#### MTSummit 2025



# Machine Translation Summit XX Volume 2

#### Edited by:

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#### Foreword from the General Chair

As president of the International Association for Machine Translation (IAMT) and General Chair of the 20th Machine Translation Summit, it is my utmost pleasure to write these opening words. Be most welcome to our MT Summit 2025!

The European Association for Machine Translation (EAMT) Executive Committee (EC) has been very busy. Mikel Forcada (treasurer) and Sara Szoc (secretary) have been tirelessly supporting all initiatives. Carolina Scarton and Sara Szoc took great care of our bursaries. Patrick Cadwell, André Martins, and Manuel Lardelli were our chairs for the Research Projects. Manuel Lardelli was also our policies chair, revisiting all our policies and contributing to inclusivity strategies. Our very own Mary Nurminen, chair of the bid proposals for our next events, has been busy selecting our next venue! EAMT 2026 venue will be disclosed in our closing ceremony in Geneva!

One of our core initiatives, the best thesis award – Rachel Badwen and Barry Haddow, chairs of the Best Thesis Award, had a very difficult time selecting a candidate, since the submissions were of very high quality. Our congratulations to Ricardo Rei's thesis "Robust, Interpretable and Efficient MT Evaluation with Fine-tuned Metrics" (Unbabel, INESC-ID, Instituto Superior Técnico, Portugal), supervised by Maria Luísa Torres Ribeiro Marques da Silva Coheur and Alon Lavie. We would also like to congratulate for the highly commended thesis of Sara Papi (University of Trento & Fondazione Bruno Kessler), entitled "Direct Speech Translation in Constrained Contexts: the Simultaneous and Subtitling Scenarios" and supervised by Marco Turchi and Matteo Negri.

EAMT, as full sponsor of the MT Marathon, would also like to thank the Institute of Formal and Applied Linguistics (ÚFAL), Charles University for organizing the 17th MT Marathon. The event included MT lectures and labs, covering the basics and tutorials; keynote talks from experienced researchers and practitioners; presentations of research and open source tools related to MT; and hacking projects to advance tools or research in one week or start new collaborations. A special thank you to Jindřich Helcl his commitment and passion for this event!

MT Summit 2025 will be a moment to celebrate our IAMT Award of Honour! We celebrate Professor Mikel Forcada, unanimously supported by all sister organizations (EAMT, AAMT, and AMTA), in recognition of his long-standing distinguished contribution to the EAMT and IAMT communities and for his impactful research on Machine Translation. Thank you for being an inspiration to us all!

Geneva, Switzerland, MT Summit 2025! Our conference will have a three-day, four-track programme put together by our chairs: Catarina Farinha and Marco Gaido (research: technical track chairs); Dorothy Kenny and Joke Adaems (research: translators & users track chairs); Samuel Läubli and Martin Volk (implementations & case studies track chairs); Miguel Esplà and Vincent Vandeghinste (products & projects track chairs) and François Yvon and Sheila Castilho (workshop and tutorial chairs). Our filters of quality and alignment! We really appreciate your work. We will continue with our tradition and also have a two-day workshops and tutorials event.

Our gratitude to all our keynotes speakers. Sarah Ebling, Full Professor of Language, Technology and Accessibility at the University of Zurich. Joss Moorkens, Associate Professor at the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies in Dublin City University (DCU). Eva Vanmassenhove, Assistant professor in the Department of Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence at Tilburg University (TiU). Our outstanding keynote speakers will demonstrate their extensive and global impactful work in translation studies and translation technologies, in a multidisciplinary motto which is the core of our community.

<sup>1</sup>https://eamt.org/iamt-award-of-honour/

MT Summit 2025 is the result of a very aligned, sharp, engaged, and hard working local organising team! What a diligent team! Our local co-chairs, Pierrette Bouillon, Johanna Gerlach, Sabrina Girletti and Lise Volkart (all from the University of Geneva, Switzerland) have put a lot of work in giving us a Geneva unforgettable event. To Sevita Caseres, Bastien David, Céline De Graaf, Julie Humbert-Droz, Rebeka Mali, Lucía Morado, Jonathan Mutal, Lucía Ormaechea, Aurélie Picton, Donatella Pulitano, Silvia Rodríguez, Raphael Rubino, Valentin Scourneau, Marianne Starlander, Irene Strasly, Nikolaos Tsourakis, Florine Voisard (all from the University of Geneva, Switzerland) and Rico Sennrich (University of Zurich, Switzerland), our deepest appreciation.

