

September 2019

Exhibition: Who were the simultaneous interpreters at the Nuremberg trials?

Geneva, 25 September 2019 – The International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC) and the Faculty of Interpretation and Translation (FTI) are delighted to present “**One trial, four languages – Who were the simultaneous interpreters at the Nuremberg trial?**”, a travelling exhibition which will be at UNIMAIL in Geneva **from 30 September to 5 October**. Various events focused on the history of interpreting and conference interpreting as a profession will also be taking place alongside the exhibition.

“Without the outstanding and often very taxing work performed by these conference interpreters, the Nuremberg trial would have been unthinkable,” explains Rawdha Cammoun-Claveria, representative of AIIC Switzerland. *“The trial was not only a key moment in history; it also marked the advent of simultaneous interpretation.”*

Under the distinguished patronage of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Office of the United Nations, the exhibition shines a spotlight on a profession which is vital to the multilateral negotiations that are at the heart of the United Nations and its specialised agencies.

The exhibition opened in Germany in 2013. Following stops in Nuremberg, Paris, Berlin, London, San Francisco, New York, The Hague and many other cities, it now comes to the international hub of Geneva. In time for the Geneva exhibition, the narratives of the interpreters’ CVs have been translated into Russian so that all four languages of the Nuremberg trial – German, English, French and Russian – are now featured.

The **International Military Tribunal (IMT)** was set up in August 1945 with the specific objective of prosecuting those responsible for the crimes committed by the Nazi regime during the Second World War. The **Nuremberg trial** was led by the allied powers against 24 of the leaders of the Third Reich, who stood accused of conspiracy, crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. The trial opened on 20 November 1945 and closed on 1 October 1946. It was the first time that an international criminal court had ever been set up, and thus it played a key role in shaping the architecture of international law. The trial concluded with twelve of the accused being sentenced to death by hanging, among them Hermann Göring, who committed suicide before his sentence could be carried out.

EVENTS

www.aiic.ch/events/

30 September (AIIC and FTI):
Press conference (17:00)
Opening ceremony (18:30)

1 October (AIIC): Meeting the families of Nuremberg interpreters

What can family members of Nuremberg interpreters tell us about the trials in which their grandparents, parents or spouses played such a pivotal role? What is our modern take on the role of the interpreters in a trial which addressed wounds still gaping today? How did the trial influence the course of those interpreters' lives? Join us as we hear stories which have in some cases taken decades to come to light.

2 October (AIIC): Sign language interpreting (SLI) – with Maya de Wit, sign language expert

How can we judge the quality of sign language interpretation? What's it like from the perspective of the deaf user? In 2018, AIIC granted sign language interpreters the same status as regular conference interpreters. Come and join us as we discuss this topic which has been overlooked for far too long!

2 October (FTI): Masterclass in conference interpreting

3 October (AIIC): Round table on court interpreting

Courts and tribunals are a world of their own, often misunderstood by those who don't work in them. Elements such as witness statements, post-traumatic stress disorder, direct broadcasting, training, and less widely-spoken languages all pose specific challenges. Join us as seasoned court interpreters provide answers to our questions and give us an insight into this unique niche within the interpreting profession.

5 October (FTI): Language professions in international organisations



AIIC is the only professional association of conference interpreters with members on all five continents. It was founded in 1953 and currently has over 3,000 members worldwide. Switzerland has existed as an AIIC region since the 1950s. It has 285 members, who work with 22 languages and thus make their contribution to national and international communication. AIIC members in Switzerland are based in Basel, Bern, Geneva, Lugano, Martigny, Neuchâtel and Zurich. Geneva is home to the largest number of members (234). 85% of AIIC members in Switzerland are self-employed freelancers, while 15% are staff interpreters with international organizations. Within AIIC, Geneva has the third-highest number of interpreters at 234, behind Paris (300) and Brussels (325).

Information and registration : www.aiic.ch/events/

Contacts

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