Introduction

It was late October 2013 in Washington, D.C., and the wind was brisk, yet Brenda's palms were noticeably clammy. She hadn't been exercising, so she could only attribute the sensation in her hands to sheer nervousness. She was serving as the coordinator of the inaugural International Symposium on Signed Language Interpreting and Translation Research, and the deadline for presentation proposals was fast approaching. "Don't worry," she told herself, "with luck we will interest 50 or so scholars who can gather together in a serious, dark-paneled room on campus to talk about their research studies." The administrators at Gallaudet University had given their blessings and financial support for the symposium, whatever the outcome. Energized faculty, staff, and students were in place to assist with every aspect of the symposium. But the potential of the event being a colossal flop weighed on Brenda.

The original vision of a small-scale gathering changed overnight as the abstracts came pouring in on the due date. Proposals from students and scholars in Brazil, Turkey, Australia, Italy, Scotland, Norway, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Germany, Canada, Holland, Belgium, Scotland, and other countries filled the inbox. The 14 members of the international scientific committee rolled up their sleeves and began reviewing proposals on a range of topics. When the dust settled, 42 abstracts were selected for presentation and an additional 15 for poster sessions. The program was rounded out with three outstanding keynote presenters: Terry Janzen of Canada, Eileen Forestal of the United States, and Lorraine Leeson of Ireland. The 2-day symposium quickly expanded to 3 full days, and the presentation schedule was stretched to two concurrent sessions. With the generous backing of the Gallaudet University Regional Interpreter Education Center (GURIEC), live streaming was provided for individuals who couldn't attend in person and desired to participate in the symposium. As the number of registrants swelled from 100 to 200 and then to 300, the hotel staff supporting the event accommodated our ever-shifting needs for more space. In the end, the symposium had nearly 450 on-site and distance registrants —eight times the anticipated number! The outstanding faculty, staff, and students in the Gallaudet Department of Interpretation and across

campus generously gave their time to do the "heavy lifting" necessary to bring the symposium together.

It was within this context the volume that you are now holding was created. Along with the myriad unknowns about the symposium, there were questions about whether a book of the presentations could be produced. When Gallaudet University Press expressed interest in publishing a selected-papers volume, we quickly sent out a call for papers and, from the submitted manuscripts, we selected 10 excellent papers. We provide you with a summary of the chapters here.

In Chapter 1, Eileen Forestal uses poetry and prose to advocate for inclusion of Deaf perspectives in all signed language interpreting and translation research. Her chapter, "Deaf Perspectives in Interpretation Research: A Critical Element Long Overdue," reminds us that only a "full partnership" between hearing and Deaf researchers will advance our thinking and profession.

In Chapter 2, Silvia Del Vecchio, Marcello Cardarelli, Fabiana De Simone, and Giulia Petitta, frame the issue of participants' direct interaction with interpreters in their chapter "Interacting with Participants Outside of Interpretation." For any interpreter who has faced the question, "How do you sign _____?" or other metalinguistic questions, the study of these interactions will be enlightening.

Stephanie Feyne details her study on the discursive practices of interpreters and how these practices affect listeners' perceptions of source language speakers. In Chapter 3, "Typology of Interpreter-Mediated Discourse that Affects Perceptions of the Identity of Deaf Professionals," Feyne provides insights about the impact that interpreters can have on hearing people's perception of Deaf individuals.

Next, Annie Marks examines discourse in a setting that is ripe for research: video relay service (VRS) interpreting. In "Investigating Footing Shifts in Video Relay Service Interpreted Interaction," she examines interpreters' discourse within the unique demands of interpreting in video relay settings. Marks identifies novel strategies used by VRS interpreters in managing discourse that unfolds via video.

In Chapter 5, Campbell McDermid reports results from a study of a multidimensional pragmatic model of interpretation, which is based on the conveyance of meaning at three levels (literal, enriched, implicature). In "A Pragmatic, Multidimensional Model of the Interpreting Process," McDermid argues that while interpreters convey the literal meaning of

a speaker's utterance, they also draw on context to convey potentially implied, but unstated, senses.

Jeremy L. Brunson offers a novel framework of interpreting in Chapter 6, with "A Sociology of Interpreting." Brunson calls for situating the work of signed language interpreters within a larger social context. Focusing on key sociological concepts—social structure, social institution, and social relations—Brunson analyzes their usefulness in understanding interpreters' work beyond being merely a linguistic endeavor.

