

INSTITUTE OF TRANSLATION STUDIES  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
CHARLES UNIVERSITY

Jiří Levý – picture from the archives of the  
Levý family

# Call for Papers

## The Art of Translation: The Legacy of Jiří Levý and Current Trends in Translation Studies

A conference commemorating the centenary of  
the birth of Jiří Levý (8 August 1926 – 17 January 1967)



15 and 16 October 2026

13th International Conference on  
Translation and Interpreting of the IoTS

### Information for participants

- A two-day international conference including a scientific programme and accompanying translator-focused events
- Format: hybrid event
- Keynote speakers: Christiane Nord, Nike Pokorn and Lieven D'hulst
- Plenary lectures will be interpreted and streamed.

### Important deadlines

15

APRIL  
2026

Abstract submission

31

MAY  
2026

Notification of  
acceptance

### Contact

levy100@ff.cuni.cz

### Guidelines for abstracts

- 1 Up to 300 words, plus a list of literature references

Accompanying bio note up to 200 words in

- 2 length, plus a selection of most important publications

- 3 Languages: English, Czech or Slovak (conference papers can also be presented in German, Spanish or French)

Presentation length: 20 min (+ 10 min for discussion)

Conference fee for  
speakers of the scientific  
programme is **EUR 100**  
(students **EUR 50**).

Charles University students and  
employees: free of charge.

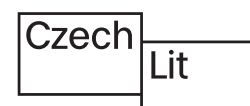
The fee will be used  
to cover conference  
and publication costs.

For more information go to

<https://levy100.ff.cuni.cz/>



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## Jiří Levý: His Legacy as an Inspiration for Translation Studies in 2026



Jiří Levý is a seminal figure whose diverse scholarly work has been described as “a stem cell of modern translation studies” (Martin Djovčoš). He drew on Czech structuralist ideas and the work of the Prague Linguistic Circle, in particular the concept of the “aesthetic function” of a work as defined by Jan Mukařovský and the perception of literary works as dynamic structures. He saw translation principally as a decision-making process in which translators tailor their choices to the perceived functions of the text. Later, many scholars also applied this process-oriented approach to the study of non-literary translation.

Levý’s historical research, illuminating the development of translation theories and techniques in the Czech Lands, led to his two-volume publication *České teorie překladau (Czech Translation Theories)*, including the first known anthology of translators’ reflections on their work. His foregrounding of translator agency within changing historical contexts corresponds with modern trends in translation studies; nowadays this field can be extended to examine the role of translator associations and the status of translation professionals.

The development of translation theory as a scholarly discipline was also significantly advanced by Levý’s masterpiece *Umění překladau (The Art of Translation)*, which applies systemic analysis and the functional approach to language and literature for the resolution of many practical problems of literary translation. Levý focuses on such topics as the polarities of translator decision-making, the influence of contemporary norms, the evolution of linguistic devices and translators’ use of colloquial language. His reflections are essentially interdisciplinary, bringing together insights from literary theory, comparative literature, linguistics, and the theory of verse. They are a source of inspiration for further research, not only in the field of translation studies, but also in the broader contexts of text analysis, pragmatics, and intercultural communication.

Whereas he worked in times of political constraint, Levý’s structuralist approach helped maintain and develop international awareness of Czech academic scholarship. A notable feature of his work, and a source of continuing inspiration, is Levý’s application of quantitative methods to linguistic phenomena.

The purpose of the conference is to discuss Levý’s historical significance in the above-mentioned contexts, but also his legacy in contemporary academic research, highlighting the potential of his ideas as points of reference for new research developments. Firstly it will undertake a historical reflection on his work, and secondly it will seek to identify new applications of his approaches to contemporary philology, literary studies, theory of verse, comparative literature and linguistics.

### References

- Beylard-Ozeroff, A. – Králová, J. – Moser-Mercer, B. (eds.), *Translators’ Strategies and Creativity*, Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 2011.
- Jettmarová, Z. – Králová, J. et al., *Tradition versus Modernity. From the Classic Period of the Prague School to Translation Studies at the Beginning of the 21st Century*, Prague: FF UK / Togga, 2008.
- Levý, J., *The Art of Translation*, trans. by Patrick Corness, ed. by Zuzana Jettmarová, Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 2011.
- The Art of Translation: Jiří Levý (1926–1967) y la otra historia de la Traductología, *Mutatis Mutandis* 2016 (9), no. 2, pp. 418–444.

### Scientific committee

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We will welcome abstracts in the following fields



## Jiří Levý: life and work

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- Levý as the founder of Czech (and Slovak) translation theory / translation studies
- Turns in international translation studies drawing (directly or indirectly) on Levý's ideas
- Contribution to other disciplines (theatre studies, literary criticism, theory of verse)
- Levý's work as educator, editor and translator
- The Art of Translation as a book and as a concept
- Reception of Levý's ideas and works in Czechia and abroad

## Translation theory and history

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- Issues in translation theory, including its historical development
- The dynamic function of literary translation within national literatures in respect of culture, history, sociology, etc.
- The translator's personality (individual style, imprint on the text, role in initiating transfer), translators as cultural ambassadors
- Research methodology in translation history – the study of specific works, translators and epochs
- Translators' changing approaches to translation, obsolescence of translations (generational translations)
- Self-translation: how writers translate their own work
- Interdisciplinary perspectives: literary studies and its methodology, aesthetics, comparative literature, linguistics; quantitative methods in research
- Translation as a cultural phenomenon reflecting contemporary norms, values and interactions between cultures
- Levý's approach to translation as a creative process and present-day translation theories
- Description and analysis of intersemiotic translation, adopting Levý's definition of translation as a creative process in reconstructing meaning with an emphasis on the aesthetic function (multimodal, intermedial, and adaptation procedures, analysis of comics, films, computer games)
- Empirical research, datafication, and corpus-based translation studies

## The practice of literary and non-literary translation

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- The new realities of translation work (CAT, hybrid translation, machine translation and MT post-editing) in the light of Levý's translation theory
- The role of translator associations (historical and contemporary perspectives)
- Ethical issues in translation and working with language data
- New trends in researching translation as process and product
- Translation quality, translation criticism
- Literary translation and AI tools

## Teaching translation and working with students

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- Interdisciplinarity and curriculum optimisation
- The impact of changing entry-level competences
- Project-based learning and cooperation with practitioners as part of a translation student's curriculum
- The role of self-assessment in translator training