



Newsletter 2024-25

Welcome to our annual Intercultural Research Centre (IRC) newsletter!

The Research Centre

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The Intercultural Research Centre (IRC) addresses key intercultural issues arising from the changing global context. Our research seeks to build understanding and develop appreciation of the experiences and representations of living with, or between, different cultures, identities, communities or languages. To this end, our research is built around three key themes:

Heritage and Sustainability, led by Prof. Ian Baxter

Popular culture and inclusion, led by Prof. Chris Tinker

Migration, led by Dr Katerina Strani

Strategy 2020-2025 The strategy of the IRC is aligned with the 5-year research strategy of Heriot-Watt University's School of Social Sciences, which focuses on understanding the institutions and functioning of human society and examining interpersonal and social relationships of individuals as members of society. In line with this, the IRC is developing:

- a joint research programme structured around the above key themes
- collaborative projects, including with research users, as part of this programme
- funding bids specifically geared to building research capacity, including postdoc and PhD studentship funding
- a vibrant culture and connected community of full-time and part-time PGR students

- mentoring and collaborative support structures for research career development
- regular dissemination events, including seminars and workshops, involving research users and wider audiences as appropriate
- publications showcasing research associated with the IRC
- increased collaboration within and outside the university, with a focus on impact
- infrastructure that fosters contributions to the field at national and international levels
- In this newsletter you will find news relating to our events, publications by full and affiliate members, news on conferences and events and updates on our members and activities.

Research Publications

Barclay, F., **Strani, K., & Drugan, J.** (2024). Why languages should still matter to schools. Times Educational Supplement.

<https://www.tes.com/magazine/analysis/general/why-languages-should-still-matter-schools>

Fadel, L. (2025). Transformative Events: A Migrant Narrative of Identity and Belonging at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. In M. Duignan (Ed.), *Events and Society: Bridging Theory and Practice* (1st ed., pp. 188-193).

Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003488729-29>

Fadel, L. (Ed.) (2024). Debordering Futures: Reclaiming Migrant Narratives. *The Other Side of Hope*, 4(1). <https://othersideofhope.com/debordering-futures-reclaiming-migrant-narratives.html>

Johnstone, E., Liao, M.-H., & Strani, K. (2024). How does it feel? Space and text as affective affordances in the multimodal museum. *Multimodality and Society*, 4(3), 314-329. <https://doi.org/10.1177/26349795241270437>

Kelly, J. (2024). Cómo realizar un slam de traducciones: La traducción como herramienta pedagógica para estudiantes de niveles avanzados in *ELEUK ampliando horizontes: Propuestas didácticas y avances en investigación*. Molina Vidal, I., del Pozo García, A., García Florenciano, M. & Muñoz López, J. (eds.), Madrid: Instituto Cervantes, pp.291-302.

Kelly, J. (2025). The Camel, the Lion and the Child: The Three Metamorphoses of a Translation", *China Media Research* 21(1): 118–122.

Liao, M.-H., Strani, K., & Johnstone, E. (October 2025). Community Centres as Sites of Translation: Placemaking in Edinburgh. *Text Matters*.

Liao, M.-H. (2025). Translation on Display: Multilingual Texts in Multimodal Museum Space. London: Routledge.

Nic Craith, M., Strani, K., & Mackie, A. (2024). Place, Belonging, and 'Firestick Wisdom': Ullrich Kockel's contribution to European Ethnology. In M. Nic Craith, K. Strani, & A. Mackie (Eds.), *Heimatkunde: Explorations of Place and Belonging* (pp. 1-19). LIT Verlag. <https://www.lit-verlag.de/isbn/978-3-643-91443-9>

Nic Craith, M., Strani, K., & Mackie, A. (Eds.) (2024). *Heimatkunde: Explorations of Place and Belonging*. LIT Verlag. <https://www.lit-verlag.de/isbn/978-3-643-91443-9>

Pfeiffer, K. (2025). The Waste of the World: Noah as Environmentalist in Modern Mystery Playing. *Anthropological Journal of European Cultures* 34 (1), pp. 37-48. <https://doi.org/10.3167/ajec.2025.340105>

