

Interested in joining the TA Committee?

Find out more and read about the experiences of some of our current committee.

The last two years have been difficult for many and I have felt humbled and grateful to see the TA committee come together to take action to try to address some of the challenges our association, our profession and wider society have faced. In particular I have felt the powerful, positive impact of recent additions to the committee, proof if it were needed of the value of TA members taking the opportunity to stand for election, bringing their skills and experiences to bear in everything we do.

What's involved?

The committee has 8 elected members who serve for three years from the AGM in November. The committee appoints two members as co-chairs who serve for two years. The TA representative on CEATL (the European Council of Literary Translators Associations) is also a co-opted member of the Committee.

Read more about the current committee [here](#).

Meetings are held quarterly; usually in February, May, September and November on a weekday afternoon for 2-2.5hrs. In 2020 meetings moved from in-person at the SoA Offices in London to Zoom.

Meeting online is the most accessible and inclusive way for members to meet. All SoA committee meetings will continue to be hosted on Zoom but— as there is a value to meeting in person – we will host hybrid meetings when it is safe to do so for up to two TA committee meetings per year.

The SoA will cover the expenses you incur when attending mandatory committee meetings or agreed SoA business.

So whether you live in Paris or Peckham or Phnom Penh there's no reason to let geography get in the way

I never really considered getting involved with the TA because of the distance: I live in Scotland, all TA activities were in London. But then when I was asked, I thought rather than reverting to my usual tendency to grumble about everything being in London and the London clique, I now actually had an opportunity to change that... And at the moment, when all activities are online, it really is a great opportunity for those living at a distance to get involved.

What does the Committee do?

The activities of the committee vary in response to issues raised by the wider TA community, and the particular skills and interests of committee members.

In the current year, we have worked closely with the SoA communications team to give statements in connection with the Amanda Gorman debate in the early spring, and more recently in connection with the anti-LGBT law introduced by the Hungarian government in June.

A considerable amount of time and thought has been given to developing and improving diversity and inclusivity in both the TA and the SoA. A working group has been set up to continue this work, alongside the committee's other commitments. Two other working groups were also set up to look at theatre translation and film rights. These are currently the committee's three ongoing areas of focus.

In addition, the committee organises the TA's annual day conference – this year, this took the form of the highly successful *TA@Home* festival - the AGM, the TA's presence at the London Book Fair and other ad-hoc events throughout the year. It also leads campaigning activity around translator visibility and working conditions – initiatives like #namethetranslator, for example. There is currently a campaign in its early stages to persuade more literary prizes to accept translations, and to credit and reward the translator when they do.

The committee is always open to new ideas on both campaigning and events, and happy for its members to take the lead on things they feel passionately about. Recently, these things have included mental wellbeing, theatre translation contracts and L2 translation. Being on the committee is also a great way to engage with authors and the wider work of the SoA.

It is important that the committee represents the whole of the TA, with a broad range of languages and types of work. We particularly welcome potential members who work from non-European languages, and those with experience in academic and non-fiction translation, as well as fiction, theatre and poetry translators.

... I wanted first-hand knowledge of how the agenda was set and decisions made. The experience has been enlightening and I feel I now have a much more in-depth understanding of the complexities of the TA's work. As an outsider, I maybe had the impression that it was a little cliquy, but I've found that a wide range of interests and concerns are represented and discussed.

I would like to join the Committee. What do I do next?

Email [Catherine Fuller](#) (TA Co-ordinator) saying that you wish to nominate yourself for the committee, You'll also need to send a brief statement – no more than 250 words – on why

you want to join and what you can bring to the committee. Your nomination does not need to be supported by any other TA member. Please note you must be a Full Member and not an Associate. Check with Catherine Fuller if you are not sure.

The committee currently has 3 vacancies. If we receive more nominations than places then we will hold an online ballot in the autumn. The results will be confirmed officially at the AGM on Wednesday 10 November.

All nominations should be sent by email to the TA Co-ordinator. The closing date for nominations is 30 September.

Any questions? Please get in touch.

Catherine Fuller (TA Co-ordinator) cfuller@societyofauthors.org

Kari Dickson and Christina MacSweeney (Co-Chairs)

I love being around translators because it's a generous, friendly and forward-thinking community. Being on the TA committee has allowed me to think about the practical ways in which we can make literary translation more prominent in literary culture and make translators' working lives easier.

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