

SLIANZ

Sign Language Interpreters Association of New Zealand
Te Rōpū o Ngā Kaiwhakamārama Reo Turi o Aotearoa

Newsletter

March 2019

UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kia ora koutou,

As always, after the relatively quiet Christmas and New Year period, things have been busy for your SLIANZ committee.

We had a second Face to Face meeting in February in Auckland where amongst other things we planned for our next PD events, discussed the next steps for the Tuakana Teina programme and other mentoring / coaching / supervision options, and met with Ursula Thynne representing Deaf Interpreting New Zealand.

The excellent platform interpreting info videos that the previous committee produced were released on YouTube and via our Facebook page and have proved very popular.

You will be relieved to know that our new website and Directory are nearly ready for launch. We have taken the time to update information and streamline many processes, including submitting PD points and updating your own Directory entry. Developing and maintaining a website is a lengthy, intensive process, and I would like to thank Matthew Bloomfield for his patience and his efforts to keep costs down for us.

Liaison with other organisations remains a large part of our role and I have had meetings with MBIE regarding the upcoming VRS review; with ASLIA regarding indemnity insurance, mentoring, and WASLI; with iSign regarding their policy on the use of communicators and ways in which communicators could be differentiated from qualified interpreters on website profiles; with the DANZ CEO regarding the WFD bid for 2023; and with the DANZ Board regarding updating our existing Cooperation Agreement. Kimberley has been representing SLIANZ on the NZSTI Board and Tarsha and Shiz attended a Deaf Interpreting NZ planning meeting.

If the bid for the WFD Congress to be hosted by New Zealand in 2023 is successful (and NZ has been shortlisted with only 3 other candidates), this would also mean that the WASLI conference would be hosted here. I have been preparing for this possibility with the assistance of Tourism NZ (including financial assistance to attend WASLI Paris this year) and we are coordinating our feasibility report with the DANZ bid.

Our membership continues to grow and we welcome a bumper crop of new graduates to the profession, some of whose profiles you will find later in this newsletter, as well as a number of new members who have moved from overseas. It's nearly time for membership renewals, so expect to get a renewal reminder soon.

SLIANZ has sponsored two large workshops in the past few months and you can read reports about these in this newsletter. We also ran a workshop on EGL and preparing your own business just before Christmas with the Central North Island Squad (CNIS) / Outerpreters, and are preparing the same workshop for other areas.

Conference planning is in full swing and a Call for Papers has gone out. A very capable Wellington conference subcommittee has it all in hand :-)

The Tuakana Teina programme continues to go strong and exit interviews with 'graduates' of the programme will take place soon.

All of this activity (much of it invisible to members) does take its toll and several committee members have had to take a back seat due to illness or other life events. We are as always grateful for those people stepping into the breach and helping where they can to organise local events, edit and format the newsletter, post on our Facebook group and support in other ways.

The fact remains that without a strong core committee, many of the activities listed above can't take place. So we start this newsletter off with an urgent call for nominations for next year's committee. Do give it a thought, will you? Let's lighten the load and look after ourselves as well as our profession :-)

Ngā mihi nui,

Micky

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CHANGES TO PD POINTS SYSTEM COMING SOON

Dear colleagues, we will make some changes to the PD points system for the next PD round. The number of points required and how these are allocated remain the same, we will just streamline how the points are submitted to SLIANZ to lighten the load for members and committee. Shiz will send out a detailed email once we finalise everything.

SLIANZ COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Although the conference and AGM are still a few months away, we wanted to give members a heads up that all committee positions apart from the President will come up for election.

We will be asking for nominations in advance of the AGM for Secretary, Treasurer, and between 4 and 6 committee members. Whether you've been working as an interpreter for 2 months or 2 decades, you might be who we're looking for!

We'll be honest – the work of the committee does take a steady commitment. We have monthly videoconference meetings as well as at least one weekend a year for a face-to-face meeting, and most of the committee roles take at least 1-2 hours a week to fulfil. On the other hand, there is no better way to learn more about the profession and we will support you in developing the skills you need. In recognition of your contribution, as a committee member you will get 6 PD points.

If you think you might be interested but want to find out more about what's involved first, talk to any of the current committee members. You'll also be able to ask questions at the regional meetings (in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch and via videoconference) that are planned for May.