EAMT has been supported by generous sponsors in its initiatives along the years.<sup>2</sup> This year is no exception in a summit year! In fact, it is a very exceptional year in terms of sponsoring activities. Our gratitude to our Platinum sponsors who will also be giving a research oral presentation, BIG Language Solution, STAR, WIPO. Our Gold sponsor Systran by ChapsVision. Our Silver sponsors: Translated, Reverso, and Unbabel. To our Bronze sponsors: AppTek, CrossLang, TransPerfect, and Zoo Digital. To all our Supporter sponsors: Apertium, iguanodon.ai, prompsit, Springer Nature (our Supporter sponsor for the Best Paper award) and Supertext. Finally, to our Media sponsors, MultiLingual and Slator. Your support is vital in our efforts to give back to our community through grants and other initiatives.

A note still to all our IAMT members and our participants! Without you no effort would make sense! Let us take this opportunity to create scientific collaboration and give constructive feedback. To fully enjoy the conference, please check our Code of Conduct.<sup>3</sup> I'm looking forward to seeing you all and celebrating our community gathering!

Our sister organizations have been renewed with new board of Directors. The best wishes to AMTA's new board, represented by the President, Jay Marciano, and to the AAMT's Directors, Hisahiro Adachi, SunFlare Co., Ltd. (President of AAMT) and Masao Utiyama, National Institute of Information and Communications Technology, Japan (Vice President of AAMT). MT Summit 2027 will be held by AMTA! More soon!

It is our organisation's greatest wish to continue giving back to our community and to drive and be driven by our community's energy and enthusiasm. Reach out to us if you have new ideas or suggestions you would like to implement. We will try hard to accomplish it with you. Learn more about us.

Helena Moniz

President of the IAMT General Chair of MT Summit 2025 University of Lisbon, Portugal

<sup>2</sup>https://mtsummit2025.unige.ch/sponsors.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>https://mtsummit2025.unige.ch/about.html#codeOfConduct

#### **Message from the Local Organising Committee**

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting (FTI) for this 20th edition of the MT Summit. We are particularly proud that for the first time in its history, the Summit is being hosted by a translation faculty, highlighting the importance of the human factor in today's technology. This is also a sign that technology has become an imperative in professional translation. Our faculty has long embraced this evolution, as illustrated by its translation technology department, first established back in the 1970s (first under the name of ISSCO, and then TIM). It was long spearheaded by Prof Maghi King, who, as some of you may recall, received the prestigious IAMT Award of Honour in 2005.

Our department has always been committed to building bridges between research in MT and professional translators. The conference taking place here today is further proof that this bridge is now well established and solid! The structure of the conference itself also reflects this dual focus, with two dedicated research tracks, one Technical, and the other for Translators and Users.

This year also brings an important new initiative: authors of papers involving computational experiments are encouraged to include sustainability reports. Most authors engaged with the initiative, reflecting the willingness of our community to embrace more transparent and thoughtful research practices.

We hope you will enjoy the rich and carefully curated program put together by our dedicated track chairs and made possible by the thorough work of our reviewers. We are also deeply grateful to our keynote speakers, as well as the organizers of the workshops and tutorials, whose contributions are crucial to the success of this conference.

We also want to thank our sponsors, more generous than ever before! Their presence is a strong indicator of the fruitful and trustworthy collaboration that exists between academia and industry in our field.

When we signed up to organise this conference, we had no idea of the summit that we would have to climb, nor how much determination, patience and endurance it would require of us. But thanks to our experience of the mountains, a dedicated team, and the valuable support of EAMT Executive Committee and previous organisers, we reached the (MT) Summit (almost) without problems. As in every climb, it is the strength of the team that gets you to the top!

We wish you an excellent MT Summit!

On behalf of the MT Summit 2025 Organising Committee: Pierrette Bouillon Johanna Gerlach Sabrina Girletti Lise Volkart

Department of Translation Technology (TIM) Faculty of Translation and Interpreting University of Geneva, Switzerland

#### **Preface by the Programme Chairs**

The **Research Technical track** received 57 submissions, out of which 28 were accepted, for an acceptance rate of 49%. 14 papers will be presented orally and the other 14 will be part of two poster sessions. The topics covered by the submitted papers include named entity aware translation, context-aware machine translation, domain-specific translation, multilingual and low-resource translation, and translation evaluation. We express our most heartfelt thanks to the 83 reviewers, who made this track possible, with a particular gratitude for the emergency reviewers who promptly accomplished their duties, enabling us to respect the timeline for author notification.