Rabinovitch, A., Bliuc, A.-M., **Strani, K.**, Łycyniak, E., & Cristea, M. (2024). "God is my vaccine": The Role of Religion, Conspiracy Beliefs, and Threat Perception in Relation to COVID-19 Vaccination. *Current Psychology*, 43(46), 35543-35550. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-024-06475-7>

Strani, K. (2024). On Places, Roots and Rhizomes: Place and Belonging through the work of Ullrich Kockel. In M. Nic Craith, K. Strani, & A. Mackie (Eds.), *Heimatkunde: Explorations of Place and Belonging* (pp. 27-41). LIT Verlag. <https://www.lit-verlag.de/isbn/978-3-643-91443-9>

Forthcoming Publications

Fadel, L., Strani, K. and Drugan, J. (submitted - forthcoming, 2025). The Border Within: Highly skilled Syrians in the UK Narrativising Work and Belonging. *Societies*.

Kelly, James. Édouard Le Roy and the noosphere: toward a philosophy of Earth, accepted for publication in *Environmental Philosophy*.

Kelly, James. Landscape, Time, and the Philosophy of Michel Serres, accepted for publication in *The Trumpeter: Journal of Ecosophy*.

Liao, Min-Hsiu, Strani, Katerina, & Johnstone, Eilidh. (In press). Community Centres as Sites of Translation: Placemaking in Edinburgh. *Text Matters*.

Tinker, Chris. (Re-)defining the Popular Music Gay Icon. In Siham Bouamer, Denis M. Provencher and Ryan Schroth (eds.), *Queer Realms of Memory*, Liverpool University Press.

Project Updates

Chrysi Koundouraki contributed to the educational resources created for the European research project "Dys in education, professional life and work". The project offers free resources to employers to help them accommodate neurodivergence in the workplace. Resources can be found here: <https://dysineduprowork.eu/>


Chrysi Koundouraki - The European research project "*Promoting Entrepreneurship and Gastronomy Tourism*" is nearing completion, and its materials are now available online at <https://proengat.eu/>. Chrysi has been involved in overseeing the project's activities and contributed to the development of the educational module "*Cultural and Culinary Heritage*."

Min-Hsiu Liao and Katerina Strani. "Facilitating Linguistic Flows in Cities: Exploring Translation as placemaking practice", £2,972, funded by BAAL Applied Linguistic Funds (August 2024 -July 2025).

ODOU project: **Katerina Strani** and Marion Winters led a hybrid consultation workshop on 30 May 2025 as part of their British Academy-funded project, [*Online Discourse on Ukrainians in the UK and Poland*](#). The event brought together scholars, practitioners, and community stakeholders to reflect on emerging findings. There was excellent input from participants, which will inform the next stages of analysis.



The ODOU project investigates how Ukrainians are represented in online discourse across two key host countries, using corpus-assisted discourse

analysis. findings will be presented at the **British Association for Applied Linguistics (BAAL) Conference** in September, and the project will end in October.  [Project website](#)


Leith Linguistic Landscape Workshop: On 19 February 2025, **Min-Hsiu Liao and Katerina Strani** co-led a **walking workshop in Leith**, as part of a project funded by [BAAL](#) and the [Royal Society of Edinburgh](#) on *Edinburgh: A Translational City*. The event, co-hosted with The Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equality Council ([ELREC](#)), brought together local residents and linguists to examine signage and cultural diversity through the lens of lived multilingualism.

A research paper based on this walking workshop is currently in preparation for submission to the *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*. A conference abstract has been accepted for presentation at the upcoming [BAAL](#) conference in September. Selected participant photos and insights from the discussion have been compiled into a project outcome booklet, which will be made publicly available on the project website.

New projects

[Developing High-impact Research on Language, Culture and Migration: Collaborative Workshops with Women Early Career Researchers in](#)

[Malaysia:](#) PI: HWU - **Strani**. Funder: British Academy. Co-Is: Professor Gina Netto, Heriot-Watt University; Dr Lina Fadel, Heriot-Watt University; Professor Noraida Endut, Universiti Sains Malaysia; Professor Salasiah Che Lah, Universiti Sains Malaysia; Dr Siti Nurnadilla Mohamad Jamil, International Islamic University Malaysia. 2025-2027.

