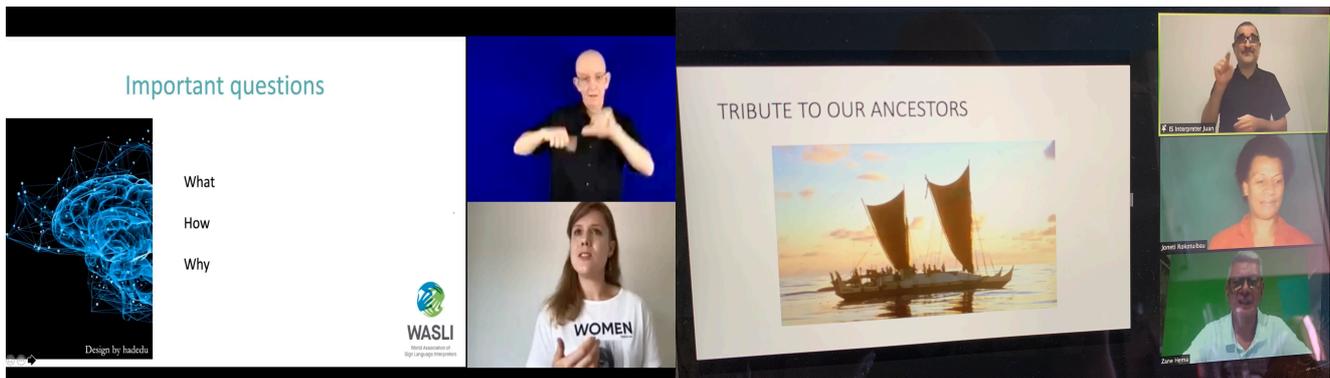




WASLI

World Association of
Sign Language Interpreters

Conference Newsletter Aug 2021



WASLI online conference

July 9-11 2021

‘What have we learnt from 2020-21?’

It truly was a great conference... and the numbers speak for themselves:

Number of attendees:

- Saturday Keynote - 458
 - Strand One - 648
 - Strand Two - 592
 - Sunday Keynote - 311
 - Strand One - 416
 - Strand Two - 372
- (Stats from Zoom)

Views from Fiji - Inise Tarwaketini

Attending a conference online is a far cry from physically attending a conference. However, the experience of attending an online conference may be when compared to attending a WASLI conference like say in Paris, one cannot help but be thankful for the added opportunities afforded to us via this online platform.



First is cost. I am immensely grateful to WASLI BOARD for conducting this online conference in July for free. This meant more people especially from developing countries got a chance to be part of an event to receive quality information, research regarding our practice that would otherwise be impossible to attend due to financial constraints. For the Paris conference, only 3 Interpreters from Fiji were able to attend but for this online, more of us were able to join zoom or watch the live stream on Facebook.

Furthermore all interpreters are able to hear directly from the speakers their presentations instead of the second hand information brought to them by their representatives to the conference. For the three of us, we could only share what we understood from the many wonderful presentations shared at

Working interpreters:

Eng < > IS - 7

Eng > Spanish - 5

Indian Sign Language > Eng - 1

Thank you LAC

At the online conference we were able to have some of the sessions interpreted into Spanish thanks to the support from the Latin America and Caribbean Region and the Argentinian Association of Conference Interpreters (ADICA).

WASLI has used the interpreting function not only at the online conference but also for English > Russian interpreting for the EECAC region.

Conference 2021 - caught up?

Our presenters kindly agreed to be recorded. Links to the recordings can be found at:

<https://wasli.org/conference-july-10-11>

These are for personal use and can be used for your own professional development.

Please consider making a donation to WASLI if you are in a position to do so - suggested donation \$25 USD

wasli.org/donation

These resources should become part of our Skills Repository for professional development -

the Paris conference and we shared what we thought relevant to the context of our country. However when many more have access, all share their different learning and it is not limited to what reps think is relevant. They get to choose for themselves what information is helpful for them.

The online platform makes it less overwhelming to ask questions. I have never asked a question at an international conference simply because I was not brave enough to do so in front of so many people, but the environment online is less scary enabling me to ask some questions after the presentation.

