

ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP on MODERN LANGUAGES



Chair: Dame Nia Griffith MP (Lab); Co-Chair: Baroness Coussins (CB);
Vice-Chairs: Tonia Antoniazzi MP (Lab); Lord Dykes (CB); Baroness
Garden of Frognal (LD); Lord Sherbourne of Didsbury (Con).

A brave new world: Artificial Intelligence and Machine Translation and the implications for policy

**Monday 16 January 2023, 4pm – 5.30pm
Committee Room 1, House of Lords**

Minutes

In attendance:

Parliamentary:

Lord Aberdare

Baroness Blower

Baroness Coussins (Co-Chair of the APPG on Modern Languages) – in the Chair

Dame Nia Griffith MP (Chair of the APPG on Modern Languages)

Baroness Garden of Frognal (Vice Chair of the APPG on Modern Languages)

Lord Hannay of Chiswick

Baroness Hooper

Lord Mountevans

Baroness O'Neill of Bengarve

Lord Sherbourne of Didsbury (Vice Chair of the APPG on Modern Languages)

Baroness Smith of Newnham

Baroness Uddin

Speakers:

John Worne, CEO, and Dom Hebblethwaite, Head of Ventures, Chartered Institute of Linguists

Introduction to Machine Translation, current and future deployment trends in industry
and other sectors, and main issues for public policy.

See separate PPT file.

Neil Coulson, CEO, ComSOFT; and Sabine Braun, Director, and Felix do Carmo, Senior Lecturer, University of Surrey Centre for Translation Studies

Neil Coulson gave an overview of his findings on public organisations' machine
translation policies using Freedom of Information requests, with reference to an article
published on SLATE.com (see separate file); consideration of policy centring on better
regulation.

See separate PDF file of the SLATE article.

Felix do Carmo and Sabine Braun gave an overview of current research and emerging themes, including the limitations of machine translation and interpretation (which would be better termed 'artificial translation'), social impact, and economic models including problematic issues such as value extraction from human work. They discussed suggestions for regulation of the domain informed by current research.

See separate PPT file.

Lucas Nunes Vieira, Senior Lecturer in Translation Studies, University of Bristol.

Lucas Nunes Vieira gave an overview of his research examining societal impacts of machine translation and current research based on a national survey of UK residents, identifying issues such as the pervasiveness of machine translation and the need for the general population to have better 'translation literacy'.

He also gave details of a new AHRC-funded project being carried out by Bristol University and the CIOL.

See separate PPT file.

Guto Dafydd, Head of Business and Development, Translation, Welsh Government Translation Service

Guto Dafydd gave an overview of the Welsh Government's deployment of Machine Translation in producing bilingual texts in a variety of contexts, discussing the pros and cons and areas where the approach is (and isn't) appropriate. He discussed areas of future development for the Welsh Government Translation Service in this area.

GCHQ

GCHQ gave an insight into their context and use case for AI-enabled machine technology.