

Second International Conference on Legal and Healthcare Interpreting

Public Symposium on Legal Interpreting

MEXT Project for the Establishment of Networked Graduate Schools in the Humanities and Social Sciences

~Joint Development of Professionals with Necessary Communication Design Skills for a

Multilingual/Multicultural Society~

Program



Documents
download QR

Sunday, November 30, 2025

14:00-14:45 Part I Keynote Speech

14:45-15:00 Break

15:00-16:30 Part II Panel Discussion

Fee: Free

Open to all interested participants.

General participants: Advance registration required (via PEATIX)

Conference participants: Advance registration not required.

Language: Japanese, English, Japanese sign language

& Spanish with simultaneous interpreting

Venue: Troyer Memorial Arts and Sciences Hall,
International Christian University

Second International Conference on Legal and Healthcare Interpreting

Public Symposium on Legal Interpreting

MEXT Project for the Establishment of Networked Graduate Schools
in the Humanities and Social Sciences

Joint Development of Professionals with Necessary Communication Design Skills for a Multilingual/Multicultural Society

Date: **Sunday 30 November 2025**

(Doors open at 13:30.) Time: 14:00-16:30

Free of Charge

Capacity: **200 people**

Advance registration required

*Registration will be closed once the capacity is reached



Part 1 Keynote Conference 14:00~14:45

Languages: English, Japanese, Japanese Sign Language
(with Simultaneous Interpreting)

Interpreting in Police Settings: Ethics and Dilemmas



Speaker **Dr. Miranda Lai**
(RMIT University)

Panelists

Prof. Marta Arumí
(Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

Ms. KURIBAYASHI Akiko
(Attorney-at-law, Member of the Osaka Bar Association)

Prof. KADOYA Hidenori
(National Institute of Technology)

Moderator

Dr. YOSHIDA Rika
(Aichi Prefectural University)

Coordinator

Dr. NGUYEN Thanh Tam
(Aichi Prefectural University)

Break

14:45~15:00

Part 2

15:00~16:30

Panel Discussion

Venue

International Christian University
(ICU), Troyer Memorial Hall

3-10-2 Osawa, Mitaka, Tokyo, JAPAN



Access



Campus Map

Registration (PEATIX)

Please access the following URL or QR code to complete your registration.
<https://LegalinterpretingpublicsymposiumAPUICU.peatix.com>



Deadline: 23 November 2025

*Registration will be closed once the capacity is reached



Graduate School of International Cultural Studies,
Aichi Prefectural University
Social Sciences Research Institute (SSRI) and Center for Gender Studies (CGS),
International Christian University

Inquiry

Aichi Prefectural University (APU) E-mail: community-renkei@bur.aichi-pu.ac.jp

Partner Universities

RMIT University (Australia)
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain)



Public Symposium on Legal Interpreting Statement of Purpose

Legal interpreting plays an essential role in ensuring access to information and the right to a fair trial in one's own language. In Japan, however, this profession has yet to be widely recognized as one requiring advanced professional knowledge and skills. Consequently, there is no national qualification or certification system. Instead, interpreters are appointed or employed independently by judicial institutions such as the police, public prosecutors' offices, and courts. Training programs for interpreters, as well as training for legal professionals on how to collaborate effectively with interpreters, remain extremely limited. Legal interpreting tends to attract public attention only when cases of "mistranslation" are reported by the media. In view of this situation, the present symposium aims to bring together researchers, interpreting practitioners, and legal professionals from both Japan and abroad to engage in an open and wide-ranging discussion on key issues in the field of legal interpreting.

The keynote speaker, Associate Prof. Miranda Lai, will deliver a lecture entitled "Interpreting in Police Settings: Ethics and Dilemmas." She will discuss the importance of empowering interpreters to make ethically sound decisions when they encounter complex dilemmas in police contexts. The first panelist, Prof. Arumí, will focus on the visibility of interpreters. Through an analysis of a corpus compiled from interpreted criminal trials conducted in Barcelona, she will examine instances in which interpreters "speak in their own voice" and offer insights into the crucial role ethical considerations play in interpreters' decision-making processes during court proceedings. The second panelist, Ms. Kurabayashi, will introduce the initiative launched in 2015 by the Osaka Bar Association to assess interpreting competence for attorney-client interviews and will lead a discussion on the structure and challenges of the legal interpreting system. The final panelist, Prof. Kadoya, will address issues concerning legal interpreting in Japan from the perspective of protecting fundamental human rights. He will emphasize the importance of understanding communication and interpreting practice within a sociolinguistic framework.

