Abstract:

Silvia Bernardini
Department of Interpreting and Translation
University of Bologna at Forli, Italy

Is translator education dead? Reflecting on the future of higher education for language mediators in the era of Artificial Intelligence

The theme of the fifth edition of the TeTra (TEchnologies for TRAnslation) event, to be held at the Department of Interpreting and Translation (University of Bologna, Italy) in March 2019, is "Is translation dead?". This provocative question, adapted to the general thrust of the Saarbruecken colloquium, will be my starting point for a reflection on the challenges faced by higher education in the field of language mediation (including translation and interpreting, and both BA- and MA-level instruction). Focusing on Italy as a case in point, I will try to bring together multiple points of view: first and foremost those of offer and demand, but also of organizational constraints (including regulatory and financial aspects) and political constraints (including local, national and international academic perspectives), not forgetting human factors. The role of research in this scenario will also be discussed, particularly as concerns frictions between, as well as opportunities offered by, methods at the crossroads of humanistic and scientific traditions. The main objective will be to lay the bases for discussion on ways to revive--and most likely rethink--translator education.