Catarina Farinha (Unbabel) Marco Gaido (Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Italy)

The **Translators and Users track** initially received 28 submissions, of which 21 could be considered for this track, the other 7 covered more technical aspects of machine translation and were therefore considered for the Technical track instead. Of these 21, 19 were accepted (an acceptance rate of 90%, showing the overall high quality of submission to the track). As track chairs, we noticed a few trends in these accepted papers, and we tried to group the submissions in sessions accordingly. The large language model trend, established in earlier EAMT conferences, clearly continues. Large language models are used for literary translation (post-editing) and emergency response text translation, and there is a clear interest in how these technologies are currently being used by students as well as perceived by professionals. From the text types that are being studied, it is obvious that 'literary translation' is most strongly represented in this track, with 5 submissions covering the topic. This is particularly striking, given that this MT Summit is also hosting a dedicated workshop on Creative-text Translation and Technology. The intersection of creativity, literature and automatic translation has clearly arrived as a field of inquiry. We thank all PC members for their time and dedication in delivering insightful feedback, ensuring the quality of the submissions to this track. Special thanks to the emergency reviewers who helped us avoid any delays. You all made this conference possible.

Joke Daems (Ghent University, Belgium) Dorothy Kenny (Dublin City University, Ireland)

The **Implementation and Case Studies track** received 12 submissions out of which 9 were accepted for presentation at the MT summit (6 talks and 3 posters). The papers cover a broad range of topics, e.g. speech translation, LLM-based translation, low-resource settings, productivity evaluation and translator satisfaction. We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to our reviewers from academia and industry for their time and effort in commenting and grading the submissions.

Samuel Läubli (Textshuttle/Supertext, Switzerland) Martin Volk (University of Zurich, Switzerland)

The **Products and Projects track** received 22 submissions, of which 20 have been accepted for a short, two-page description and a poster presentation at the conference. Our selection highlights a diverse range of products and projects created by our community, covering research projects and cutting-edge services and innovations from distinguished industry and research leaders. Expect a lively session filled with poster boasters and engaging poster presentations. We wish to thank the 26 members of the program committee for this track for their timely and thorough reviews.

Miquel Esplà-Gomis (University of Alicante, Spain) Vincent Vandeghinste (KU Leuven, Belgium)

The Workshop and Tutorials received seven workshop proposals, five of which were finally selected: four are reiterations of workshops that have already been collocated with MT conferences in the past: these are the "2nd Workshop on Creative-text Translation and Technology" (CTT 2025), the 3rd "International Workshop on Gender-Inclusive Translation Technologies" (GITT 2025), the 3rd "International Workshop on Automatic Translation for Signed and Spoken Languages" (AT4SSL), and the 11th "Workshop on Patent and Scientific Literature Translation" (PSLT 2025). We are also happy to see the start of a hopefully equally successful new series, with the 1st "Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Easy and Plain Language in Institutional Contexts" (AI & EL/PL). With the exception of PSLT, they will all run for a full day, on the 23rd or on the 24th of June. Five half-day tutorials were also submitted, and three will be offered to the participants: "Understanding Large Language Model-Generated Translations", "Leveraging Examples in Machine Translation", and "Best practices for data quality in human annotation of translation datasets". Our hope is that the choice between such diverse and exciting proposals will be a difficult one, and that these two pre-conference days will be as enjoyable and rewarding as possible, sparking new ideas, collaborations, and conversations in Geneva and beyond.

Sheila Castilho (Dublin City University, Ireland) François Yvon (Sorbonne University, France)

#### EAMT 2024 Best Thesis Award (Anthony C. Clarke Award)

Six PhD theses defended in 2024 were received as candidates for the 2024 year edition of the EAMT Best Thesis Award, all of which were eligible. Eight external reviewers were recruited to examine and score the theses alongside five EAMT executive committee members. Each thesis was evaluated according to predefined criteria: how challenging the topic was, how relevant the results were to the MT field and the strength of its impact in terms of scientific publications. As in previous years, 2024 was another strong year for PhD theses in machine translation.

All PhD theses were of good quality, focused on interesting topics and were all highly appreciated by reviewers. A panel of two EAMT Executive Committee members (Barry Haddow and Rachel Bawden) was assembled to process the reviews and select a winner that was later ratified by the EAMT executive committee.