The project builds on previously developed networks in Malaysia to deliver collaborative writing and mentoring workshops on research publications and grant applications in the intersecting fields of Language, Culture, and Migration. The joint project with two Malaysian universities targets women early career researchers (ECRs) as underrepresented, historically marginalised, and disadvantaged in academic publishing and funding. The workshops and mentoring sessions are designed in an equitable manner which fosters both North-South and South-South collaboration. Experienced academics, including key journal editors, will develop and deliver the workshops, providing targeted feedback and support. This collaboration will result in the formal establishment of a research network, at least one proposal for a journal special issue, a collaborative funding application including one or more of the project partners, and one international webinar. The project's aim is to foster empowered and independent women researchers in Malaysia who will transform our understanding of Language, Culture, and Migration.  [Project website](#)

PhD Graduations - Congratulations to our IRC PhD Scholarship Holders

Chiara Cocco, *Performing the Festival: An Experiential Autoethnography of the Festival of Stant'Efizio in Sardinia*, supervised by Kerstin Pfeiffer and Mairéad Nic Craith; graduation November 2024 (below left).

Eilidh Johnstone, *Sensing the Pottery Town: Text and space as technologies of affect in the translated museum*, with supervisors Min-Hsiu Liao and Katerina Strani; graduation June 2025 (below right).



Conference Papers

Fadel, L. and Plasatis, A. (June, 2025). Poetry of Exile as Activism: Immigrant and Refugee Writers Negotiating Borders, Identity and Belonging in Scotland, Displaced Arts: Creative Practices and Geographies of Asylum Symposium, University of Edinburgh.

Fadel, L. and Drugan, J. (May, 2025). Silence as Peace: Rethinking Research Methodologies for Justice. UNESCO RIELA's May Peace Prevail Spring School. Glasgow

Fadel, L. and Drugan, J. (September, 2024). Encounters with discomfort: what do methodologies of otherness look like? Wild Research Symposium, Glasgow.

Koundouraki, C. PSA Early Career Network, online: "Exploring national Identity: A Case Study of Greek Migration in Scotland", July 2024.

Koundouraki, C. SoSS 3rd Doctoral Conference, Reflections on Research within the Social Sciences: "Perceptions of national identity among Greeks in Scotland", September 2024.

Koundouraki, C. Citizenship and Migration Research Network, University of Edinburgh: "Perceptions of national identity", February 2025.

Koundouraki, C. 75th PSA Annual International Conference, University of Birmingham and Aston University: "Exploring national Identity: A Case Study of Greek Migration in Scotland", April 2025.

Liao, M-H. and Strani, K. "Affective placemaking through craft and art workshops." SIEF Congress 2025 (International Society for Ethnology and Folklore). 3-6 June 2025.

Liao, M-H. "Heritage sites and imagined space: a translation of Fort Santo Domingo in Formosa." EST Congress 2025 (European Society for Translation Studies). 30 June – 3 July.

Pfeiffer, K. Performing local(ly): theatre, vernacular creativity, and identity. SIEF2025: Unwriting in Aberdeen, 03/06/2025 to 06/06/2025.

SIEF 'Unwriting' Conference, Aberdeen, 03-06 June 2025. [Conference website](#)

Katerina Strani, Kerstin Pfeiffer, Min-Hsiu Liao, Alastair Mackie, Ullrich Kockel, and PhD students Aurora Zhang and **Leri Price** participated in the dynamic 4-day **SIEF 'Unwriting' conference** in Aberdeen, gathering over 1,000 scholars in anthropology, ethnology, sociology, history, cultural

studies, and related disciplines from across the globe. The event focused on creative and decolonial methods, place wisdom, critical ethnography, memory, cities, heritage languages, and performance, and wrapped up with a traditional ceilidh.

Katerina Strani recorded a live ethno-anthropological podcast with Leri Price on *Democratising Performance*: <https://nomadit.co.uk/conference/129/p/16163> and presented a paper with Min-Hsiu Liao on “Affective placemaking through craft and art workshops” as part of the #Body01 Panel.

Kerstin Pfeiffer presented a paper on Performing local(ly): theatre, vernacular creativity, and identity as part of the #Intersectionalities1 Panel.