Please consider if you have time and skills to offer your organisation so that we can continue to be a voice for sign language interpreters in New Zealand.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

Hi, my name is Ruth Sullivan-Whyte, I first started learning NZSL way back in 2005 while doing my primary teachers degree in Otago. After graduating I became a communicator for 2 years then decided to move to Brisbane, Australia with my partner and become a qualified interpreter over there. I completed my diploma of interpreting in Auslan in 2010 and became qualified under NAATI. I worked throughout Brisbane, first as a University interpreter then I was lucky enough to get a job

with Deaf Services Queensland and travelled throughout Queensland working with widely varying businesses and clients. At the end of 2013 we decided to move back to my home on the West Coast and now we live in Hokitika where we run two butcher shops (my partner is a butcher), I work for Van Asch Deaf Education Centre as a NZSL tutor, teach night classes and work occasionally as an interpreter. I look forward to meeting you all throughout my time with the committee.



WASLI UPDATE

By Angela Murray

This July, at the WASLI Conference in Paris my term as the Oceania regional representative will come to an end. This is not a goodbye speech yet, but a heads up for what is to come.

The WASLI executive board, ASLIA and SLIANZ have discussed the position of the WASLI Oceania Regional Representative for the next term 2019-2023. Previously the role has alternated between Australia and New Zealand as the only two countries in the region to have registered national interpreter associations. The Sign Language Interpreters Association in Fiji

is growing and almost at a stage of registration so based on the work we saw at the Oceania Conference our executive thinks it would be great to offer Fiji the regional representative role, with support from ASLIA and SLIANZ. The Sign Language Interpreters Association of Fiji are currently working on finding a representative and we will let you all know once a candidate is chosen.

Registrations for the WASLI Conference in Paris are still open so it's not too late to come. Check out <https://wasliparis2019.com/> for more information. If you are unable to come but would like to donate there are interpreters from the islands who would really appreciate assistance with their travel costs. Talk to me if that's something you would like to do austoceania.wasli@gmail.com

SELF CARE WORKSHOP AND GROUP SUPERVISION

Christchurch: Saturday November 3rd 2018

Five Christchurch interpreters attended this all day Professional Development offered by Connect Interpreting, with another interpreter attending for the morning session on 'Self Care' and one more for the afternoon supervision session.

Julia Freeman, building on the very successful 'Self Care for Interpreters' PD held in Auckland in August 2018 (presented by Julia, and Kimberley Olivecrona), facilitated the morning session. This very comprehensive presentation included identifying the various aspects of self care; emotional, mental, physical, social, spiritual and practical. These aspects were further expanded upon to highlight what sorts of activities fall into each category, informed in part by interpreters' own self care preferences. Julia also presented information about resources which can assist in identifying one's personality and/or disposition, an important factor when considering one's own individual self care needs. There was also a discussion about possible barriers to self care; again, important to identify what may be preventing an interpreter from using self care strategies. Finally Julia offered a comprehensive list of tools and resources for self care.

After lunch Lynx facilitated a two hour supervision session. This included a brief introduction to Professional Supervision, explaining the difference between supervision, mentoring, coaching and counselling. She outlined some of the approaches and models of Professional Supervision, explaining her preferred approach and model and why she believes supervision is a vital tool for interpreters' ongoing reflection and learning. This was followed by a practical group supervision session, during which curious questions were asked by the group participants and which led to some insights and potential strategies.

The feedback from the day was overwhelmingly positive. Connect looks forward to offering more PD sessions outside the Auckland region.



COACHING & MENTORING SKILLS TRAINING

By James Bichan

Whatever you call it, however you define it, a professional off-load is a healthy part of being a healthy interpreter. So, on the first weekend of February, this Christchurch interpreter journeyed 740km (as the A320 flies) to Auckland to participate in Aly McNicoll's *Coaching & Mentoring Skills Training*.