We are pleased to announce that the winner of the 2024 edition of the EAMT Best Thesis Award is Ricardo Rei's thesis "Robust, Interpretable and Efficient MT Evaluation with Fine-tuned Metrics" (Unbabel, INESC-ID, Instituto Superior Técnico, Portugal), supervised by Maria Luísa Torres Ribeiro Marques da Silva Coheur and Alon Lavie.

In addition, the committee judged that the thesis of **Sara Papi** (University of Trento & Fondazione Bruno Kessler) entitled "Direct Speech Translation in Constrained Contexts: the Simultaneous and Subtitling Scenarios" and supervised by Marco Turchi and Matteo Negri was "highly commended".

The awardee will receive a prize of €500, together with an inscribed certificate. In addition, Dr. Rei will present a summary of their thesis at the 20th Machine Translation Summit in Geneva, Switzerland, receive complimentary membership to the EAMT in 2026 and will receive a travel bursary of €200.

Chairs of the EAMT Best Thesis Award 2024 Rachel Bawden, Inria, Paris, France Barry Haddow, University of Edinburgh, UK

#### **Organising Committee**

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#### Track Chair: Implementations and Case Studies

Samuel Läubli, Textshuttle/Supertext, Switzerland Martin Volk, University of Zurich, Switzerland

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#### **Workshops and Tutorials Chair**

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María Del Mar Sánchez Ramos Universidad de Alcala

Susana Valdez Leiden University Centre for Linguistics

Kirti Vashee Translated Srl

Mihaela Vela Universität des Saarlandes Callum Walker University of Leeds

#### Track: Implementations and Case Studies

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Tim Graf Supertext

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Carlos Teixeira Universitat Rovira i Virgili Jannis Vamvas University of Zurich Masaru Yamada Rikkyo University

Maike Züfle Karlsruher Institut für Technologie

#### **Track: Products and Projects**

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Eleftherios Avramidis German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI)

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Bram Vanroy Instituut voor de Nederlandse Taal

Rik van Noord University of Groningen

### **Keynote Talk Sign Language Machine Translation**

#### Sarah Ebling

University of Zurich (UZH)

**Abstract:** In this talk, I will highlight the challenges of automatic translation between spoken languages and sign languages, touching on the topics of representation, data, and ethics. Additionally, I will introduce preprocessing tasks and discuss their state of the art. I will present research conducted in our group in the different areas.

**Bio:** Sarah Ebling is Full Professor of Language, Technology and Accessibility at the University of Zurich. Based in the field of computational linguistics, her research focuses on language-based assistive technologies in the context of persons with disabilities. Specifically, Sarah Ebling's research takes place in the context of deafness and hearing impairment, blindness and visual impairment, cognitive impairment, and language disorders. She is conducting research on sign language technologies, automatic text simplification, technologies for the audio description process, and computer-aided language sample analysis. Sarah Ebling is involved in international and national projects and is the PI of a large-scale Swiss innovation project entitled Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies" (2022-2026;

https://www.iict.uzh.ch/).

# Keynote Talk Losing Our Tail – Again: Unnatural Selection and Translation Technologies

**Eva Vanmassenhove** Tilburg University (TiU)

Abstract: Language is humanity's primary tool to preserve and transmit knowledge, evolving alongside and with cultural technologies. Today, multilingual large language models (LLMs) represent the latest leap. Emerging evidence, however, suggests that LLMs might subtly (or not so subtly) distort language over time, amplifying frequent patterns while eroding linguistic richness, a phenomenon linked to *model collapse* which had already been observed in Neural Machine Translation (NMT) systems even before it was formally named. Unlike the visible artefacts that have already been observed in the AI-generated images created by computer vision models, linguistic shifts, such as the loss of the long tails of language, risk going unnoticed. Yet, they mayhave profound implications for language, translation, diversity, and the integrity of communication across different languages. This keynote will explore these ideas and connect them to specific translation issues, asking: What is (or will be) at stake when our world of words becomes increasingly shaped by multilingual LLMs.

**Bio:** Eva Vanmassenhove is a researcher specializing in Machine Translation and Language Technology, with a strong focus on tackling gender and algorithmic biases in translation systems. She earned her PhD from Dublin City University and now serves as an assistant professor in the Department of Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence at Tilburg University (TiU). At TiU, she contributes to the Computation and Psycholinguistics Research unit and the Inclusive and Sustainable Machine Translation Research Line. Her work aims to enhance machine translation by addressing biases, especially in gender representation, while preserving linguistic richness.