Chapter 7 provides a rich description of a real-world problem. Ronice Muller de Quadros, Janine Oliveira, Aline Nunes de Sousa, and Roberto Dutra Vargas detail the linguistic and technical issues involved in translating the university entrance exam for the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC) from Portuguese into Libras, the Brazilian sign language. Their chapter, "Translating the UFSC University Entrance Exam into Libras: Challenges and Solutions," provides a model for future large-scale translational projects.

Roberto R. Santiago, Lisa F. Barrick, and Rebecca Jennings investigate interpretation of idioms in Chapter 8. In "Interpreters' Views on Idiom Use in ASL-to-English Interpreting," the authors report that when working with a figurative ASL text, interpreters seldom use English idioms in their target language, and they offer rationale for the linguistic choices that interpreters do make.

In Chapter 9, Annette Miner investigates a growing employment opportunity for signed language interpreters, working as a designated interpreter with Deaf professionals. In her chapter, "Designated Interpreters: An Examination of Roles, Relationships, and Responsibilities," she explores the dynamic between interpreters and the sole Deaf professionals with whom they work. Her research suggests that designated interpreters are open to unorthodox expectations, work to create seamlessness in interpreted interactions, and facilitate relationships between Deaf professionals and others.

Finally, Chapter 10 highlights language use by trilingual interpreters. In "When a Language is Underspecified for Particular Linguistic Features: Spanish-ASL-English Interpreters' Decisions in Mock VRS Calls," authors David Quinto-Pozos, Erica Alley, Kristie Casanova de Canales, and Rafael Treviño investigate trilingual VRS interpreters' strategies when confronted with ambiguous material in the source language. Results of their study indicated high agreement among interpreters for depicting

formality and a mix of strategies for referencing the sex of an individual with gendered nouns.

What is the value of this particular book? A colleague reports that when she first entered the field of signed language interpreting and translation, she had literally read everything that had been written about the profession. She admits however, that 30 years ago, her collection of books took up a single row on her bookshelf. Times have changed. We have now achieved a critical mass of individuals doing scholarship in signed language interpretation and translation. The proverbial "tipping point," as Gladwell (2002) describes it, has arrived for interpreting and translation research. With increasing frequency, specialized journals, books, and other publications are emerging in our profession, along with specific guidance in how to design studies and publish the results (Napier, 2011; Russell, 2011). In Gladwellian terms, "relatively simple changes in the presentation and structuring of information can make a big difference in how much of an impact it makes" (p. 25). This volume's value comes in the packaging of current interpreting and translation research and the diverse perspectives that it offers.

The growth in research publication on signed language interpreting and translation is linked to how signed language interpreters are now viewed—and view ourselves—as professionals. It has been said that professions are essential to the functioning of a society (Schön, 1983). Society's business is conducted by professionals who are specifically trained to carry out that business, whether it be educating children, treating disease, settling legal disputes, managing industries, or providing signed language interpreting and translation. As we take our place among other professionals, we honor what Everett Hughes (1959) deemed a professions' claim to extraordinary knowledge in matters of great social importance. Professionals acquire extraordinary knowledge via their professional experiences, personal self-reflection, and through research results. In return for our growing knowledge, we are granted certain rights and privileges in society. With that in mind, this book provides additional information and evidence, bringing together ideas and insights from and for people who are seeking knowledge on the questions of signed language interpreting and translation.

We close this introduction with a sense of excitement about what lies ahead, as well as a few thoughts and musings. We suggest that we

must maintain a skeptical assessment of the professions' contribution to society's well-being through the acquisition of specialized knowledge. Clearly our skepticism is bound up with questions of professional self-interest, the shift to an academic perspective of interpreting, and subordination to the interests of business or government. But it also hinges centrally on the question of professional knowledge itself. Is professional knowledge adequate to fulfill the espoused purpose of the interpreting and translation professions? Is it sufficient to meet the societal demands that the professions have helped to create? We argue that we must continue to ask ourselves such questions as we move forward.

We also suggest that we must be vigilant about how research is conducted in our field—and to what end. A number of questions arise. Do we have standard ethical protocols that will protect our participants' rights? How can we perform research while remaining true to the values of the communities in which we are situated? In what direction is our inquiry taking us and how can we garner critical research funding that is typically awarded to "hard sciences"? Will we move more toward experimental research methods, while refining our practices in qualitative studies? Finally, how can we better train interpreting and translation students to conduct research as we move forward in the development of our profession? These and many other questions require our continued examination and action in our pursuit of signed language interpretation and translation research.

For the time being, this volume brings satisfying closure to the inaugural International Symposium on Signed Language Interpreting and Translation Research. We are honored to present it to you.

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Keith Cagle
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