

CALL FOR PAPERS

**PAN AFRICAN MASTERS CONSORTIUM IN INTERPRETATION AND
TRANSLATION (PAMCIT)
PAN AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON WORKING WITH LANGUAGES IN LOCAL
COMMUNITIES, United Nations Office at Nairobi, KENYA
WEDNESDAY, 28 – THURSDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2018**

Panel Title: Communities and multilingualism

Panel Sponsor: [PAMCIT](https://pamcit.unon.org)

Abstract (400 words):

PAMCIT is a network of five of Africa's centers of excellence offering Master's programmes and doctoral study in conference interpretation and translation (<https://pamcit.unon.org>). Their aim is to harness the high level of language proficiency that exists across Africa to respond to the strong demand for skilled language professionals worldwide. Since programme inception in the various partner universities, access for students to graduate in interpretation and translation has increased considerably. Over the past two years of funding operations, students working with Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swahili have been directly supported by PAMCIT.

The Consortium is now turning its research efforts to Public Service Interpreting and Translation at the decentralized level, and in African communities in particular. The rationale is that a lot of communication happens in cross-cultural settings where people speak and gesture in different languages and need an interpreter to understand one another. Effective communication leads to understanding. Therefore, there is a need for a professional interpreter or translator, someone who identifies with the culture(s) and is able to effectively translate/interpret without omission or addition as a result of intercultural and/or cross-cultural communication obstacles. This is where PAMCIT operates: liaising with higher learning institutions and professional interpreters and translators to train more experts to meet emerging needs.

Envisaging translation and interpreting services as a right goes hand in hand with an exploration of active citizenship based on pro-active engagement at all levels of the education sectors – by public officials, by tertiary academics, principals and teachers (and their unions), by parents and communities. Within the cross-boundary frameworks of continental and intra-regional migration, social justice proponents view the services of an interpreter and/or translator as essential for ensuring service users are entitled to being heard and defended in a language they can understand.

The 2018 Pan African Conference aims to create more awareness and promote a better understanding of the realities of community interpreting. The message of the conference will be especially targeted to community institutions leaders and professionals, as well as aspiring and practicing language mediators. The various settings within which language mediation may be explored include courts, hospitals, social workplaces, educational institutions, incarceration institutions and others, using spoken and non-spoken language communicators.

Thematic contributions from regional and international experts will include:

- Training experiences for interpretation in community and/or humanitarian settings
- Methodological challenges in curriculum development for Sign Language Interpretation
- Cross-cultural communications - local language policies in African communities

Panel Members: Academics and researchers in the field of interpretation and translation, seasoned local and international sign language translators and interpreters, migrants, community interpretation trainers and professionals, translation and interpretation students and some community leaders.

Panel members will bring together papers from a range of disciplines, on topics such as: contemporary interactions between African immigrants in refugee camps, incarceration facilities; performances of professionally trained community interpreters and translators in business meetings, medical settings; the role of educators and labor in renegotiating the definitions and methodology for training in community-based interpretation for the most vulnerable (e.g. Sign Language Interpretation). By shedding light on how human interaction happens in social settings, as opposed to conference halls and boardrooms and the implementation of policies made in these conference halls and boardrooms where the people are - in their communities, this panel shall offer a starting point for critically rethinking the contemporary state of African studies in the field of public service interpretation and translation.

The other aim for this event will be to address support for sustainable training and provide evidence-based justification for future project funding by African donors after 2019. This will be taken into consideration when compiling the list of invitees.

If you would like to participate in our panel, please email the panel organizers and provide a short bio, with a 400 word abstract, by 21 May 2018.

Please use the contact information below.

Panel Organizer:

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