## **Example 19** Keynote Talk **Ethics and MT Evaluation: An Exploded View**

#### Joss Moorkens

Dublin City University (DCU)

**Abstract:** This talk reflects on ethical issues with MT using LLMs, looking particularly at a recent evaluation study in the medical domain. This study, and the potential for its findings to be used as a basis for action, bring abstract ethical issues into focus. More broadly, the heightened attention and potential for impact of MT and LLM research brings an added sense of responsibility for researchers, although this might be balanced with opportunities to contribute to the common good.

**Bio:** Joss Moorkens is an Associate Professor at the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies in Dublin City University (DCU), Science Lead at the ADAPT Centre, and member of DCU's Institute of Ethics and Centre for Translation and Textual Studies. He has published over 60 articles and papers on the topics of translation technology interaction and evaluation, translator precarity, and translation ethics. He is General Co-Editor of the journal Translation Spaces with Prof. Dorothy Kenny, co-editor of a number of books and journal special issues, and co-author of the textbooks Translation Tools and Technologies (Routledge 2023) and Automating Translation (Routledge 2024). He sits on the board of the European Masters in Translation Network.

#### **Tutorial**

### Understanding Large Language Model-Generated Translations: How Can They Adapt to Different Translation Specifications and Pass the Translation Turing Test?

Longhui Zou<sup>1</sup>, Michael Carl<sup>2</sup>, Alan Melby<sup>3</sup>, Brandon Torruella<sup>4</sup>, Masaru Yamada<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Montana, <sup>2</sup>Kent State University - CRITT, <sup>3</sup>International Federation of Translators,

<sup>4</sup>Brigham Young University, <sup>5</sup>Rikkyo University

**Abstract:** This tutorial explores the practical application of the Translation Turing Test (TTT) within today's evolving generative AI landscape, addressing the growing need for human-centered approaches to translation project management and machine translation evaluation. While substantial research has examined large language models (LLMs)' translation quality, little attention has been paid to their potential in managing the complex human interactions that characterize real-world translation project negotiations.

The TTT is a translation-specific adaptation of the classic Turing Test, evaluating whether a machine-managed translation project can successfully imitate a professional human project manager. In the TTT, a requester interacts with both human and computer systems to negotiate translation specifications and conduct a complete translation project. The machine passes if the requester cannot distinguish between the two managers more than 30% of the time.

This half-day tutorial guides participants through current language industry practices and the three major TTT components: specification negotiation, target text quality assessment, and complaint negotiation. By comparing three translation project cycles (managed by a human professional, a trained amateur, and a generative AI agent), we evaluate whether LLM-powered agents can handle complex coordination tasks characteristic of language service providers.

The program includes four sessions: introduction to the TTT, demonstration of requester-provider negotiations, translation quality evaluation including MQM customization and syntactic complexity analysis, and complaint negotiations. Participants gain both theoretical understanding and practical experience assessing the feasibility of integrating LLMs into real-world translation projects that support or enhance human project managers' roles.

#### **Tutorial**

# Leveraging Examples in Machine Translation: A Guide to Retrieval and Integration Strategies

Maxime Bouthors<sup>1</sup>, Josep Maria Crego<sup>2</sup>
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**Abstract:** Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) systems are growing popular in the era of Large Language Models (LLM). Nonetheless, retrieval augmentation has a long time story tied to Machine Translation (MT). This tutorial aims to put in perspective the various techniques used to (1) retrieve relevant examples for databases; (2) integrate them into MT models. We will uncover how the selection of examples can be performed (fuzzy matching, cross-lingual retrieval), some of the model architectures (edit-based models, augmented encoder-decoder generation models, LLMs), as well as how the augmentation affects the output. The target audience are academics and industry professionals wishing to incorporate examples to improve their translation quality.

#### **Tutorial**

## **Best Practices for Data Quality in Human Annotation of Translation Datasets**

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**Abstract:** High-quality human annotations are essential for developing and evaluating machine learning (ML) models. However, annotation is a complex task, and creating reliable annotation datasets requires addressing multiple challenges. This tutorial provides comprehensive guidance on best practices for managing data quality in human annotation of translation datasets using the Multidimensional Quality Metrics (MQM) framework. Drawing from both academic research and industry experience, we cover the complete annotation lifecycle: from initial setup and annotator management to quality evaluation and improvement strategies. Through theoretical foundations and a practical demonstration, participants will learn concrete guidelines they can apply to create more reliable and consistent annotation datasets.

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