The only downside about the online conference is connectivity. This is more so for developing countries than developed ones. I was given the opportunity to moderate for two of the sessions however due to connectivity, I could not log in to one of the session and late to the other. Moderating for the first time already was a big deal for me and the connectivity issues just exacerbated my already high pressure level.

Finally, it was a proud moment to watch a colleague present as one of the key note speakers. It's an opportunity for the world to hear of the issues that surround the pacific and my beloved country Fiji. Thank you to the WASLI BOARD for giving our Oceania Regional Rep a space to be the voice of our region in the international arena and I hope this translates into making plans to develop and run the much needed training program for Interpreters in our regions for the sake of the Deaf community we serve.

Views of a Moderator - Samuel Chew

The recent WASLI online conference was reinvigorating, especially during this period of physical isolation from our interpreting colleagues both locally and internationally. The topics were well-curated and forward-looking in aligning me with up to date research and evidence-based recommendations on maintaining the highest level of services as we transition to the new normal.



It was very encouraging to e-meet many peers from around the world who are serious about professional development despite

Feedback

Have some thought on the online conference? Have some suggestions for other events?

Please email your thoughts to:

WASLIConf2021@gmail.com

Deadline 30th September 2021 we thank you in advance.

WASLI Support

You can give the gift of WASLI all year round!

You can make a donation through our PayPal Donation button:

wasli.org/donation

Or donate via bank transfer - if so please contact our Treasurer Nigel Howard at:

treasurer.wasli@gmail.com

Or become a member and/or encourage your professional association to become a member:

wasli.org/membership/individual-member

wasli.org/membership/national-membership

wasli.org/membership/organisation-member

the uncertainties. Thank you, WASLI, for the enriching conference and looking forward to more seminars and workshops!

(Samuel Chew is also the outgoing Interim ISO Expert Group Chair)

Our Honorary President - Dr Debra Russell

Thank you to all involved in hosting the first WASLI online conference recently. While the online environment comes with its challenges, the quality of presentations made up for any challenges! I thoroughly enjoyed



both keynotes, and I want to thank our colleagues, Isabelle, Joneti and Zane for these wonderful presentations. The conference offered something for everyone, with new and relevant research, practical ideas on improving our home offices for professional interpreting, and discussions of current issues, and again, thank you to each of the presenters. It is an unusual experience to present online, and I appreciated the gracious ways in which people demonstrated positive problem-solved during technical glitches.

Having access to the content through WASLI's archival processes will also serve as a constant resource to members, especially for some of us who were up at 4 am to access the live presentations through bleary but excited eyes! The fact that some 821 WASLI members logged on to view the presentations was phenomenal - I think that shows the desire of our global learning community to do just that - learn in any way possible.

An additional benefit that I noted was the chance to watch accredited Deaf International Sign interpreters along with the interpreters being mentored and supported by those with more experience. I am certain WASLI learned many lessons in offering this conference, and I am looking forward to participating in many more of these WASLI learning opportunities.

Thanks so much to everyone involved in making the event happen - and here's to seeing you all in person in South Korea in 2023!



*Intérpretes y Traductores de Lengua de Señas
en la República Mexicana A.C.*

22 JULY 2021

WASLI

World Association of Sign Language Interpreters

This is to congratulate you for your efforts on July 10 and 11. We know what is involved in times of pandemic this great work.

We thank the organization, the representatives of all the regions and the president Christopher Stone for their hard work.

As always WASLI is present to support the interpreters with very good conferences and first class speakers.

The conferences were very much in line with today's topics, updating us on new ways and methods of working, specifically with remote simultaneous interpretation.

It was impressive to see the experience of different countries and in different continents that all made affirmative actions, to provide support to the deaf communities allowing the right to health and the right to information to be exercised at the same time that all interpreters updating themselves, providing a professional liaison service for two communities and cultures.

Knowing about all the experiences in different parts of the world with different contexts and environments is motivating to continue working in our regions.

Kind Regard

IL Gabriela Martinez Vargas
President AIT-LS Mexico

*Autorización de la Secretaría de Economía A201402071259597714
presidente@ait-ls.org.mx ait.lsmexico@gmail.com*

Views from Zambia

Nakasela Nachalwe

The conference was highly educative and enriching. Very productive. It opened my mind to practical ideas I can use in the interpreting field during this Covid19 pandemic so that information continues to flow between the deaf and hearing and the interpreting profession continues to thrive.

