

8th International Conference on Public Services Interpreting and Translation (PSIT8)

PSIT in Transition

22-24 March 2023

University of Alcalá (Madrid)

CALL FOR PAPERS

Context:

The 21st century seems set to transform the world. The COVID 19 pandemic, the outbreak of armed conflicts, the climate change threat or the different population movements have brought about health, educational, social, economic, and environmental consequences. Countries are trying to cope not only at institutional level, but also with civil and private initiatives and proposals, with varying degrees of success. Sometimes these are long-term measures (see the UN's 2030 Agenda). Other times, they are immediate and improvised actions, marked by a sense of change, fragility and vulnerability for people and countries, and by the realisation that neither are self-sufficient. In fact, they are completely interdependent.

To talk about these societies in transition is to talk about PSIT. The protagonists of the global order are not only states and their various forms of political organisation, but also the emerging civil society, which is committed to the task of defending universal interests in the context of globalisation, which entails both connectivity and the elimination of borders at the same time. Moreover, exchanges between different countries, societies, languages, and cultures mean that PSIT as an activity must be articulated through codes of ethics and guidelines for good practice that reflect the model of a sustainable, egalitarian and just society to which humanity must aim for.

The prevailing philosophy in many institutional spheres is based on the mere maximisation of economic profit, without thinking about mutual support between institutions, users, and intermediaries, including interpreters, and the most vulnerable are excluded while solidarity is called for. In this context, the role of PSIT, on its path towards professionalisation, takes on a new dimension. It becomes, together with the other agents involved in this process, one more piece in the overall framework that should lead to a fairer and less vulnerable society.

PSIT8 proposals submission:

With these premises as a context, the 8th International Conference on Public Services Interpreting and Translation (PSIT8), *PSIT in Transition*, will be held at the University of Alcalá (Madrid) from 22nd March until 24th March 2023. The main objective of this eighth edition is to continue exchanging thoughts, projects, and experiences about PSIT in the line of previous meetings. T&I professionals, researchers, educational authorities, and institutions, both public and private, language service providers or anyone interested in making our world more sustainable are invited to participate.

We welcome proposals that focus their research on PSIT and that help to answer some of the many questions that the highway to PSIT recognition and professionalisation can offer us. We aim to stimulate debate and reflection on the following questions:

- Who are the interlocutors deciding how to handle communication?

- Who are the decision makers defining budgets and the available resources to overcome linguistic and cultural barriers?
- Who develops codes and guidelines for good practice? Do these codes correspond to the reality of PSIT?
- Which active actors are involved?
- Are emotions and their management taken into account?
- How are cultural issues dealt with in today's mixed cultures?
- Should translators and interpreters who feel under pressure, even if the situation is one of crisis, and even if they themselves may be personally affected, work for free?
- What changes can be observed in civil society and private initiative in the move towards a fairer society?

The conference will include papers, plenary lectures, roundtables, and seminars dedicated to practical issues concerned with PSIT.

Proposals should be between 400 and 500 words in length, not including bibliography, and will be organised around the following thematic axes:

- Access to public services (language policies, minority languages, etc.)
- Technological developments in PSIT
- Curriculum design and training in PSIT
- Ethics and good practices
- Language resources and migrant population
- PSIT and institutional relations
- PSIT in other situations

The proposals received will be subject to an anonymous peer review process to ensure the quality of the accepted proposals. The duration of the papers will be 20 minutes each, followed by a 10-minute discussion.

Roundtable proposals should include a title and general description and the titles and abstract of at least three contributions. Each will not last more than 1 hour and 30 minutes. The preferred languages of the congress will be Spanish and English.

Important dates:

- Submission of proposals deadline: 5th November 2022 via the conference website.
- Notification of the decision by the Scientific Committee: 31st January 2023.
- Once the proposal has been accepted, the registration fee must be paid before 15th February 2023 (early registration) or 6th March 2023.
- Should you be interested in the publication of the paper in any of the channels provided by the organisation (FITISPos-IJ special volume or E-Book), you must send the complete communication before 21st February 2023. Otherwise, papers will not be considered for publication.

For further information, please contact:

congreso.tisp8@uah.es;

<https://fitisposgrupo.web.uah.es/en/conference-psit-8/>