

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Maren Baudet-Lackner

"I have been a freelance translator from French specialized in the cultural sector (museums, musical venues, luxury industry, etc.) since 2014. I published my first literary translation in 2016 and have since added a dozen titles to the list. My translation of *The Aquatics* by Osvalde Lewat (forthcoming in December from Coffee House Press in North America and in May 2026 from Cassava Republic in the UK) received a PEN Translates Award, and I've secured several Albertine Translation Grants for works I've placed (or am still trying to place!).

After Covid, I felt a real need to professionalize my practice with respect to the publishing industry writ large. I sought out community and was very lucky to benefit from the wisdom shared with me by translation heavyweights at events like Bristol Translates, the BCLT Literary Translation Summer School, and the Vice-Versa Workshop at the CITL in Arles, France. Many of the wonderful people I met there encouraged me to join organizations like the SoA and ALTA, from which I have continued to learn so much.

Having greatly benefited from the work of TA Committee members who strive tirelessly to advance the cause of literary translators, I would be honoured to serve on the committee myself. I personally find great solace in the community fostered by the TA, so I would be delighted to have the opportunity to help grow that community and advocate for it as we strive to showcase the value of human translation and of translated literature as a bulwark against the isolationist mindset currently overtaking many parts of the world."

Adam Feinstein

"It would be a pleasure and a privilege to serve on the Translators Association Committee. As the author of ten books and an acclaimed translator of Latin American poetry, I am passionately convinced of the crucial role literary translation plays as a force for good in society.

I have served on a wide variety of important committees and steering groups. Although I am London-based, I am the director of a highly successful Latin American cultural festival, *El Sueño Existe*, which takes place every year in Wales.

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 (including this year's prize in memory of the Chilean poetry prizes and publisher, Consuelo Rivera Fuentes).

Working on committees is a lively, stimulating and rewarding experience and I am glad to say that I have always enjoyed a very warm and co-operative relationship with my fellow committee members!

Having travelled throughout the world (both as a translator and in my former capacity as a foreign correspondent), I have built up a vast network of fellow translators and, since I myself speak seven languages, I have no problem communicating with most of them!

Of course, as an enormously experienced journalist, I am accustomed to the pressure of having to write high-quality material at short notice and am very 'in tune' with how to provide the media with a positive and constructive profile of literary translation."

Mary-Jane Holmes

"I am passionate about translation! I have worked as both a technical translator (science and industry) and literary translator (mainly poetry) for 35 years. I currently work in French, Spanish and Arabic although I have published work in publications such as MPT (Modern Poetry in Translation) in languages I am not fluent in (thus working in collaboration with ST speakers) such as Hungarian and Vietnamese.

My approach to translation has been both traditional and unconventional, embracing latterly the 'outward turn' put forward by Basnett and Johnston, which encourages translation to move away from the interlingual or 'translation proper' towards the ludic and experiential. My MA at Oxford was centred around a translatory response to the last poetry collection by avant-garde Argentinian poet Alfonsina Storni and currently I am finishing a PhD at Newcastle University entitled 'A Girdle Round the Earth: Strategies of Resistance in the Translation of Verse Form'. Here I am delving into the power of translating non-verbal resources – how do we reach across the gap pre-formed by what language-as-wording can not do? This alternative (and feminist) approach to the craft of translation is something I can bring to the committee as well as encouraging the students I teach to engage with the society.

In this digital era, how we translate is transforming and yet in the industry there is a reluctance to welcome the potentiality of such change. My role in the committee might be to encourage a multimodal response to communication of human meaning in this time of globalisation and technological innovation."

Margaret Morrison

"I'd like to stand for the TA Committee and believe I would be a useful addition.

I'm a FR→EN literary translator specialising in bande dessinée, and I also work in commercial translation.

Since last year, I have coordinated the Cambridge Translators Group, bringing together translators across the local literary, commercial and academic sectors. Our discussions highlight the common challenges that affect us all.

I also have a strong commitment to translation education and professional development, having led Stephen Spender workshops and undertaken extensive CPD, most recently the ESLT Summer School 2025. That link to international connections via CEATL was very interesting.

With prior governance experience as a school governor, I'd contribute energy, networking skills and practical know-how to the Committee's remit of representing members, influencing policy and programme events with the SoA.

As a parent and carer, I'm particularly focused on how our industry can better support people juggling these roles—and the barriers they still face.

This is a crucial moment, with many colleagues feeling under threat and some leaving a profession they love. Having come to it relatively late after years in commercial work, I'm keen to roll up my sleeves and help defend—and reimagine—our profession.

I bring advocacy experience, community-building, and a broad view of our profession across literary and commercial work, research and management, alongside sustained CPD and event participation. I'm ready to give back."

Josephine Murray

"I want to bring my experience as a French to English literary translator with over 20 years in writing and journalism to help the TA Committee tackle the challenges facing us all; the use of AI in publishing, and the ongoing fight for fair pay, rights and working conditions that promote well-being.

I've translated two illustrated children's non-fiction books (with a third out in 2026) and a food memoir, I've published non-fiction, and I'm writing a book about literary translator Patricia Crampton for an academic publisher, thus I'm ideally placed to forge closer links between authors, translators and illustrators.

I want to contribute to the crucial work of our union; the TA helped me with contract vetting and fee negotiation with a prominent publisher; resulting in an increased fee for other translators to use as a benchmark.

My role as Secretary of the PETRA-E Network, promoting the training of literary translators, and involvement with translation and literature organisations BCLT, ITI, World Kid Lit, IBBY and CIOL (I launched and chaired CIOL Gloucestershire) will strengthen and widen my campaigning on behalf of SOA members.

Having worked in PR for cultural organisations, proof-read books, written for national magazines and talked about translation to organisations from schools to GCHQ, I'd like to help the TA equip members with the skills to manage increasingly smörgåsbord careers.

With lived experience of ADHD, I will support diversity, and as a parent and former teacher I will champion reading and writing for pleasure among young people."

Cecilia Rossi

"In January 2026 I will assume the role of Executive Director of the British Centre for Literary Translation and would therefore welcome the opportunity of joining the TA committee.

As a research centre focused on developing the discipline of Literary Translation Studies, the BCLT recognises the need to work more closely with literary translators. To foster a close relationship with professional translators, it is important to deepen our knowledge of the issues concerning TA members. These insights could feed into BCLT's strategy, directing our research plans towards projects that will have a real impact on the profession.

As Postgraduate and Professional Liaison for the BCLT, throughout the years I have sought to create opportunities to work more closely with literary translators. The BCLT translator-in-residence scheme is an example. Since 2020 we have effectively opened a new space for literary translators to reflect on their work and speak to new audiences, through literary translation workshops and research seminars, as well as the blogs on newwriting.net. In March 2025 I co-organised and delivered a half-day symposium on Directionality in Translation at BCLT, with Nariman Youssef (2024 residency) and there are ongoing conversations with other former translators-in- residence.

In all my research projects I have worked very closely with the Argentine Association of Translators and Interpreters (AATI) – they have been, and continue to be, an invaluable partner. I see there is a real opportunity for members of the BCLT to work more closely with the TA.”