MC CONFLUENCE Translation Conference in the Capital Area

Roots and Routes: Possibilities in the Art and Science of Translation

Saturday, March 25, 2023 Montgomery College Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus

9:30 am - 10:30 am - SESSION 2 - Room HC227

The Activist Translator: How Visible and Influential Can a Translator Be? Presenter: Jennifer Case

Muth: Translators are invisible and 100% impartial. Fact: Translators are often overlooked, and each and every one of us have biases; whether we are aware of these biases and attempt to mitigate them make the difference. In the realm of activism (and all the disciplines that intertwine with it), translators help shape the narrative of any given issue, incident,

or investigation; and this brings the traditional view of a translator's invisibility and impartiality into guestion. Should translators maintain their invisibility (a broader concept beyond anonymity)? Is impartiality possible in an activism context? This presentation will examine the principles of invisibility, impartiality, and agency in relation to translators' roles in activism.

Presenter Biographical information

Jennifer Case is a freelance Arabic to English translator based in Maruland and is the programming chair for the National Capital Area Translators Association, an ATA chapter. Living (briefly) in Jordan and Palestine has influenced her translation work to take a more activist approach. She specializes in human rights, social sciences, immigration, and political reform; and she is very familiar with the issues of bias and agency in translation.









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