Call for Papers for a special issue of the *Journal for Translation Studies in Africa* (2027)

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Translation and the African diaspora

Harris (1998, p. 7) defines the African diaspora as a relationship involving three parties: a dispersed group of people, their African homeland, and their adopted countries. However, the African diaspora and the locations of its groups have shifted and expanded throughout history, particularly in post-colonial times (whose definition varies due to the widely differing dates of independence among the diasporic nations worldwide). Therefore, approaches from different fields are needed to better understand the many facets of this phenomenon. According to Akyeampong (2000),"[t]he nature and composition of the African diaspora have undergone significant change overtime", demanding a "rethinking of the African diaspora and its meanings" (p. 183).The idea for this special issue arises within this context, proposing consideration of the multidetermined, multilingual, and multicultural African diaspora to better comprehend translation practices throughout this diaspora.

The concept of diaspora has not been investigated widely in translation research. Although it appears obliquely in texts dealing with translation and migration (e.g., Polezzi 2012 and Inghilleri 2016), very few sources involving a translational perspective can be found on this theme, particularly regarding the African diaspora. Sources that discuss translation in association with the African diaspora include Edwards' 2003 book on Black culture in the 1920s and 1930s, addressing the connection between intellectuals from the Harlem Renaissance and their Francophone counterparts in Paris; Bandia's 2014 edited volume combining translation studies and Francophone studies, focusing on translation in Francophone Africa and the Caribbean; and Hall's 2016 text on the Caribbean diaspora from the point of view of cultural translation.

Despite this important interdisciplinary research on the African diaspora within a translation studies framework, there is still much to say on and beyond Francophone or Anglophone-Francophone connections. Thus, this volume's goal is to provide a venue for scholars from translation studies and related fields to share research on less studied aspects of translation or interpreting of the many languages and cultures that intersect the historical and current African diaspora, encompassing different media and communication situations found in what Akyeampong (2000, p. 183) calls "non-traditional points of migration", reflecting the "unique African who straddles continents, worlds and cultures."

Keeping these parameters in mind, the guest editor welcomes both conceptual and empirical proposals encompassing, but not limited to, the following topics:

- Translators and the African diaspora: Who is translating the diaspora and who are African expatriates translating?
- Religious translations and the African diaspora: What are the connections between religious/spiritual agents, the African diaspora, and religious/spiritual translations throughout the world?
- Translating the African diaspora in the global south: What translation strategies and approaches are being used and do they differ from those used in the global north?
- Community interpreting: How are the relations between African immigrants and their new countries being mediated or shaped by interpreters?
- The African diaspora and cultural dissemination: How does the diaspora encourage cultural awareness and translations because of their presence?
- African cultural goods and the African diaspora: What African literature, film, television, and Internet productions (fictional or nonfictional, including the news) are effectively reaching other segments of the African diaspora via translation, and how are they connecting these communities?
- What role do intersemiotic translations play in linking people in the diaspora to their homeland?
- Translation and relations of power: How is translation affecting the cultural and political polysystems of the African diaspora?
- Fictional representation: How are fictional characters of the African diaspora being represented through translation, and how are these representations received in Africa and throughout the diaspora?
- Intra-African diaspora: What is the role of translation in multicultural settings within Africa?

Potential contributors are invited to submit an abstract (between 300 and 500 words), including a brief biographical statement (maximum 100 words).

Please send enquiries and abstracts to the guest editor: vanessahanes@id.uff.br

Timeline:

- Submission of abstracts: 31 October 2025
- Decision on abstracts: 30 November 2025
- Submission of papers: 1 September 2026
- Feedback from reviewers: 31 October 2026

- Submission of final version of papers: 31 January 2027
- Publication: 1 March 2027

Once authors have been informed that their abstracts have been accepted, they are requested to submit their papers through the journal's online system (https://journals.ufs.ac.za/index.php/jtsa/user/register). The papers will then undergo double-blind peer-review. The *Journal for Translation Studies in Africa* accepts submissions in several languages (see the journal's language policy here: https://journals.ufs.ac.za/index.php/jtsa/languagepolicy)

References

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