

Special Issue

The Future of Translation in Higher Education

Guest Editor:
Mairi McLaughlin

GENERAL EDITOR'S PREFACE

It is my very special pleasure to introduce to you Prof. Mairi McLaughlin, our guest editor for this special issue on *The Future of Translation in Higher Education*. Mairi McLaughlin is Professor in the Department of French at UC Berkeley and an Affiliated Member of the Departments of Linguistics and Italian Studies. Her interest in translation as a linguistic and sociolinguistic phenomenon grew from her work on the language of the media, particularly the role that it plays in language variation and change, and the linguistic and textual effects of news translation. Her vast knowledge of French and Romance linguistics and literature and her deep understanding of the place of translation in higher education make her particularly suited to guest edit this special issue. She has published extensively on news translation, the translator's voice and the impact of translation on linguistic variation and change. She has recently, with Justin Davidson, researched a translator's style as a sociolinguistic variable that should interest foreign language teachers keen on teaching the authentic use of language and its sociolinguistic variants. Having taught herself undergraduate and graduate courses on translation theory, methods and practice at UC Berkeley, she understands well the challenges associated with integrating translation into the pedagogy of foreign languages.

Ever since Mairi McLaughlin gave a talk at the Berkeley Language Center in March 2012 on the place of translation in higher education, we have been talking about the possibility of having an issue of the *L2 Journal* dedicated to this exciting topic. The project has finally come to fruition. In this special issue, Prof. McLaughlin brings together five scholars who explore how language teachers can implement in their classroom the current enthusiasm for translation among translation scholars and applied linguists, and what impact a systematic focus on translation could mean for the learning and teaching of foreign languages at the college level. Their articles and commentaries offer stimulating food for thought on this timely topic.

I take the opportunity of this general editor's preface to mention the changes that have taken place in the composition of the *L2 Journal's* Executive Board. Mark Kaiser has retired from UC Berkeley and we wish to thank him for having managed the *L2 Journal* at a particularly difficult time during this pandemic. We welcome our new Managing Editor Carlee Arnett, Professor of German and Director of the Language Center at UC Davis (clarnett@ucdavis.edu). Prof. Arnett has extensive experience as a journal editor. She served six years as the editor and co-editor of the professional journal *Die Unterrichtspraxis*, and she has wide ranging experience coordinating teachers of German and Russian, and supervising teachers of Hindi, Arabic and Hebrew at UC Davis. We look forward to having her on our Executive Board for many years to come.

Replacing Mark Kaiser as the Executive Director of the Berkeley Language Center (BLC) is Dr. Kimberly Vinall, an applied linguist and language education specialist. As Executive Director of the BLC, she is an ex officio member of the *L2 Journal's* Executive Board. Dr. Vinall knows the

journal well — she was its Managing Editor from 2013 to 2015, and has been a frequent contributor and reviewer over the years.

Finally, we wish to thank Victoria Williams, our trusty copyeditor and classroom services manager at the BLC, for agreeing to continue her excellent work as the copyeditor.

Claire Kramsch
Editor-in-Chief, *L2 Journal*
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