

NOMINATIONS FOR TA COMMITTEE 2021

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Gwen Clayton

I joined the Society of Authors in April 2021 and have recently been looking for ways in which to become more involved. I have long been a member of other translators' organisations and I would be delighted to share this experience.

I am an established translator, working from Japanese and German into English. I came to translation from a legal background, but since 2012 I have extended my practice to include areas such as beer and wine, fine art and ecology. During lockdown, I decided to realise a childhood dream and move into literary translation, and I have spent much of 2021 taking part in mentoring schemes, literary workshops and translation competitions.

Within the translation community I belong to both the Institute of Translators and Interpreters and the Chartered Institute of Linguists. I was CPD officer for the Japanese Translators' Network of the ITI for several years and have organised the J-Net Book Group since January 2021. I also served as auditor for the Japan Association of Translators. With GerNet, the ITI German language network, I am currently one of the Events Officers. I enjoy finding shared areas of interest with other translators and working with colleagues to create new opportunities for the translation community.

Since joining the SoA, I have enjoyed attending the TA@Home events. I am keen to meet other TA members and take a more active part in this interesting organisation.

Rosie Hedger

I have been working as a literary translator from Norwegian into English since 2009, and I would like to put my name forward to join the TA Committee. I have good contacts among translators from the Nordic languages and feel that a place on the committee would allow me to represent those colleagues well, but I am also keen to expand my network to encompass translators from other languages and to become more of an active member of the translation community as a whole. I am interested in the ways in which translators can ensure fair working conditions for themselves and their peers, but I am also very keen to look at ways to ensure accessibility around professional events - many translators live outside of the UK, while others may be unable to attend events in-person for a range of reasons, including disability, cost, distance or family commitments. I have been aware of the very successful TA campaign to *#Namethetranslator* and have heard about some of the work being done by the committee's three working groups in recent years, and I would relish the opportunity to become involved with this aspect of the committee's work, furthering my own knowledge and experience whilst hopefully also helping to strengthen a sense of community between TA members.

Margaret Morrison

I originally trained as a translator with a language BA and MA, followed by the Diploma in Translation and an MSc in information science, beginning my career translating at the UK Food and Drink Federation. I subsequently moved into business research and then ran my own company. In 2018 work and family changes meant I was able to return to translating full time and I have been working freelance on commercial translation and pursuing the - slow - process of Emerging as a literary translator.

I am a member of the TA and having come back to translating without a company or academic affiliation I have found it very useful to have this organisation to provide a context and support.

I've used the TA contract review service to get advice on a proposed contract and found it incredibly speedy and really invaluable. I've also attended several TA events which were very informative and it's been lovely to see some familiar faces.

I have recently come to the end of a term of office as Governor at my local school (where I had links with the MML department) and would like to actively contribute within the translation community. My longstanding experience in industry and in running a company means I'm confident about sharing and contributing to decision-making, and my recent time as a governor has also helped me to feel that I could support fellow translators in championing their views.

I very much hope I could bring useful experience and keenness to this role.

Anju Okhandiar

I wish to nominate myself for the Translation Association committee. I believe I have the right qualifications and skills to join the committee.

A Hindi speaker, I hope to be a part of the diverse community that the TA represents.

I will bring with me an extensive translation experience of over thirty years, together with excellent communication skills and a professional understanding of the aims and objectives of the role of a committee member, and the workings of a committee.

A Chartered linguist and a qualified translator, I'm a member of the Chartered Institute of Linguists (CIOL), its Translating Division, and the Scottish Society. It is worth mentioning that I served on the Scottish Society committee as a member for six years (2006-2010), where I organised CPD events and specialist talks by esteemed speakers.

I'm also CIOL's Career Affiliate for German language, and a member of the German Society of the Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI), where I support the Society's events in the UK and abroad.

One of my major interests is L2 translation and the other is Theatre translation, and both have been on the TA's campaign agenda this year.

I have been offering immaculate translations from English and German into Hindi and vice versa since 1988. A non-European language speaker and an expert in Humanities, I

specialise in literary translations including folklore, poetry, short story, and memoirs. I have always taken pride in producing an accurate document, thoroughly researched translations with meticulous attention to details. In addition, I also offer editorial services including proofreading and copy editing.

I honestly believe that my background and wide-ranging experience will bring a capacious contribution to the TA in its ongoing campaigns and in fulfilling its aims and objectives. I will pro-actively offer creative input, work in collaboration with all colleagues, maintain confidentiality by applying the right mix of skills accompanied by a sense of purpose and punctuality.

I have been enriched by being a part of organisations like the Society of Authors, the Chartered Institute of Linguists and the Chartered Institute of Editing and Proofreading.

I will be delighted to serve the TA.

Hebe Powell

I came to literary translation via a couple of other careers, and as a committee member I hope I would be able to offer some novel perspectives. If I were elected to the committee, I would work to further the TA's project of raising the profile of translators. As part of this, I would like to explore the possibility of resurrecting "In Other Words" as a platform for UK translators to discuss current issues affecting our industry.

I have been translating professionally for eight years and I have been a member of the Translators' Association since 2019. Alongside my translating I am also studying part-time for a PhD in Spanish pragmatics at Birkbeck College.

I spent part of my childhood in Argentina, which sparked my interest in linguistics and also gave me a lifelong love of Latin America and its literature. My previous careers include research physicist and secondary school teacher, thus, as a translator, much of my bread-and-butter work involves scientific and other academic texts. I volunteer with the Latin American Bureau and, when the opportunity arises, I translate Hispano American literature: I am currently translating a Colombian novel for Songbridge press, I have also worked with Restless Books, and contribute to Latin American Literature Today.

I would enjoy the opportunity to work on behalf of all members of the TA and hope you will give me your support.

Clare Richards

I would love to join the TA Committee most of all for the chance to act as a voice on behalf of disabled and neurodivergent translators. I am an autistic emerging literary translator, with my first publications upcoming in early 2022. Having heard from current and past members about the opportunity and of all the initiatives born out of the committee, I felt eager and encouraged to apply myself. Being selected for the NCW Emerging Translators Mentorship in Korean last year was career-changing for me, and made me think a great deal about how I might speak up for other translators like myself in future. Since my very first steps towards literary translation, the question of how we might increase its accessibility—a field difficult to break into even for those without additional barriers in their way—has constantly been at the forefront of my mind.

As an early-career translator trying to make it full-time as a freelancer, I feel as well that I can bring an up-to-date perspective on what it's like beginning a path into translation today. I also bring a language—Korean—not currently represented on the board. Highly proactive, hard-working and committed, I believe I would be a valuable asset to the committee, as well as bring fresh ideas and perspectives. And I am, of course, incredibly excited by the chance to work with the wonderful people currently on the board, and to build further roots into the translation community

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