We must be innovative and not restrict ourselves to ensure access to information for all is realised. For example, during this pandemic, we can use VRI to offer interpreting services.

We might not be already familiar with it but as sign language interpreters we should avail ourselves and readily adopt new or other ways of offering our services. We should move with the times and use technology to our advantage. That way, navigate our way through the pandemic and explore more opportunities to continue our work as interpreters.

We need to pause, reflect and strategise on how we can move forward.



Views from Russia

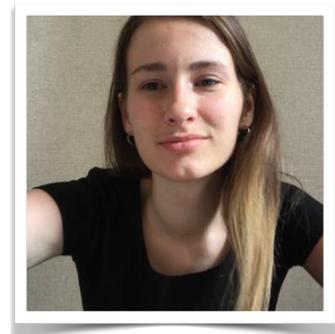
Ania Zhadan, MSLU graduate 2021,

Deaf from deaf family, the first deaf graduate as interpreter. I was very happy to participate at the conference and I am very grateful that I could follow the presenters thanks to the professional IS interpreting.



Anastasia Merzlyakova, MSLU
Graduate 2021

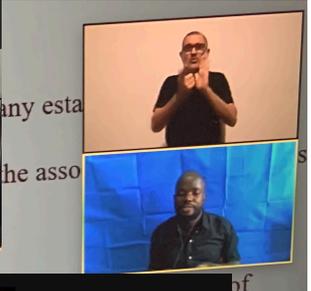
It was my first experience of attending an international conference on interpreting. As a novice interpreter it was a very valuable experience to be at the international conference and listen to experienced speakers. I enjoyed Isabelle Heyerick's presentation a lot.





Growing the profession

- Need for more interpreters
- Qualifying all interpreters
 - New interpreters (to meet national agency demand)
 - Experienced interpreters (to ensure support networks)
- Acknowledging
 - Junior interpreter professionals
 - Senior interpreter professionals



areas of life. So, these five interpreters, working at an agency or

Covid implications



1. The sudden shift to online interpreting was tough.
2. Challenges - restricted space, internet connection, getting feedback, less interaction, lack of awareness of remote interpreting, 'masks barrier'.
3. Increasing technological and work demands.



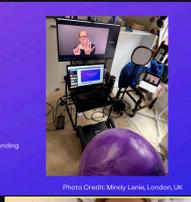
Signed Russian in political discourse

- Word order
- Grammar of the Russian language
- Absence of facial expression
- Absence of space
- Fingerspelling
- Use of conjunctions and prepositions



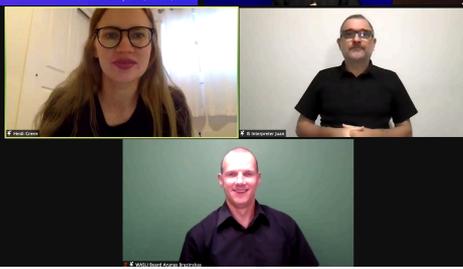
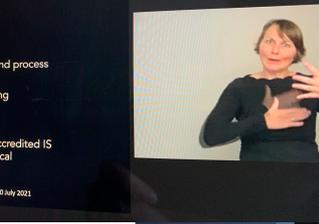
Studio Examples

- Standard neutral colour
- External lighting
- Monitor slides/backup for sitting and standing
- Second device for zooming
- Professional lighting
- Exercise ball for seating
- Footrest



Study 3 | Results

- Challenges & issues:
- System:
 - Transparency on the accreditation panel and process
 - Global representation on committees
 - Budget needed for operating and reviewing
 - Purpose:
 - Divide: accredited and those who are not
 - Review for which settings and for whom accredited IS interpreters are needed: High-level / political



Annual Report 2021

You are here: Home / Organization Documents

Organization Documents

Annual Reports

- 2020-2021

<https://wasli.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/WASLI-Annual-Report-2020-21.pdf>

WASLI.org > Your WASLI > Organization Documents

