CEATL's Click List

Links to the world of translation

An analysis of the Gorman/Rijneveld debate

"The default invisibility of translation makes the intensity, the reach, and the staying power of the debate around the choice of Marieke Lucas Rijneveld as Dutch translator of Amanda Gorman's The Hill We Climb all the more noteworthy. Translation – and more specifically, the translator – is for once finding itself shoved into the spotlight, becoming a topic of controversy in an unprecedented slew of newspaper opinion pieces and tweet-skirmishes, both in the Netherlands and abroad," says Haidee Kotze, professor of Translation Studies at Utrecht University (The Netherlands). In her detailed article she analyses the positions taken, the arguments used, and comes to the conclusion that the debate "is not about translation, primarily – or perhaps even at all". Instead, she considers it "nothing but a flashpoint for a much more fundamental contestation, a deeper cultural battle." Kotze's analysis can be read here.

PEN Report on repression of cultural workers in Belarus

PEN is an example of the vital role that international organisations have in informing the world of threats to the freedom of expression of people all over the world. In January of this year, Belarusian PEN published an 18 page monitoring report outlining a catalogue of repressive acts against cultural workers – arrests, beatings, forced resignations and dismissals. The unprecedented scale of repression against those in Belarus who try to assert their right to peaceful assembly, protest and expression is cause for deep alarm and has been widely criticised by numerous European states, the European Union and the United Nations.

Read, download and share the report With No Right to Culture. Belarus 2020 here.





Bologna Children's Book Fair

At Bolgona Children's Book Fair, which took place online from June 14 to 17, CEATL and FIT hosted the international panel titled 'Down the rabbit hole: working (and surviving) as a translator of children's literature'. The aim of the panel was to enhance the focus on the people who translate this extremely formative literature, to explore the reasons for their lower status inside the world of literary translation and ultimately to try to change this.

On June 16, the Annual Literary Translation Forum took place, featuring a panel discussion on the topic 'Who Gets to Translate? Diversity & Inclusion in Literary Translation' and an Italian/English Translation Slam.

Alongside the Book Fair, several other articles, events and resources, all of interest to translators of different genres, were available online — including an interview with Daniela Almansi who talks about her experiences with translating nonsense, more specifically the famous poem "The Hunting of the Snark" by Lewis Carroll.

A workshop in March on 'Machine translation and creativity' led to a 'guided tour' by translator Simona Mambrini around this interesting and fascinating topic, with special focus on the translation of children's literature. A recording of the workshop, in which CEATL's general secretary Lara Hölbling Matković was a part, is available on demand here. And then, of course, you can still find last year's Covid-19 initiative, 'Is there something in the air?' The poem "Che cos'è in aria vola?" by the well-known Italian author Roberto Piumini has been translated

into more than thirty languages. The online event was made possible by the two Italian translators' associations, Strade and AITI and many translators across Europe donating their time and creativity to the project.

The practical problem of finding a qualified translator for a children's book may be solved by using the World Directory of Children's Book Translators, a resource developed and launched through an initiative between the Book Fair and UNESCO's Index Translationum. The directory lists professional translators specializing in children's literature, currently representing 55 countries. Anyone who has translated at least two books may register – unless your language is "minority or seldom-translated", in which case the requirement is one book.



