

TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION GROUP ELECTION



Candidate Statements 2026

Adam Feinstein

Statement

It would be a great pleasure and privilege to serve on the Translators' Association Committee of the Society of Authors. The author of ten books, I am a translator of poetry (my work has been praised for its 'compelling fluency' and 'unusual beauty') and I am passionately convinced of the crucial role that literary translation plays as a force for good in society. I am equally well aware of the specific challenges facing literary translators and of the powerful need to protect and extend their rights. I am also a journalist of many years' standing and, as such, I would be able to provide the media with a positive image both of literary translation and of the Society of Authors' essential importance as a whole. I have already served on many important committees, working groups and steering groups and I always enjoy working as part of a team. Although I am London-based, I am a director of a highly successful Latin American cultural festival, El Sueño Existe, which takes place every year in Wales. This position gives me a strong understanding of strategic and campaigning priorities. I have been responsible for organising extremely popular events (including online conferences attracting as many as 10,000 delegates) and have helped to establish (and judge) a number of poetry prizes. Having travelled throughout the world (both as a translator and as a foreign correspondent), I have built up a vast network of fellow translators, with whom I can communicate in seven languages.

Ecre Karadag

Statement



Hello friends and comrades. I am interested in joining the TA Committee because it complements my wider work in translator advocacy and access.

This past year, I have been working with fellow translators independently to research and develop ways for agents to work with translators as a possible way to improve our working conditions and strengthen industry infrastructure around translation. I have also been working on a public piece through my NCW residency making the commercial case for putting translators' names on book covers, with the aim of helping keep the conversation alive into its next decade and offering publishers a pragmatic way into the conversation.

I translate from Japanese, which has been a particularly active area of translated publishing lately but hasn't had TA Committee representation for some time. I'm also relatively new to book-length literary translation, but have spent years working in and around the industry - being new to literary translation isn't necessarily the same as being new to the industry around it. I'd like to see early-career translators better represented on the Committee.

Through my work in arts administration, publishing, comms and marketing, and advocacy at a small poetry translation organisation, I also have plenty of experience with the research/campaigning/behind-the-scenes organisational work that makes this kind of committee effective.

Thought I'd throw my hat in the ring!

Elete Nelson-Fearon

Statement



I am pleased to be running for a position on the Translators Association committee. I am a translator of theatre and prose working in Spanish, Arabic and English. I would be very glad to contribute to the work the TA does to facilitate and support fair working conditions for translators. In addition to supporting ongoing campaigns, I would like to work towards publishing guidelines on working as a theatre translator, touching on venues that work with international plays and routes to producing a translated play. My work on the committee would be informed and supported by my relevant experience: I am a member of the Board of Directors of the American Literary Translators Association, and I am currently working at English PEN administering grants and liaising with applicants. I have previously worked at *Words Without Borders*, and as a freelancer I have experience convening and speaking at events. I have worked closely with several members of the committee and would love to do so in this capacity, as well as getting to know other committee and TA members.

Jane Davis

Statement



I have been a translator for nearly twenty years, but I'm a relative newcomer to the literary world. My first "proper" novel – a co-translation, with the TA's own Ian Giles, of Mats Strandberg's *The Muse* – will be published next year.

I'm proud to be a member of the SoA and the TA. However, I feel that when the rights of authors and translators alike are under attack from destructive new technologies and unethical business models, we must unite to uphold the value of human work.

Translator colleagues frequently suggest that some genres can perhaps be surrendered to the machines, as if they are somehow lesser, unworthy of human craft. As if their readers can be abandoned to the clunky phrasing and inconsistencies of LLMs, because they read for pleasure rather than intellectual challenge.

If elected to the TA committee I will champion these "other" literatures. I listen to SF and romance audiobooks. I read crime novels. I play video games. I translate roleplaying systems. Comic books aren't my thing, but many readers love them – and research shows that any reading helps support mental health, and improves cognitive and neural mechanisms, particularly amongst young people.

If we, the SoA, are to promote the act of reading, we must recognise all reading as equally valuable – and, by extension, all literary translation as equally worthy of representation. Because ultimately supporting translators' rights is supporting readers' rights – and the more readers society produces, the kinder, more diverse and more thoughtful that society will be.

Kotryna Garanasvili

Statement



The TA has long been an incredibly important part of my translation career – or should I say translation life – and its brilliant community is a large part of why.

I have been involved in translation through many different angles – as a multilingual translator, interpreter, researcher, and academic.

