like MT in social media or bilingual dictionaries or even teleworking tools like Facebook or Zoom—has been inseparable from the translation process for decades now. In this panel, we would like to focus on technology as well as human factors in written translation in the times of crisis, as seen from two perspectives: that of the practice of crisis translation and translation studies research affected by various crises.

The aim of this thematic session is to contribute to the growing body of research exploring the impact of technology on translation practices and research in the time of crisis. The session will be convened by Dr. Olga Witczak and Dr. Olha Lehka-Paul (Faculty of English, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań). We welcome submissions on empirical research, methodological papers, and research proposals. Studies in progress with preliminary findings are also welcome.

Please submit papers on the following topics:

- Translation memory, terminology management, machine translation, and speech technologies in crisis situations;
- Technological and human aspects of crowdsourcing and volunteer translation in crisis settings;
- Accessibility and localisation in crisis situations;
- Human-computer interaction and human-information interaction in crisis translation;
- Ethical and psychological aspects of technology in crisis translation;
- Methodological challenges in translation studies in the times of crisis (e.g., data collection challenges, human participant involvement, online studies, among others).