

# CEATL's Click List

## *Links to the world of translation*

### Not without permission

In May 2023, Chinese Canadian writer, poet and translator [Yilin Wang](#) discovered that her translation of poems by Qiu Jin featured in the British Museum exhibition *China's Hidden Century: 1796–1912*. As reported by [The Guardian](#) newspaper, her translations appeared on signage, in a video presentation, and in a catalogue – without authorisation, credit or compensation. The museum's first response was to remove her translation and then the original texts. By July, Wang had managed to secure enough crowd funding to allow her to take legal action against the British Museum for copyright and moral rights. The case was settled with the Museum admitting having used Wang's translation without permission and subsequently reinstating her work in the exhibition. Of even wider significance, the case has highlighted the mostly invisible work of translators in exhibitions.

### No to soulless translations

In September 2023, a “collective of translators working in the publishing, film and audiovisual fields” in France sent out a petition about the use of generative AI in literary translation

under the heading ‘En chair et en os’ (literally ‘in flesh and bones’), co-signed by a great number of prominent literary figures, including several Nobel Prize-winning writers.



Among the main points of the petition, the translators from this quite diverse field of cultural creation argue that the use of generative AI programmes “harms culture in general by standardising it while spreading biases” and that the “generative programmes are fed with existing human works, mined as simple



bulk data, without offering the authors the choice to give their consent or not”. Thus, ‘En chair et en os’ wishes to gather voices behind some of the main issues of concern on the use of generative AI, and they emphasise the wider implications of not taking this matter seriously:

*“What may appear as progress is actually leading to immense losses of expertise, cognitive skills, and intellectual capacity across all human societies.”*

By the time *Counterpoint* was published, almost 4,500 people had signed the petition, which may be read [here](#) in French, English, Spanish, Romanian and German. For further insight, see *Libération* newspaper’s [article](#) on the collective and the petition itself.

### Literary translation between imagination and ‘botisation’

At CEATL’s Annual General Meeting, held in Ljubljana (Slovenia) in May 2023, delegates listened to a panel discussion about generative AI. The panel was organised in close cooperation with the Slovenian Association of Literary Translators (DSKP).

Researchers Simon Krek and Špela Vintar, legal expert [Gregor Strojín](#), and Cécile Deniard, [ATLF](#) delegate to CEATL, discussed basic concepts and some of the dilemmas and pitfalls related to digital linguistics, machine translation, artificial intelligence and copyright. The panel was moderated by Katja Zakrajšek, who contributed with an [article](#) on the use of CAT Tools for *Counterpoint* #4.

To watch the video recording of the panel, please click [here](#).



**Ljubljana panel: Katja Zakrajšek, Gregor Strojín, Špela Vintar, Simon Krek, Cécile Deniard**  
**Photo: Domen Pal**