Leri Price recorded the above Dramanauts ethno-anthropological podcast and also presented a paper on Articulate bodies: embodiment as a means of exploring silence(s) in narratives of home as part of the Ethnographies of Silence panel.

Aurora Zhang presented a paper on Unwriting Classroom Spaces: How Students Reimagine Language, Identity, and Learning in a Chinese Heritage School in Scotland as part of a Panel on Knowledge Production and Reflexivity.





Katerina Strani and Min-Hsui Liao after their presentation.



Kerstin Pfeiffer and Katerina Strani catching up with IRC affiliate members Alastair Mackie and Ullrich Kockel

Invited Talks

Baxter, I. Scottish Historic Buildings Trust - March 2025 - "*Is heritage over?*" (With Ranauld McInnes, HES)

Baxter, I. Friends of Norham Castle - May 2025 - "*Is heritage over? - reflections across the border*"

Fadel, L. and Wimalasena, L. (September, 2024). Reflex' in Reflexivity: Towards expanded seeing in doctoral research : Doctoral Conference, School of Social Science, HWU.

Fadel, L. Keynote Listener at the Glasgow UNESCO RIELA Spring School, 13-15 May 2025.

Kelly, J. Voice of the earth: Translating Pachamama in the Atacama Desert” (March 2025), paper presented as part of the EPISTRAN online lecture series.

Engagement and Impact Activities

Lina Fadel organised and presented the *other side of hope* magazine launch event at Heriot-Watt University (21 May 2025), held in collaboration with the Migration theme at the Intercultural Research Centre, celebrating migrant voices through multilingual poetry and story readings.

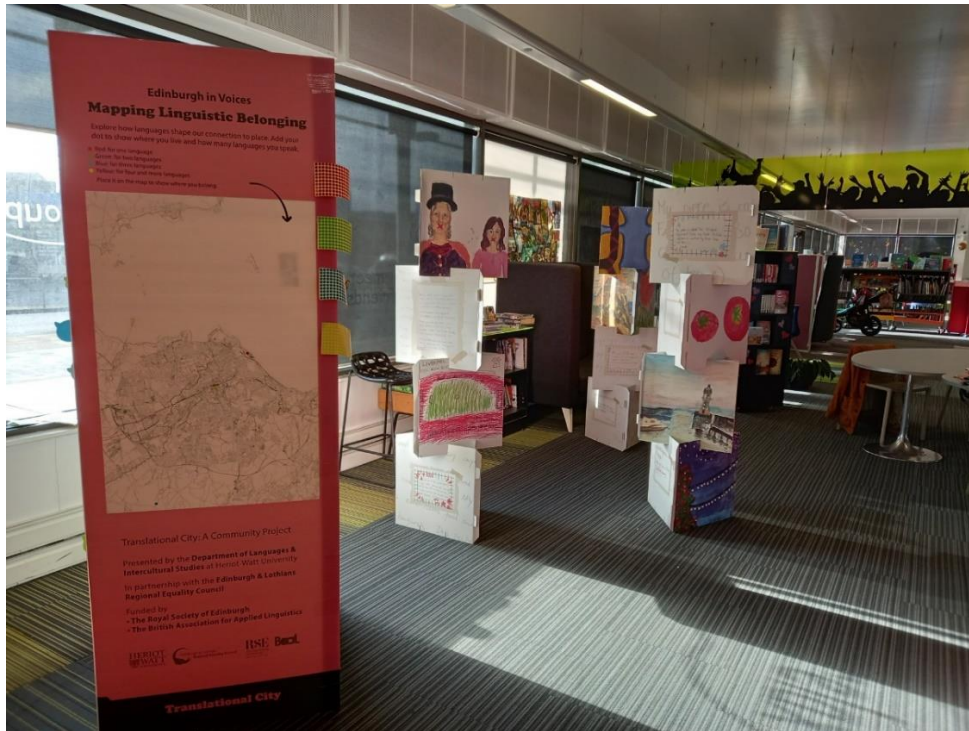
Chrysi Koundouraki, April 2025: Chrysi manages the Erasmus+ research project “Promoting Entrepreneurship and Gastronomy Tourism” and spoke about the connection between cultural heritage and food at the project’s meeting at the Chambre de Commerce Italienne, Nice Sophia Antipolis, Côte d’Azur (FR).

