

# LANGUAGES AT WAR: POLICIES AND PRACTICES OF LANGUAGE CONTACTS IN CONFLICT

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## THE ROLE OF INTERPRETERS, TRANSLATORS AND LINGUISTS IN CONFLICT

two case studies

29 May 2009

Conference Room, Imperial War Museum, London

### 10.00: Welcome and coffee

Prof Hilary Footitt (University of Reading); Prof Mike Kelly (University of Southampton)

### 10.30–11.30: Keynote paper

Prof Mona Baker (University of Manchester): *Negotiating the tension between the institution and the individual: translating personal narratives in the war zone*

### 11.30–11.45: Coffee

### 11.45–1.15: Case study 1: Western Europe 1944–47

Prof Hilary Footitt (University of Reading): *'Scrabbling after infinity': foreign languages in intelligence work*

Dr Simona Tobia (University of Reading): *Interpreting judgment: linguists in British war crimes trials in Germany*

Discussants: Prof Debra Kelly (University of Westminster); Prof Myriam Salama-Carr (University of Salford)

### 1.15–1.45: Lunch

### 1.45–3.15: Case study 2: Bosnia-Herzegovina 1995–2000

Dr Catherine Baker (University of Southampton): *The care and feeding of linguists: the working environment of interpreters, translators and linguists during peacekeeping in Bosnia-Herzegovina*  
Ms Louise Askew (University of Nottingham): *Sacking the police chief's niece: improving language services in Bosnia-Herzegovina, 2000–04*

Discussants: Prof Christina Schäffner (University of Aston); Dr Wendy Bracewell (UCL SSEES)

### 3.15–3.30: Refreshments

### 3.30–4.00: Closing comments

Lt Col. Andrew Parrott (Ministry of Defence): *Language issues in conflict today*



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