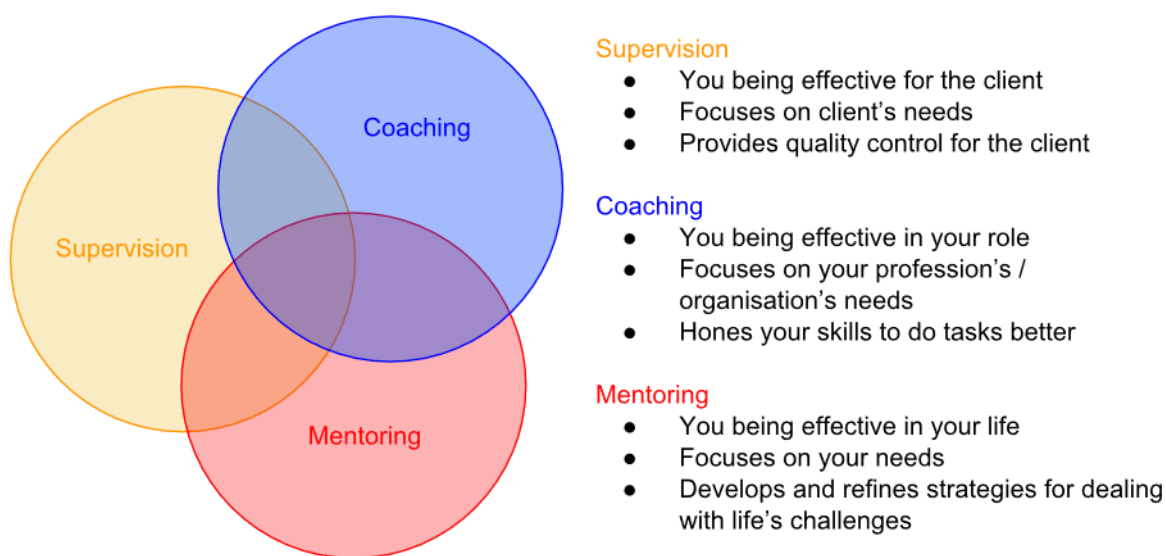
If you don't want to read the full article (filled with wisdom and witticisms) and instead want the short, short version, here it is.

To be a good mentor/coach/supervisor, you must:

- Listen well
- Ask good questions
- Make more deposits into, than withdrawals from, the Bank of Good Will

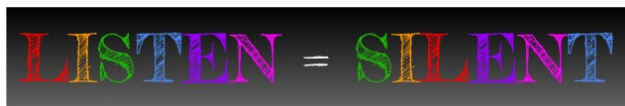
Now for the director's cut. I'll try to keep it entertaining and colourful...

First up, here's my take (as a result of the training) on a few words we often use interchangeably. I find this overlapping way of looking at things quite helpful:



For me, this description has provided some much-needed clarity. It also tells me the boundaries between each of these methods are blurred, and that's okay.

Listen Well



Have you ever noticed how "listen", when rearranged, becomes "silent"? How often, when listening to a colleague debriefing, are we composing our "that reminds me of..." story in our heads? Are we even listening? Next time try letting them talk. And talk. And talk. No suggestions, only questions (more on that soon!). But above all else: DO NOT HIJACK THEIR STORY! No one likes being gagged and bound mid-story. Particularly when externalising a really complicated situation in their head!

No Suggestions, Only Questions

Once you've listened to your colleague (including through the silences while they gather their thoughts), it's time to ask targeted questions to help them reflect further. But choose your question carefully: are you genuinely encouraging reflection? Or are you trying to sneak advice to the party by prettying it up to look like a question?

So, what are some good questions? If you've done coaching training in the past, maybe you've met the GROW model. Aly introduced us to the WHOA model. GROW is to WHOA as Coke is to Pepsi. Essentially the same outcome, just a slightly different flavour.

GROW	WHOA
Goal - How do you want it to be different?	What's happening now?
Reality - What's happening now?	How do you want it to be different?
Options - What are your options?	Options - What are your options?
Will - Which option will you action?	Action - Which option will you action?

Whichever acronym your taste buds prefer, they both provide a step by step approach towards supporting a colleague through a quandary. These four phases of a mentoring session are the inspiration for the questions you will ask your mentee.

Yes, it's moments like these you need...



(Most) Wh-questions are great for mentoring

"What's going on for you at the moment?"

"What was the biggest challenge for you during that interaction?"

"How do you think your response was perceived by others?" (using "how" as a legit Wh-question!)

Avoid "why" questions!

"Why did you do it that way?" vs "What could you do differently next time?"

Why questions can be a bit judgy and a tad attack-y... especially if your mentee is already feeling a bit vulnerable! As a mentor, your job is to build a safe place for your mentee to bring their curious concerns.