We warmly invite all participants to take part in an active discussion on the essential role of legal interpreting—a vital role that not only ensures due process within the justice system but also upholds access to information as a fundamental human right.



Program Overview

Moderator : YOSHIDA, Rika (APU)
Coordinator : NGUYEN, Thanh Tam (APU)

14:00

Opening Remarks
ITOIGAWA, Miki (Vice-President, Aichi Prefectural University) JP

14:05
- 13:45

Part I Keynote Speech

Interpreting in Police Settings—Ethics and Dilemmas
Miranda Lai (Associate Professor, RMIT University), EN

14:45-15:00 Break

15:00-16:30

Part II Panel Discussion

15:00
-15:10

Voices in the Courtroom: Analyzing the Interpreter's (In)Visibility in Criminal Proceedings

Marta Arumí (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona), (SP)JP

15:10
-15:20

On the necessity of a qualification system for legal interpreters

KURIBAYASHI, Akiko (Attorney-at-law, member of the Osaka Bar Association), JP

15:20
-15:30

Problems in Police and Court Interpreting in Japan and Their Background

KADOYA, Hidenori (National Institute of Technology, Tsuyama College), JP

15:30
-16:00

Discussion among panelists

16:00
-16:20

General Discussion

16:20
-16:30

Concluding Remarks



◆ Keynote Speaker ◆

Presentation Abstract



Miranda Lai (賴貞慧)

(Associate Professor, RMIT University)

Dr. Miranda Lai is an Associate Professor in interpreting and translating studies at RMIT University in Australia. She completed a PhD in interpreter-mediated police interviews, investigating how interpreters facilitated or hampered such processes. Her research interests include public service translating and interpreting, police interpreting, forensic transcription and translation, and vicarious trauma of & self-care for translators and interpreters. She is the co-author of two books: Police Investigative Interviews and Interpreting (2015) and Ethics for Police Translators and Interpreters (2017).

Interpreting in Police Settings—Ethics and Dilemmas

Police interpreting can be considered a sub-genre of legal interpreting—an umbrella term encompassing interpreting in other settings such as courts, tribunals, and lawyer-client consultations. Practitioners interpreting in police settings must possess a clear understanding of professional ethics and role boundaries to guide their linguistic performance and interactional behaviours. In an open court, the judge can be regarded as acting as an “umpire” to ensure fairness for the person being questioned. However, this is not the case in police settings, particularly in police interviews, where interactions occur in private. Therefore, when the person being questioned and the police officer do not share a common language, the involvement of interpreters to provide high-quality language mediation becomes even more critical, considering the power asymmetry at play in the setting. Interpreters must be acutely aware of their responsibility to facilitate access to justice for the interviewee and the fair administration of justice for the police interviewer.

This presentation will start by outlining the similarities and differences between police interpreting and other branches of legal interpreting and provide an overview of the characteristics of police interviews, as one of the most common law enforcement activities. It will then situate police interpreting within the framework of professional ethics for interpreters, considering the challenges arising from police settings and how the code of ethics impacts the linguistic and behavioural dimensions for interpreters. Several case studies involving ethical dilemmas will be shared to identify evaluative factors in each case as well as to critically assess the actions taken. The aim is to encourage reflective practice among interpreters and foster well-founded ethical reasoning in high-stakes settings such as police interviews.

◆ Panelists ◆



Marta Arumí (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) is Full Professor in the Department of Translation and Interpreting and East Asian Studies at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. She has been the main researcher of the MIRAS research group since its creation in 2009 and has led several competitive research projects. Her research interests focus on the didactics of conference interpreting and Public Service Interpreting. She is the author of many specialized articles published in national and international journals and has supervised several doctoral theses.

Voices in the Courtroom: Analyzing the Interpreter's (In)Visibility in Criminal Proceedings

In this presentation, we aim to reflect on the concept of interpreter invisibility in the legal field and contribute to the discussion on this topic in interpreting studies.

Traditionally, the interpreter has been described with a neutral and impartial role, whose work is carried out without drawing attention. The 'invisible interpreter' model has been the dominant paradigm, especially in contexts such as the legal. However, this view has been challenged by various studies that highlight the active and visible role of the interpreter in communicative mediation (Angelelli, 2004; Hale, 2007).

Our contribution is based on the data collected by the MIRAS research group, from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain), within the framework of the TIPP research project (Translation and Interpreting in Criminal Proceedings) (Arumí & Vargas-Urpí, 2018), aimed at compiling and analysing a representative oral corpus of trials in order to describe the reality of court interpreting.

