

Motoko Akashi, PhD

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Personal Profile

Strong expertise in translation studies and Japanese studies in the area of literary translation, the history of language, modern/contemporary literature and popular cultures. A high level of interlingual abilities and skills to compare languages closely. Excellent skills in organisation, workload and time management, working as part of a team, interpersonal communication and networking.

Languages: Japanese (mother tongue), English (native level)

Education

2014 – 2018: PhD in Translation Studies - University of East Anglia

- Thesis entitled *Contesting Invisibility: Japanese Celebrity Translators and the Impact of Their Fame*, supervised by Prof. Duncan Large, and Prof. Joanna Drugan. Submitted September 2018, Viva examined by Prof. Judy Wakabayashi (Kent State University, USA), passed December 2018. Graduated July 2019.

2012 – 2013: MA in Applied Translation Studies - University of East Anglia

- Distinction. Dissertation entitled *The Power of the Visible Translator: Exploring Haruki Murakami's Translation Strategy*, supervised by Dr Nana Sato-Rossberg.

1993 – 1995: MA in Fashion Design - Central St Martin's College of Art & Design

- My final collection supervised by Louise Wilson, OBE, was shown at *Central St Martin's MA Show* during *London Fashion Week* in March 1995.

1992 – 1993: Graduate Certificate in Design - London College of Fashion

- This course focused on developing designing and drawing skills, together with knowledge in the history of modern arts.

1986 – 1989: BA Degree in Fashion Design - Ueda College of Fashion, Osaka, Japan

- This course focused on professional skills development in designing, drawing and sewing, as well as knowledge in the modern history of European fashion.

Freelance Translator and Interpreter Experience (English-Japanese)

- **May 2011 – Dec 2015: S&N Hayakawa Enterprises Pvt. Ltd**, Chennai, India. Translating confidential documents, instruction/training manuals, environmental acts, bidding documents, and company introductions, mainly from Japanese to English.
- **Aug 2005 - May 2006: Big West Co., Ltd**, Osaka, Japan. Women's Apparel. Sourcing manufactures for my clients and arranging production in India, translating instructions and interpreting at business meetings.
- **Oct 2002 - Feb 2006: Navy Salt Store**, Kobe, Japan. Fashion accessories importer and wholesaler. Translating instructions, interpreting during business meetings and quality control at their production unit in Chiang Mai Thailand.
- **May 1995 - June 1996: Naigai Co Ltd**, Nagoya, Japan publishers of textile magazine *Men's Highlight*. Translating trend forecasts and correspondence between my client and UK supplier.
- **Sep 1995 - Sep 1996: MDO**, London, UK. International Sales and Marketing Company. Interpreting for Japanese buyers at international fashion trade fairs.

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- **Nov 1993 - Sep 1997: Three-X International Co Ltd**, Kobe, Japan. Women's clothing wholesaler. Interpreting at international fashion trade fairs and business meetings, also translating their correspondence with UK suppliers.

Other Professional Experience

- **October – December 2015 Japanese Arts Database Project Assistant:** Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Culture (SISJAC), Norwich. My responsibilities included updating a database on publications, exhibitions catalogues, films and media relating to Japanese arts and culture.
- **November 2007 – March 2011 Restaurant Owner**, Kampot, Cambodia
- **July 1997 – July 2002 Fashion Designer and Business Owner**, London/Chennai
My role as an independent business owner involved managing my own garment production teams overseas. This experience has allowed me to develop excellent skills in organising and co-ordinating projects with the team members in a range of environments, interpersonal communication, as well as managing administration.
- **November 1996 – May 1997 Fashion Design Assistant:** Clements Ribeiro, London
My responsibilities included preparing the sample garments for their 1997/98 Autumn/Winter Collection to be presented during the London Fashion Week, and corresponding with their Japanese buyers.

Conference and Seminar Presentations

- **March 2018 – Murakami Haruki as Translator and Novelist: Investigating the Interaction between the Two Writing Practices** at "40 Years with Murakami Haruki", Newcastle University, Newcastle, UK.
- **October 2017 – Contesting Invisibility: Japanese Celebrity Translators and the Impact of their Fame.** Poster session, "International Translation Day", British Library, London, UK.
- **August 2017 – Translator Celebrity in the Meiji Period: Identifying the Factors that Created Translators' Fame** at the 15th International Conference of the European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS 2017), Lisbon, Portugal.
- **September 2016 – Celebrity Translators: How Their Visibility Affects Their Translations.** Poster, "International Translation Day", British Library, London, UK.
- **June 2016 – Translator Celebrity: Identifying What Factors Create Fame for Translators**, 3rd International Celebrity Studies Conference, "Authenticating Celebrity", University of Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- **February 2016 – Invited presentation: How to Create a Celebrity Translator.** Advances in Translation Research seminar series, Institute of Modern Language Research, School of Advanced Study, London, UK.
- **October 2015 – Defining Celebrity Translators: The Prominent Status of Japanese Translators**, 11th International Postgraduate Conference in Translation and Interpreting, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK.
- **September 2015 – Celebrity Translators and their Translation Practices: Exploring the Variability of Murakami Haruki's Translation Strategies**, The British Association for Japanese Studies (BAJS) 2015 Advanced Postgraduate Conference, SOAS, University of London, UK.
- **June 2015 – Celebrity Translators and their Translation Practices: Exploring the Unconventionality of Murakami Haruki's Approach**, International Japanese English Translation (IJET) York, 26th International Japanese-English Translation Conference, York St John University, York, UK.
- **November 2014 – Celebrity Translators: How Their Visibility Affects Their Translations.** Poster session, "Translation and World Literature" Conference, School of Literature, Drama and Creative Writing, UEA, Norwich, UK.

