

Joining the TA Committee

Interested in joining the committee? Find out more and read about the experiences of some of our current committee.

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.

What's involved?

Committee members serve for three years from the AGM in November. Up until now meetings have been held four times a year: usually in February, May, September and November on a weekday afternoon at the SoA offices in London.

At the moment the committee is meeting for shorter, more frequent Zoom meetings of 1.5 hours every 6 weeks so that we can be more reactive and adapt to a changing situation.

Looking ahead, we envisage some proportion of committee meetings will remain online even after the SoA offices reopen – so there's no reason to let geography get in the way of standing for the committee. If you need to physically attend a meeting then travel expenses are payable whether you live in Paris or in Peckham.

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.

The committee organises the TA's annual day conference, 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 cliquey, 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 Secretary) saying that you wish to nominate yourself for the committee, and giving the names of two other TA members who support your nomination. 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.

The committee has four vacancies this year. 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 10 November.

All nominations should be sent by email to the TA Secretary. The closing date for nominations is 21 September.

Any questions? Please get in touch.

Catherine Fuller (TA Secretary)
Charlotte Collins and Ruth Martin (Co-Chairs)

It is an opportunity for me to give back to the TA as an organisation and community, which has given me so much over the years I've been working as a translator, from practical support to career development. And now I am learning how the TA is run, how that support is given and organised, and I'm getting to know wonderful colleagues better. It has actually deepened my appreciation of our organisation. I was slightly hesitant at first, because of the commitment, but that has not been an issue at all in terms of time or money ... and after a year of observing, I'm hoping I can now contribute more actively.