Give it a go

Next time you're with a colleague, bite your tongue and listen. Work through GROW or WHOA and see if you can help them to take some action that they've come up with themselves... without you binding, gagging and kidnapping their tale! And end your session strong. Ask "What was helpful about this?". Take a moment to reflect on the process and have your mentee reinforce in their own mind what was of benefit.

The biggest take away for me?

Before giving a colleague corrective feedback about their craft, you need to consider the level of good will you have with them. Think of it as a savings account. Compliments help the balance increase; corrective feedback makes a withdrawal. It's the Bank of Good Will. Like a savings account, if you haven't been paying into it over the years, you shouldn't be withdrawing. A negative account balance will leave a person feeling resentful towards or hurt by you. To grow positive relationships (personally and professionally), we need 3 - 5 affirmations for every single "constructive" (negative or improvement based) comment.

Our challenge, as professionals who spend a lot of time working solo, is to:

- Listen well
- Ask good questions
- Make more deposits into, than withdrawals from, the Bank of Good Will

PERFORMANCE INTERPRETING WORKSHOP

By Melissa Sutton

NZSL interpreters had the privilege and pleasure of working with Marie Pascall and Daryl Jackson from Performance Interpreting UK in early March of this year.

The workshop was titled an "Introduction to Music Interpreting" and focussed on micro and macro level skills when interpreting music. We looked at everything from our eye gaze and feet positions right through to how teaming and performance interpreting networks work in the UK. We gained some great skills and strategies for our 'tool boxes' and learnt about the rainbow that is music. We talked about us as individuals having strength in a couple of colours/ music styles and using our networks to build up our weaknesses by collaborating with our wonderful coworkers.

We ended the day with an afternoon of performances; seeing a rock duo, finding Aotearoa's rap specialists, crying over break up songs, laughing at some very cheeky interpretations and more. It was a privilege to have been a part of such a

wonderful day that was supported by a generous donation from SLIANZ. Thank you for helping to make this workshop possible and thank you also to Marie and Daryl from Performance Interpreting UK.



(Note: Lynnley and Rose not in the photo and Phoebe is the one dabbing in the front haha)

CONNECT PD GOES INTERNATIONAL!

On Saturday 19th January 2019 Lynx presented two separate sessions on Professional Supervision in Vancouver, British Columbia, at the invitation of WAVLI (Westcoast Association of Visual Language Interpreters).

The sessions were held in the lovely Aboriginal Gathering Place at Douglas College, New Westminster. Each session was for two hours, incorporating a brief overview of the rationale and theory of Professional Supervision as well as the experience of a practical group supervision. This gave the Canadian participants (both hearing and Deaf interpreters) a taste of what supervision has to offer, and gave some extra impetus to those



interpreters who are keen to undertake some training in this field. The sessions were very well received and will be repeated in June 2019, as there is a waiting list of 52 interpreters wanting to know more about this vital form of professional development.



Some comments from participants, in response to the question "Most useful learning from the sessions?":

- That supervision is for all levels of experience
- Made me realise that we really need this kind of support here - so many interpreters would benefit from this
- Great 'taste' of what supervision is: impressive in such a short time frame
- Nice blend of overview, context and practical
- What supervision is, how it can be done, why it is important.

Lynx has received a further invitation to present in Victoria, BC, in October 2019.

NEWS FROM AUT

AUT has a new **Master of Language and Culture** which is a great option for anyone who wants to delve into interpreting research. This programme is 1.5 years full time, and can be studied part time also.

There are two pathways to choose from:

- a) semester of coursework, then a 1-year thesis (conduct your own research project)
- b) semesters of coursework, then a 1-semester dissertation

Below are just some of the interesting papers that are part of the new MLC:

TRIN801 “Interpreting: A Critical Approach”

A refinement and appraisal of interpreting skills through the development of an interpreting portfolio reflecting critical awareness of the theoretical framework and multidisciplinary nature of interpreting studies. Students use the portfolio as the starting point for a seminar presentation outlining their own original approach to interpreting to reflect their individual strengths and interests.

CLSY802 “Multilingualism, Diversity and Intercultural Communication”

Develops an advanced understanding of the connections between ethnically and linguistically diverse communities and societies, and the importance of intercultural competency for navigating citizenship and identity. Applies this understanding to a specified area within the field of language and culture.