Chrysi Koundouraki is co-organising the Energy and Sustainability Conference which will take place in July 2025, in Crete.

The Conference is co-organised by the Technical University of Crete, the University of Genoa, the European Education and Learning Institute, and Chania Municipality (<https://www.sherlockproject.eu/energy-and-sustainability-conference>).

Min-Hsui Liao: three events to celebrate **International Mother Language Day** in February 2025, all funded by BAAL.

- 19 February 2025. Leith Walking Workshop co-organised with Edinburgh & Lothian Regional and Equality Council, led by Min-Hsiu Liao and Katerina Strani, with the support from PhD students including Paula Bao, and Zhuo Cheng, Eilidh Johstone, Leri Price, and Aurora Zhang.
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/walking-workshop-leith-linguistic-landscape-tickets-1216663616629?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>
- 8-28 February 2025. Exhibition on Translational Edinburgh, co-organised with the Craigmillar Library, led by Min-Hsiu Liao →→→→



· 22 February 2025. A family art & craft workshop on the theme of multilingual and multisensory experience, co-organised with the Craigmillar Library, led by Min-Hsiu Liao (below).



Federico Lubrani, chair and co-organiser of Slow Food Glasgow:

A first training session was organised as part of the Glasgow Sustainable Food Directory involved owners and employees of Glasgow-based restaurants, cafes and food shops who wanted to learn more about sustainable environmental & social practices. Including talks, networking, a screening and food at Civic House, the event created space for conversation. The Glasgow Sustainable Food Directory, developed in collaboration with the Slow Food Glasgow and Glasgow Food Policy Partnership, provides information about sustainable food businesses in Glasgow that are committed to reducing environmental impact, supporting local economies. Launched in October 2021 to coincide with COP26, aims to connect consumers with climate-conscious food outlets and support businesses in their sustainability journey.



Riikka Gonzalez, Lucy Watkins and Federico Lubrani

Other Activities

Min-Hsiu Liao hosted a Webinar (3 December 2024) that brought together eight museum professionals and translation researchers for a dialogue on museum translation. The webinar title is 'Now you are speaking my languages!': Practices and Research on Museum Translation.

<https://lifeinlincs.site.hw.ac.uk/event/webinar-now-you-are-speaking-my-languages/>

Katerina Strani joined the MDPI journal Societies as Editorial board member.

Katerina Strani completed her 4-year tenure as External Examiner at the University of Chichester, Department of Creative Industries. Katerina's EE responsibilities were related to the BA programme in Media and Communications. She visited the university in April and met with staff and students. It's been a genuine privilege to work alongside such dedicated academic staff and witness the commitment, creativity, and growth of students.



Chris Tinker is current President of the Association for the Study of Modern & Contemporary France (ASMCF) which runs a diverse range of activities and initiatives including the multi-disciplinary international peer-reviewed journal [Modern & Contemporary France](#), an annual conference, an annual PGR Study day (with the Society for the Study of French History, SSFH), Undergraduate and Postgraduate Essay prizes, funding schemes such as the Visiting Scholars' Seminar Series, a Joint Schools' Liaison and Outreach funding scheme (with SSFH), and PGR and Early Career Researcher Awards. Further details at asmcf.org

Future Activities

Baxter, Ian New edition of Heritage Careers Guide, and new Heritage Current Awareness and Resources Guide.

Baxter, Ian Fieldwork for heritage guidebooks project, looking at history of interpretation styles and design for sites in Scotland.

Min-Hsiu Liao and Katerina Strani. "Pausing in the City: Exploring Place-Making through Linguistically Diverse Streetscapes." 2025 BAAL conference (British Association for Applied Linguistics). 4-6 September 2025.

Min-Hsiu Liao will co-organise a panel entitled "Museum, Art, and Heritage Translation for Cultural Sustainability" in the 8th IATIS conference (International Association for Translation and Intercultural Studies) to take place in Muscat (10-13 December 2025).

Chris Tinker Être gay en 1984 : Audience Participation in Les Dossiers de l'écran, Association for the Study of Modern & Contemporary France (ASMCF) 2025 Annual Conference: *Nomadismes*, University of Kent, September 2025
