Call for Papers

Translation and Religion: Multilingual Practices, Materialities and Lived Experiences

International Conference on Translation and Religion

May 20-21, 2027

University of Galway, Ireland

Theme

Religion has long been intertwined with translation. Sacred texts, ritual practices, theological concepts and religious communities have crossed linguistic and cultural boundaries through processes of translation and interpreting. Yet research on religion within Translation and Interpreting Studies has often focused on canonical texts, while the multilingual communication practices that sustain religious life remain comparatively underexamined.

This conference seeks to discuss how translation and religion intersect in multilingual practices, materialities and lived experiences, recognising that translation in religious contexts extends well beyond textual transfer. The publication of *The Routledge Handbook of Translation and Religion* in 2024 (ed. Hephzibah Israel) marked a moment of critical engagement with changing understandings of the categories 'translation' and 'religion' as discursive constructs. In the context of these developments, and also reflecting the emergence of material religious studies, the conference adopts an expansive understanding of translation, encompassing interpreting, mediation, adaptation, translanguaging, multimodal communication and other forms of meaning-making.

By focusing on multilingual practices, material forms, and everyday religious experiences, the conference seeks to engage with the broader social, cultural, political and ethical dimensions of translation in religious life. It invites critical reflection on the roles of translators, interpreters, religious actors, institutions, technologies and communities in mediating religious knowledge and practice. This

conference will bring together scholars working at the intersection of Translation Studies, Interpreting Studies, Religious Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, Linguistics, and related disciplines to explore the diverse ways in which translation operates within religious contexts. We particularly encourage contributions that examine translation as a social, cultural, material and embodied practice occurring in religious communities, institutions and sites of worship.

The conference aims to foster dialogue between Translation Studies and Religious Studies and to advance understanding of religious translation in both historical and contemporary settings. We welcome contributions from established scholars, early career researchers, postgraduate students, translators, interpreters and practitioners interested in the multilingual and translational dimensions of religious life.

Keynote Speakers:

Hephzibah Israel
Sameh Hanna

Suggested Topics

Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Multilingual communication in places of worship
- Digital religion, technological mediation and translation
- Volunteer and paraprofessional translation and interpreting in religious contexts
- Ritual, performance, and multimodal translation
- Translation infrastructure in religious organisations
- Accessibility and inclusion in religious communication
- Positionality, access, and research ethics in religious fieldwork
- Translation, religion and globalisation
- Gender in religious translation
- Censorship and authority
- Retranslation and religious change
- Children, education and religious translation
- Migration, diaspora and multilingual religious communities
- Translation across religious/secular boundaries

- Material religion, objects and translational practices
- Minority and heritage in religious contexts
- Sacred space, place and linguistic landscapes
- Pilgrimage, mobility and translation
- Missionary translation and language documentation
- Faith, ethics, and translator/interpreter agency
- Translation and religious conversion

Submission Guidelines

Participants are invited to submit individual paper proposals by December 15th 2026 to the following address: **translationandreligion@gmail.com**

Individual Papers

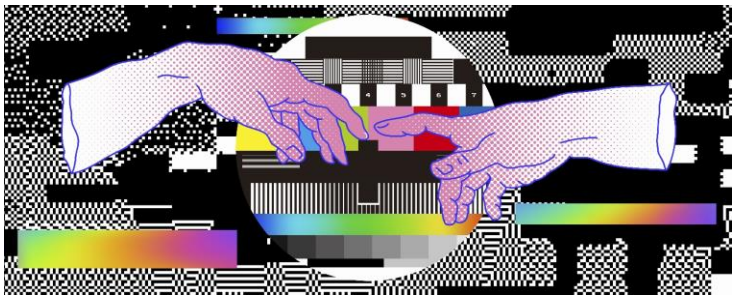
- Abstract: 250-300 words
- 4-6 keywords
- Short biographical note (100 words)

Important Dates

- Abstract submission deadline: 15th December 2026
- Notification of acceptance: 15th January 2027
- Registration deadline: Feb 2027
- Conference dates: May 2027

Organisers

Anderson Centre for Translation Research and Practice, University of Galway



Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
University of Galway

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