I'd like to think my experience gives me a unique perspective as a Committee member – I have worked with multiple organisations and in multiple roles, including mentoring at NCW; serving on the BCLT Research Group; working as a publishing assistant at And Other Stories; teaching at University of East Anglia and Vilnius University plus working with University of Oxford, SOAS, ALTA, UN, European Parliament, and elsewhere. All these activities helped me form a multi-angled view of the literary ecosystem with translation at its centre.

My particular interest lies in everything that makes up a translator's life beyond the craft. This has led to a number of ongoing projects, including *Translation-adjacent*, which began as a WWB essay and has since grown into a wider conversation, as did my PhD research in dialect translation, and my new research project on translators' notes. My London Book Fair survival guide, published by NCW, similarly started as a collection of tips for mentees, before I realised that many of their questions were shared much more widely.

A lot of what I do comes from that same impulse: noticing recurring challenges and addressing them in practical and creative ways. I'd love to develop this work further as part of the Committee – contributing to TA's resources, championing issues that matter to translators, and finding ways forward as a community.

Margaret Morrison

Statement



I'm a FR→EN literary translator specialising in bande dessinée, alongside commercial translation. I coordinate the Cambridge Translators Group, which brings together literary, commercial and academic translators; our conversations continually remind me how much we share across apparently different parts of the profession.

I'm also committed to translation education and sustained professional development. I've led Stephen Spender Trust workshops and taken part in a wide range of workshops, summer schools, conferences and professional networks, most recently including ESLT and BCLT summer schools. These experiences - and connections with colleagues internationally - have increasingly made me think about translation in a wider sense.

I'm particularly interested in the areas around and adjacent to translation: libraries and literary communities, experimental and feminist translation, education and interdisciplinary practice. I'd like the TA to continue exploring what translation can look like beyond traditional categories, while remaining a strong advocate for translators' working lives.

I bring previous governance experience as a school governor, as well as experience of management and research. As a parent and carer, I'm conscious of the barriers faced by people trying to sustain a translation career alongside caring responsibilities.

This remains a difficult moment for translators, with rapid technological and economic change putting pressure on many colleagues. Coming to translation after a career in other sectors, I bring both commitment to the profession and a fresh eye. I'd like to give something back: helping the TA represent members, build connections and defend - but also broaden and reimagine - what our profession can be.

Mary-Jane Holmes

Statement



I am standing for the TA Committee because I would like to contribute to a broader conversation about what literary translation is, who gets to participate in it, and how its creative and intellectual labour is recognised.

I am a poet, writer, editor and researcher having completed a practice-led PhD centred on the translation of verse form. My research has led me to develop Form-Embodied Translation (FET), a methodology for translating not only the words of a poem but the meaning carried by its form: its architecture, refrain, polyphony and movement between languages and voices. This work has also generated new creative writing and has made me particularly interested in the fertile territory between translation, adaptation and original composition.

I would bring to the Committee experience of poetry and creative-critical translation, teaching and mentoring writers, editing, and working across academic and literary communities. I am particularly interested in creating opportunities for translators working with poetry, form and historically or linguistically complex material, and in fostering exchange between translators, writers, researchers and readers.

I would also welcome the opportunity to support the TA's advocacy for the visibility and value of literary translators, particularly as questions around AI, authorship and creative labour become increasingly urgent.

Above all, I would bring curiosity, collegiality and a willingness to contribute actively to the practical work of the Committee.

Rishikesh Lokapure

Statement



I would like to self-nominate for the Committee because translation is one of the core pillars of my global writing practice.

I have translated three books across both directions between English and Marathi: Dohanomics (English to Marathi, published by CNBC TV18), Money Works: The Guide to Financial Literacy by Abhijeet Kolapkar (Marathi to English, published by Penguin Business), and a third Marathi-to-English translation currently awaiting publication by Penguin Business. Money Works is now a bestseller in India. That experience of carrying a book from manuscript to a genuinely successful published life in a new language has taught me first-hand what it actually takes to translate a book well: not just linguistic accuracy, but judgement, patience, commercial alignment, and an understanding of how a text needs to land with a new readership.

Alongside translation, I write and publish my own fiction and have published two short story collections. I also run a consultancy spanning brand strategy, scriptwriting, wildlife documentaries, sustainability communications and content design in London, UK, which often requires a nuanced understanding of a multilingual and multicultural approach. This could be useful to the Committee as it thinks about advocacy, visibility and support for an increasingly diverse set of members.

Being a Full Member, I bring genuine enthusiasm and a willingness to do the selfless groundwork of committee life. Thank you for this amazing opportunity to serve the fraternity and to help make the Translators' Association a stronger, more connected community for all of us.