



IV Lisbon Spring School in Translation Studies

translation & im/perfection

16-21 March 2026

Call for Papers

El destino – el privilegio y el honor – del hombre es no lograr nunca lo que se propone y ser pura pretensión, viviente utopía.

José Ortega y Gasset

The Lisbon Spring School in Translation Studies aims to provide an open space for the exchange of ideas, methods, and best practices. Its main topics are deliberately broad, so as to include as many doctoral topics, methods and approaches as possible. Inclusivity is not just a buzzword; it results from the twofold conviction that knowledge must be shareable to be productive, and that differences of opinion, approach or method should not divide scholars, but rather provide an opportunity for a ‘conversational encounter’ (Oakeshott, 1989) and friendly exchange and discussion of different viewpoints.

The IV Spring School in Translation Studies has elected as its overall topic the notion of ‘im/perfection’ since this seems to haunt most tentative definitions of translation across time – see the literal vs. sense debate (from Jerome to Schleiermacher), the discussions around singularity and authorship, human vs. non-human translation, including machine translation, the social, economic and political value of the profession, the arguments for/against (un)translatability, new emerging fields such as ecotranslation, etc.

All areas of translation – from the so-called ‘technical’ to literary translation – are, to different extents, plagued by the suspicion that texts that are translated are imprecise, inaccurate – imperfect. Somehow less than their sources. On the other hand, literary prizes have been awarded to authors who most readers – and members of the jury themselves – have read in translation. Symptomatically, the 2025 Nobel Prize in Literature was awarded to László Krasznahorkai ‘for his compelling and visionary oeuvre that, in the midst of apocalyptic terror, reaffirms the power of art’ – are we to assume that all members of the jury have read Krasznahorkai in Hungarian? Or Saramago in Portuguese back in 1998? The silence around translation is at times deafening, and it is well worth documenting.

At the Spring School, we would like to discuss present, as well as past, understandings of translation, contemporary challenges to human translation as a less-than-perfect activity, the dream of the perfect, effortless, immediate machine translation, the impact of AI on human translation, on the environment and on communication patterns, among many other topics.



Therefore, we invite all doctoral students and early-career researchers from around the world to submit their ongoing work, and to discuss the centrality of the notion of 'im/perfection' in translation practices and conceptualizations. Ideally, this week-long event will highlight contemporary research interests and paths, resulting in a tentative mapping of an inclusive and plural field from the perspective of emerging scholars and their fresh insights and inputs.

The Spring School is a six-day event, comprising lectures by national and international scholars, paper sessions (PhD students and early career researchers) and poster sessions (MA students), translation workshops, and a cultural programme.

We welcome contributions on:

- translation and interpretation;
 - risk in translation;
 - translation and activism;
 - mis/translation: causes and effects in the production of images of the self and of others;
 - the im/precision of indirect translation;
 - creativity in translation across the ages;
 - translation ethics;
 - translation agents and their contexts;
 - (un)translability – competing definitions and practices;
 - translation and/as resistance to dominant models and ideologies;
 - translation as oppressive or emancipatory practice;
 - imagining others in (pseudo)translation – from fear to inclusion via exoticization;
 - im/perfection of the gaze: translation & travel writing;
 - prizes, power and politics in translation;
 - translation policies in different periods;
 - literalness and polysemy;
 - silence in/of translation;
 - non-human translation and im/precision;
 - paratextuality as an imaginative resource; and
- the creative interplay of TS and knowledge production in other fields of enquiry, such as Literary Studies, Culture Studies, Cognitive Studies, Media Studies, History, Philosophy, as well as the hard sciences.

Other topics are also welcome.

Abstracts should be sent to cecc.fch@ucp.pt no later than 10 December 2025 and include paper title, abstract in English (max. 250 words), 3-4 keywords, name, e-mail address, institutional affiliation, a brief bio (max. 100 words).

Workshops:

The Creative Translation Workshop
AI & translation: a hands-on approach

Organizing Committee:

Maria Zulmira Castanheira | Alexandra Lopes

Practicalities

Fee: €350 (includes lunches, coffee breaks, materials, and closing lunch)

Free for CECC and CETAPS members – fee for closing lunch is €35

Venue:

Faculdade de Ciências Humanas – Universidade Católica Portuguesa

Important dates:

Call for Papers: 15 October 2025

Deadline for abstract submission: 10 December 2025

Notification of acceptance: 30 December 2025

Early bird registration: 3 January - 25 January 2026 [€350 euros]

Late registration: no later than 15 February 2026 [€500]

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