

# EX:CHANGE 2026 programme timings

## Day 1 – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July at Unity Place

### 8.30am Registration and refreshments

Networking opportunity

Opportunity to meet and chat with our exhibitors & sponsors

### 9.15am Welcome to EX:CHANGE 2026 from Nicki Bone MITI, Chair of the Conference Advisory Group

Introducing our conference poet, Kate Fox who will open with her first poem of the conference inspired by the opening social event at Unity Place's Sky Lounge.

### 9.30am Session one: Ethical practice

Ethics in translation and interpreting has never been more vital or more complex. Balancing professional standards, economic pressures and seemingly perennial AI disruption call for us as a profession to re-examine our values, responsibilities and future direction. We will open our session with a provocation to grasp the challenge that these uncertain times present.

Our speakers are experts across a range of domains of ethical practice. They will reflect on both the ethical challenges specific to their domains of expertise and their stance in today's challenging professional landscape.

Speakers:

- Felix Do Carmo, Senior Lecturer in Translation and Natural Language Processing, University of Surrey
- JC Penet, Reader in Translation Industry Studies, Newcastle University
- David Stockings, Translator / Lecturer (Teaching), Better Worlds Translation / UCL

### 10.10am Collective conversations

We will invite participants to engage in candid discussions to explore today's key ethical questions: How do we sustain both our values and our livelihoods? How do we balance the competing responsibilities we face? And what of the complex relationship between language professions and technology? In creating a safe space for honest reflection, we will be taking the first step to a shared understanding on what ethical and sustainable practice looks like now and where we go next as a community.

Facilitators:

- Dr Lindsay Bywood, Senior Lecturer, University of Westminster
- Joseph Lambert, Senior Lecturer in Translation Studies, Cardiff University
- Ramon Inglada, Associate Professor in Spanish and Translation Technologies, Heriot-Watt University

11.40am Session reflection

To bring the session to a close the session leads will highlight key ideas from the discussion groups.

**12.00pm Lunch**

Networking opportunity

Opportunity to meet and chat with our exhibitors and sponsors

**1.15pm Session 2: Entrepreneurship and business development**

**Keynote speaker: Sonia-Cristina Koller, Lecturer in Entrepreneurship/ Innovation, King's College London**

Title: From uncertainty to opportunity: Leading and growing through change

In this inspiring keynote, Sonia will explore how participants can navigate uncertainty, build resilience, and lead their businesses through change while identifying realistic opportunities for growth. Drawing on her research in the fields of entrepreneurship and business psychology, she will invite participants to embrace choice and the resources around them as we reimagine the future of our profession and our businesses in this new world. With an honest and clear-eyed understanding of the challenges of creating new ventures, she will offer practical ways to navigate change with purpose and creativity.

1.55pm Panel discussion with Q&A

Chair: Nicki Bone

Panellists:

- Oliver Dean, Managing Director, Syrup
- Sonia-Cristina Koller, Lecturer in Entrepreneurship/ Innovation, Kings College London
- Debbie Lewis, Accelerator Community Manager at NatWest
- Teemu Purmonen, Co-founder, Youpret

Our panellists will draw on their range of experience and business development perspectives to discuss the realities of building success, the support available to you, and the key things to consider as you look to overcome challenges and grow your business.

Got a burning question? Attendees will have the opportunity to pick the brains of the panellists.

**2.40pm Refreshment break**

3.15pm Collective conversations

Sparked by the ideas shared in the keynote and panel, participants will join facilitated conversations to discuss their ideas around entrepreneurship and business development. Everyone will be encouraged to think about tangible steps they can take to address concerns, overcome barriers, and move towards implementing their ideas. Delegates will connect with others who are in the same

situation and find support in their peer community, which we hope will continue well beyond the event.

Facilitators

- Nicki Bone, NB Language Works
- Lara Fasoli, FSL Language Solutions
- Alun Gruffydd, Bla Translation
- Lydia Marquardt, Freelance Translator and Qualitative Research Analyst

4.05pm Session reflection

To bring the session to a close the session leads will highlight key ideas from the discussion groups.

4.20pm Kate Fox will share her poem from the first day of ideas and discussions

**4.30pm Closing keynote speakers**

- Andy Benzo, President, American Translators Association
- Fiona Gray MITI, Chair, Institute of Translation and Interpreting

**5.00pm Day one closes**

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## **Day 2 – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at Unity Place**

**8.30am Registration and refreshments**

Networking opportunity

Opportunity to meet and chat with our exhibitors and sponsors

**9.15am Welcome to day two from Fiona Gray MITI, Chair of the Board**

Introducing our conference poet, Kate Fox who will discuss the word swap call back chosen from the words chosen by participants at the anniversary dinner.

**9.30am Session 3: Engaging with clients**

This session brings clients and professional translators and interpreters together for an honest conversation about what each side needs, and what everybody gains when we collaborate better.

Panel discussion with Q&A: Working with clients and building partnerships for a changing world

Chair: Lena Marg

Panellists:

- Jacqui Gratton, Associate Director, Freedom from Torture
- Samuel Läubli, CEO, Supertext
- Jennifer Vela Valido, Global Language Quality Program Manager, Spotify
- Panellist (tbc)

Participants will hear directly from our panel of clients from diverse sectors, from global tech to humanitarian organisation, about what they truly need, value, and

expect from translators and interpreters they work with. Find out more about the working relationship from the client perspective to help you navigate your own client relationships with confidence and provide a clearer sense of the unique value you bring to every project.

Got a burning question? Participants will have the opportunity to pick the brains of the panellists.

**10.45am Refreshment break**

**11.25am Keynote speaker: Christophe Fricker, Associate Professor in German and Translation, University of Bristol**

Title: What do we need to do with our clients?

Christophe Fricker loves a question, but in his keynote, he will argue that this is not a great one, and that it has skewed both the self-image and the self-presentation of translators for too long. He told us, with a straight face: "I will gently prod the question and see which bits have legs." Any guesses?

**12.20pm Collective conversations**

Session lead: David Orrego-Carmona, Reader in Translation Studies at the University of Warwick

In facilitated groups, participants will work through the ideas raised, exploring practical strategies: How do we articulate our value? How do we raise our profile and professional status? How can we take ownership of our roles while working collaboratively with clients? Ideas and key points will be collected on a Padlet for sharing after the session.

**1.25pm** Kate Fox will share her poem drawing together the conversations had over the three main themes of EX:CHANGE 2026.

**1.35pm Lunch**

Networking opportunity

Opportunity to meet and chat with our exhibitors and sponsors

**2.50pm Session 4 : Consolidation and reflection**

Keynote speaker : Joe Lépine, President, Lion Translation Academy

Title: The Three-E Advantage: A framework for ethical, entrepreneurial and engagement-driven success

**3.20pm** Communication, collaboration, community: Where do we go from here?

An open conversation about next steps and how we support professional translators and interpreters to succeed in 2026 and beyond, facilitated by Sara Robertson, CEO

**4.00pm** Final flourish – sit back and enjoy our last poem created by our poet-in-resident, Kate Fox

**4.30pm** Closing words and thanks

Fiona Gray MITI and Nicki Bone MITI draw together the conference themes and look forward to the challenges ahead.

**4.45pm Conference closes**