

2026 CEL/ELC online seminar

20 April 2026

5.30 pm CET

(DE)GENERATIVE AI AND MULTILINGUAL (MIS)COMMUNICATION

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Since the introduction of ChatGPT, the popularity of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) has skyrocketed, including the use of Large Language Models (LLMs) – i.e., the engines behind chatbots such as ChatGPT, Gemini, Copilot, or Claude – for multilingual communication, in companies, news media, law firms, educational institutions, or public services. This disruptive evolution is a cause of great concern: never before have humans left their communication, nor outsourced their thinking, to machines. Never before have they believed that they could communicate in any language without having to master it. And never before have professional expertise and quality of communication been so briskly and unambiguously sacrificed on the altar of tech-solutionism.

For these reasons, two years ago, a Special Interest Group on AI in Translation and Interpreting was created inside the Conseil Européen pour les Langues / European Language Council. That group, consisting of 24 scholars, recently released a reflection paper titled *AI for Translation and Interpreting: A Roadmap for Users and Policy Makers*. The paper is downloadable free of charge at <https://zenodo.org/records/17639236>, and was subsequently published, in a slightly different format, in the open access journal *Interpreting and Society*, 6:1 (2026), p. 1-31, <https://doi.org/10.1177/27523810251409377>.

In this online seminar, I will briefly introduce the Special Interest Group, and then discuss, from a perhaps somewhat more overtly critical stance, what is included in this publication, namely (1) how LLMs ‘communicate’, as compared to how humans do; (2) what impact LLMs have on the language industry, and specifically on translators and interpreters (as well as on their clients); (3) the legal and ethical issues involved in using GenAI; and (4) whether and how GenAI should be included in higher education. Along the way, some of the terminology (embeddings; neurons; deep learning; bias; synthetic data) and concepts (hallucination; Pygmalion effect; agent; confirmation bias; stochastic parroting; cognitive offload; Ouroboros effect) surrounding AI will be explained and assessed with a critical eye.

Click the following to register: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/9xFEQQNSZU>

The access link for the online seminar will be sent the day before the event.



About the Speaker

Kris Peeters is professor of text analysis, French culture and literature and Translation Studies at the University of Antwerp (Belgium). He coordinates the James Joyce in Translation Centre, is member of the TricS research group (Translation, interpreting and intercultural Studies) and ACDC (Antwerp Centre for Digital humanities and literary Criticism), the European Society for Translation Studies, the International James Joyce Foundation, and the James Joyce Italian Foundation. He is executive board member of the European Language Council (ELC), member of the steering committee of the Doctoral school in foreign languages and literatures of the Catholic University of the S. Heart in Milan, chief editor of *Linguistica Antverpiensia New Series – Themes in Translation Studies*, assistant editor of the *European Journal of Language Policy*, and editorial board member of *Sustainable multilingualism*. His research, at the intersection of Bakhtinian discourse theory (dialogism) and translation studies, focuses on multi- and heterolingualism in literary translation (in and between English, French, Italian, and Dutch), particularly in translations of James Joyce's works, on theory and poetics of retranslation, as well as on cross-cultural transfer and cross-linguistic mediation strategies in plurilingual communication, in the APATCHE project together with colleagues from Warsaw, Faro, Kaunas, and Milan (http://www.apatche.eu/?page_id=67). Since 2024, he coordinates the Special Interest Group on AI in Translation and Interpreting of the CEL/ELC.