CLSY803 “Project: Language and Culture”

Project work that develops advanced proficiency, linguistic or cultural knowledge in an Asia-Pacific language, relevant to a specified area in the field of language and culture (e.g. language or adult literacy education, translation, interpreting, language analysis, diversity and culture).

This means you could develop your knowledge of NZSL in a specialised area, and you can submit your assessments in NZSL for this paper.

We have intakes for this programme at the beginning of the year and mid-year. You can do thesis/dissertation study from anywhere, but currently you need to be on campus in Auckland for the papers. We hope to offer online courses in the future as the programme develops.

Here is a link with more information <https://www.aut.ac.nz/study/study-options/language-and-culture/courses/master-of-language-and-culture> or please feel free to contact George Major (gmajor@aut.ac.nz) to talk more.

MEET OUR NEW GRADS!



Back row: Amy Nash, Mona Pointon, Lynette Pivac, Phoebe Leyten, Karliah McGregor, George Major, Susie Ovens, Lisa Thompson
Front row: Mark Hodgson, Alice Bennett, Cheryl Astley, Rachel Coppage



Lisa Thompson

Hi everyone! My name is Lisa, and I'm now working in Wellington where I am originally from.

I started learning to sign 10 years ago when I met a friend who is Deaf. I looked up to the Wellington interpreters and decided I would start interpreter training as soon as I had finished high school. Now I am loving my job as a community and educational interpreter! I look forward to developing my skills, learning more about educational interpreting, and supporting interpreting students in the future. Can't wait to meet the rest of my interpreter whanau!

Hello SLIANZ members, I'm Cheryl and I was class rep for the 2018 graduate class.

I'm from Wellington and learned NZSL at Victoria University in 2011 because I love languages. I considered doing the interpreting course at the time but didn't want to live in Auckland. While living in China I discovered I enjoyed the interpreting process and decided if I could survive China then I could probably survive Auckland.

I'm hoping to try my hands in a variety of settings and continue improving my skills.

Look forward to meeting more of you soon.



Cheryl Astley

MEET OUR NEW GRADS!



Mark Hodgson

Kia ora koutou. Nō Tāmaki Makaurau ahau, ko Mark toku ingoa.

Having worked in the software industry over a number of years, I started taking NZSL classes in 2015. A side interest in the language soon became a primary passion. After 3 years of study with an amazing cohort, I've started my interpreting career this year in community and tertiary. I'm also proud to be this year's Connect intern.



Karliah McGregor

My little story: I'm 26 years old from Auckland and recently graduated last December.

My father is Deaf so I've always used NZSL although I never imagined becoming an interpreter until a few years ago. While thinking about what I wanted to do as a long term career I considered becoming an educational interpreter. This resulted in hesitatingly signing up for the AUT interpreting course, I'm so glad I did! I'm now working predominantly in education and am excited about developing my skills as well as gaining more experience in different areas of interpreting in the future.



Amy Nash

Kia Ora! My name is Amy Nash.

I was always interested in sign language as a young brownie when I learnt my "ABC's". I then met a Deaf person and an Interpreter at a party and absolutely fell in love with the language which inspired me to study to become an Interpreter. Although only newly graduated, I am in love with my job and thoroughly enjoy this profession.

Kia ora koutou. My name is Alice and I live in West Auckland.

Having studied the interpreting course part-time over 5 years, I've been lucky to be part of several cohorts that have come through. My background is Speech Language Therapy and when I started working with Deaf children in the UK in 2008, I started learning BSL and knew then that I wanted to become an interpreter. In 2011, I moved to NZ to work as a SLT at KDEC and then started the interpreting course in 2014, working and studying at the same time. I'm now working full-time at KDEC as the Specialist Services Team Leader and although I am not working as an interpreter, what I have learned at AUT certainly benefits my everyday work. I am keeping my toes dipped in the water though, by doing some evening/weekend community work, as well as being part of a church interpreting team, and trying my hand at some theatre interpreting with Platform Interpreting New Zealand. Looking forward to meeting you :-)



Alice Bennett

Tēnā koutou,

My name is Phoebe and I am based in the hometown of Christchurch, learning the ropes of being a new grad with a mix of excitement and fight-or-flight mode.