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- **July 2014** — *Celebrity Translators and Their Freedom: The Translation Strategies of Haruki Murakami*, 3rd Nottingham Postgraduate Conference in Translation Studies “Bridging the Cultural Gap in Translation”, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK.

Conference Organisation

- **November 2015 Joint Organiser** for the 6th International Postgraduate Symposium in Translation, “Untranslatability”, at UEA. My responsibilities included planning, selecting the speakers, sourcing funding, and chairing a panel during the event. This experience taught me how to work as part of a team effectively and efficiently, while also helped me to enhance my skills in communication and time-keeping.

Publications

Books

- *Untranslatability: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*. New York & London: Routledge, 2018. Co-edited with Duncan Large, Wanda Józwickowska and Emily Rose. ISBN 978-1-138-08257-1.

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

- “Translator Celebrity: Investigating Murakami Haruki’s Visibility as a Translator”. *Celebrity Studies*, 9(2), 271-8 (2018). Available at <https://doi.org/10.1080/19392397.2018.1458531>.
- (with James Hadley) “Translation and Celebrity: The Translation Strategies of Haruki Murakami and their Implications for the Visibility Paradigm”. *Perspectives: Studies in Translatology*, 23(3), 1-17 (2015). Available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/0907676X.2014.998688>.
- (with James Hadley) “著名翻訳家・テキスト分析・可視性概念: 村上春樹にみる同化・異化論の進展” [Celebrity Translators, Textual Analysis, and the Visibility Paradigm: How Haruki Murakami can Advance Domestication-Foreignization Thinking]. *通訳翻訳研究* [Interpreting and Translation Studies] 14, 183-201 (2014). Available at http://jaits.jp/home/kaishi2014/14_011-akashi-hadley.pdf.

Under Peer Review

- “Murakami Haruki as Translator and Novelist: Investigating the Influence of Murakami’s Novel Writing over his Translation Practice”. Accepted for inclusion as a chapter in the edited volume following the international conference “40 Years with Murakami Haruki”, Newcastle University, 8-9 March 2018. The manuscript has been submitted in June 2019. Editors: Dr Gitte Marianne Hansen and Dr Michael Tsang. The volume will be published by Routledge.

Other Professional Activities

- 2018: Peer-reviewed an article for *Perspectives: Studies in Translation Theory and Practice*.

Research Experience

- **December 2018 – February 2019: Research Assistant** (part-time), *Transnational Organised Crime and Translation (TOCAT): Improving Police Communication Across Languages* project, co-funded by ESRC and AHRC, University of East Anglia, Principal Investigator Prof. Joanna Drugan. My responsibilities included transcribing recorded interviews and focus groups, assisting the PI with project planning and management, and editing the collected data ready for deposit with the UK Data Service. This experience has taught me how to maintain the consistency of the data and the anonymity of the participants in the collected data, and enhanced my project management and communication skills.

Research Expedition

My experience of research trips, which included organising one-to-one interviews and archival research, taught me how to organise and carry out a project independently and successfully within a limited time frame, and enabled me to build strong links with industry and the translation

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profession, including at publishing fairs in Japan and the UK.

- **March – April 2017: Research trip to Japan**

This fieldwork consisted of archival research at International Research Centre for Japanese Studies in Kyoto. During this research trip, I sourced relevant materials in print media, including newspapers and literary magazines published between the late 19th and early 20th century Japan. This experience taught me how to source relevant historical materials efficiently.

- **March – April 2016: Research trip to Japan**

This fieldwork consisted of undertaking interviews with literary translators and publishers for my doctoral research. This experience taught me how to plan and undertake a project independently. My communication and organisation skills enabled me to gain access to relevant publishers and translators and arrange meetings prior to the trip. I successfully managed a relatively large number of one-to-one interviews within limited time. In addition, the results of this fieldwork allowed me to build networks within the community of translators and publishers, which helped me to develop my research ideas further.

Teaching

My teaching experience has involved lesson planning, assessing students' work, meeting deadlines and basic course administration, while managing my own workload. The teaching experience also taught me how to establish and maintain good relationships with students and teaching colleagues on co-taught modules, by regular clear communication and being willing to provide opportunities for students to develop their ideas further.

October 2015 – Present: Associate Tutor University of East Anglia

- My responsibilities have included marking a translation (8,100 words) produced by a student as part of Master's dissertation, teaching and assessing students' work at undergraduate and MA levels for modules in Japanese-English Translation, Translation Work Experience, Translation Issues Across Media, and Translation Theory and Practice in the Department of Language and Communication Studies; advising students on translation projects through one-to-one tutorials; and marking student work for all the above modules.

January 2016 – March 2016: Associate Tutor City University, London

- My responsibilities included second-marking Masters' dissertations and English-Japanese translations produced by students on the MA in Audiovisual Translation and Popular Culture.

April 2015 – June 2016: Language Tutor University of East Anglia

- My responsibilities included teaching Beginners' Japanese for University Language Programme (ULP) Evening Classes.

September 2014 – December 2014: Language Tutor University of East Anglia

- My responsibilities included teaching Beginner's Japanese to undergraduate students, as well as organising and marking examinations.