From the editors

This tenth issue of *Counterpoint* marks a transition in more ways than one – both internally and in terms of content. To address the latter first: as anyone with a computer and interest in the world around them will have noticed, AI – or artificial intelligence – has been on everyone's lips and mind a lot recently, in particular within the field of literary translation. So, to mark our anniversary we decided to make another issue on this ever-evolving topic. *Counterpoint* issue No. 4 dealt with 'machine translation', not least whether the then prominent AI tools could (or could not) be used in literary translation. Although the issue was only published in 2020, much has happened since then and the threat – or opportunity, however you want to see it – of AI is a completely different one today.

As editors of *Counterpoint*, we believe understanding is the first and best way to dispel fears and myths, and since there are a lot of these, we have asked some of the experts within this field to share their knowledge and analyses of the current landscape. We hear from the vice chair of the Council of Europe's Committee on Artificial Intelligence Gregor Strojin, who takes us through the legal implications of generative AI in relation to copyright. Assistant Professor of

Literary Translation at the University of Vienna Waltraud Kolb tells us of the latest developments in the 'unlikely frontier' between literary translation studies and computational linguistics, while PhD student at the University of Liège Damien Hansen explains the terminology of the field, asking if it might be possible to adapt the technology to the needs of literary translators and literature and arguing that we as translators have to make sure there is full transparency in the implementation of this technology.

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In our previous special issue, we asked translators to share their thoughts and experiences on the topic. This time, we wanted to hear from the other halves of the equation, namely the writers being translated: American YA fantasy writer

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Brandon Mull, French novelist and National Book Award finalist David Diop and Romanian poet and prose writer (and literary translator) Lavinia Branişte. Since the use of AI is such a complex and quite politicised area, we appreciate the courage it has taken them to voice their views on this topic and for their solidarity with us literary translators. Unless we work together for a more regulated and transparent use of these new technologies, we are sure to lose both rights, work and, in the end, human literary voices communicating with other humans.

Closer to home, we hear from CEATL's president Francesca Novajra on what the European network of translators can and should be doing vis-à-vis AI, while CEATL board member Miquel Cabal Guarro discusses how AI will affect literary translation from and into minoritised languages. And lastly, we get a view from the north, when CEATL's two Icelandic member organisations tell us of their history and their work. A good bet is that AI will still be high on the list of topics at CEATL's AGM in Reykjavik next year.

On a more internal note, the current *Counterpoint* editorial team (including new addition Kaisa Ranta from Finland) is stepping down after five happy years at the helm. We hope you have enjoyed reading the ten issues as much as we have working on them.

Likewise we hope this special issue of *Counterpoint* No. 10 will be both informative and enlightening. As always, any comments, feedback or ideas are very welcome.

Juliane Wammen *is an award-winning literary translator from English, Norwegian and Swedish into Danish.*

Photo: Tim Flohr Sørensen

Anne Larchet *is a freelance interpreter and translator from Spanish to English.*

Photo: Martin de Haan

Kaisa Ranta *is a literary translator from English and German into Finnish.*

Photo: Private archive

Hanneke van der Heijden *is a literary translator and interpreter from Turkish into Dutch, and writes about literature from Turkey.*

Photo: Private archive

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