Four years ago, I thought to myself, "Why not improve my signing; why not become an interpreter?!" I completely underestimated what the role of an interpreter actually entailed. Three years of intense study, I've now aged 100 years due to stress, and we're only just starting! "Good luck out there", they said.

From classroom to real-life, I'm learning how to become that gracious swan, meanwhile paddling antics are going hundies under water aka coping strategies aka I'm about to pass out. But all the challenges and experiences are absolutely worth it and I'm grateful to reflect and learn from such valuable opportunities. Its been an awesome eye-opening journey so far and I look forward to continue developing skills, connecting with Deaf Community and interpreters along the way.



Phoebe Leyten

UPCOMING EVENTS

27 March	'EGL / minding your business', Christchurch
1 April	Membership renewals due
5 April	Auckland Social Event – Bowling and drinks, Metrolanes, Auckland
April (date tbc)	Interpreting in health situations (Wenda Walton / Rachel McKee), Wellington
4 May	SLIANZ Regional meeting and Self-Care PD, Wellington
16 May	SLIANZ Committee meeting
1-2 June	2019 NZSTI Conference "Multiculturalism and multimodality",
13 June	SLIANZ Committee meeting
6 - 7 July	SLIANZ Conference 'Interpreter Role-Call' and AGM, Victoria
15 - 19 July	WASLI Conference 'Honouring the past, shaping the future', Paris,
23 - 27 July	WFD Congress, Paris, France
13 - 15 September	Deafview 4, Auckland

AUCKLAND SOCIAL EVENT – MEET NEW GRADS

Next month on the 5th April there is an opportunity to meet a few of the recent graduates from AUT and socialise with colleagues.

Meeting at Metrolanes on Queen Street around 6:30pm for some warm up drinks and socialising before an hour of bowling from 7-8pm with the opportunity for more socialising after. Cost: \$16 per person with an additional \$2 charge for shoes. Please RSVP to Cheryl cherylstley@gmail.com by the 30th of March at the latest so we have the right number of spaces booked. Do feel free to pop along just to hang out. We look forward to seeing you there.

Interpreting role-call

Taking stock in a changing world

6–7 July 2019 | Victoria University of Wellington | New Zealand

Call for papers

The **SLIANZ Conference Committee 2019** invites interpreters, Deaf community members, researchers, practi-searchers, policy makers and other stakeholders to submit abstracts for its annual conference. The theme is **Interpreting Role-Call: Taking stock in a changing world**.

SLIANZ has chosen this conference theme to examine the role(s) of the sign language interpreter from the various perspectives of Deaf people, hearing people, and interpreters; to explore some of the complexities that challenge traditional ideas of the role; and to consider these perspectives and complexities in today's policy context.

Since beginning in the mid-1980s, the sign language interpreting field in New Zealand has experienced many changes. Training has shifted from within Deaf clubs to universities; the increased participation of Deaf people in society and education have changed the domains and the ways in which interpreters work; and the relationship between interpreters and the Deaf community continues to be redefined. Over the last 35 years, theoretical understandings of the professional interpreter role have evolved and continue to be reconsidered by interpreter researchers, practitioners and by Deaf communities across the globe. This conference is an opportunity for the New Zealand interpreting profession and the communities that it serves to come together for an open dialogue about our respective roles within interpreted interaction.

Conference proposals

We invite proposals for practical and/or theoretical presentations, panels, and workshops that examine the role of sign language interpreters. Proposals (abstracts) should be submitted in written English or in NZSL. If you would like help to prepare your written or signed proposal, please contact the conference committee – we have support in place for this.

- Written proposals can be up to 250 words
- NZSL proposals can be up to 3 minutes long. They must be uploaded to YouTube; video files will not be accepted
- Deadline for proposals is Sunday 31st March 2019
- Confirmation of acceptance will be sent by Friday 19th April 2019
- Send written proposals or links to NZSL proposals to slianzconference@gmail.com.

If your paper is accepted, the conference committee will provide you with further details about preparing your presentation and working with interpreters at the conference.

Session format and working languages

The official conference languages will be NZSL and English, and interpreters will be provided. If you wish to present in a different language, you must provide your own interpreters.

- Presentations will be 30 minutes, including 10 minutes for discussion.
- Workshops and panels will be 1 hour, although we may also accept proposals for longer sessions.



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