The corpus consists of 55 proceedings held in various criminal courts in Barcelona in which interpretation was provided in English (19 trials), French (9), and Romanian (27). The corpus is notable for its access to authentic, video-recorded criminal proceedings, as well as for the size and representativeness of the oral data.

The analysis focuses on the instances when the interpreter steps beyond interpreting to speak with her/his 'own voice'. The results contribute to the reflection on the traditional concept of invisibility, the choices made by interpreters in practice, and how ethical issues are fundamental when the agency and visibility of the interpreter become present in the interaction.

References

Angelelli, C. V. (2004). *Revisiting the interpreter's role: A study of conference, court, and medical interpreters in Canada, Mexico, and the United States*. John Benjamins.

Arumí, M., & Vargas-Urpí, M. (2018). Annotation of interpreters' conversation management problems and strategies in a corpus of criminal proceedings in Spain: The case of non-renditions. *Translation and Interpreting Studies*, 13(3), 421–441.
<https://doi.org/10.1075/tis.00023.aru>

Hale, S. B. (2007). *Community interpreting*. Palgrave Macmillan.

◆ Panelists ◆



Akiko Kuribayashi (Attorney-at-law, member of the Osaka Bar Association)

Akiko Kuribayashi received an undergraduate degree from Keio University's Faculty of Law and a graduate degree from the Law School of Kyoto University. She registered as an attorney in 2008. She serves on the executive board of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations' Criminal Defense Center and on the Osaka Bar Association's Criminal Defense Committee. In 2010, she started a project team on cases requiring interpretation in the Osaka Bar Association, and in 2015, she established an interpreter proficiency assessment test specifically for the Osaka Bar Association.

Her publications include Court interpreting and criminal defense in Shinjidai no keiji bengo, edited by Isao Ura (Seibundo, 2017, in Japanese), and Points to keep in mind for cases requiring interpretation in Hinin jiken no bengo: Sono gjutsu o migaku edited by Sadato Goto (Gendai Jinbunsha, 2023, in Japanese).

On the necessity of a qualification system for legal interpreters

Criminal trials may require interpreting in different situations: courtroom interpreting, of course, but also interpreting during police interrogations and for communication between the defendant and their attorney. For people who do not understand Japanese, competent interpretation in these situations is essential to guarantee due process. However, no official certification currently exists in Japan for these three interpreting situations.

In 2013, the Japan Federation of Bar Associations prepared a report whose primary intent was to call for the establishment of a qualification system for court interpreters, entitled Hötei tsūyaku ni tsuite no rippō teian ni kansuru ikensho [Opinion on a legislative proposal regarding court interpreting] and submitted it to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Minister of Justice, and the Prosecutor General. However, to date, no actions have been taken toward implementing such a qualification system.

In 2015, the Osaka Bar Association launched an interpreting proficiency assessment test for defendant-attorney interview interpreting. This presentation introduces the initiatives of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations and the Osaka Bar Association, and it explains how the proficiency test is currently being conducted. It is intended as an opportunity to reflect together on appropriate structures for the court interpreting system.



Hidenori Kadoya (National Institute of Technology, Tsuyama College)

KADOYA Hidenori, born in 1970, Professor at the National Institute of Technology, Tsuyama College. Esperantology and Sociolinguistics. Chief editor of Syakaigengogaku (Sociolinguistics) since 2001. CV and works available:

<https://researchmap.jp/kadowah/>

<https://tsuyama-ct.academia.edu/HidenoriKadoja>

Problems in Police and Court Interpreting in Japan and Their Background

In Japan, interpreters are generally not accorded professional status as specialists who require advanced vocational training. Consequently, interpretation in police investigations and court proceedings is often performed by individuals of diverse backgrounds, without sufficient recognition of the high level of expertise the task demands. This situation is clearly reflected in the lack of institutional systems for interpreter training and recruitment, as well as in the scarcity of social resources devoted to ensuring the quality of interpretation. As a result, interpretation errors do occasionally occur, and in some cases, these errors have the potential to influence the outcomes of investigations and trials. Guaranteeing the quality of court interpreting—ensuring linguistic access and thus information equity—is a necessary condition for the protection of fundamental human rights. However, it is not sufficient merely to call for the professionalization of interpreters or the allocation of greater financial resources. In addition to these, it is essential to acknowledge the underlying normative frameworks that shape societal understandings of interpreting, as well as broader ideologies concerning language and interlingual communication. A sociolinguistic analysis of these background assumptions should be a central component of future discussions on court interpreting in Japan.

Memo