

# 21. Forum Bibelübersetzung / 21st Forum Bible Translation

– Forschungsstiftung Kultur und Religion – Wycliff Deutschland – Norwegian Bible Society –

Freitag bis Samstag, 29. - 30. Mai 2026 /  
Friday - Saturday, 29 - 30 May 2026

Veranstaltungsort/  
location Internationales Tagungszentrum Karimu  
Siegenweg 34,  
57299 Burbach  
Germany  
Ansprechpartner / contact person: Tianji Ma (tianji.ma1309@gmail.com)

## Programm / Program

*Freitag, 29. Mai 2026 / Friday, 29 May 2026*

- 13.30-14.30 Ankunft, Registrierung, Kaffee / Arrival, Registration, Coffee
- 14.30-14.40 Begrüßung und Vorstellung der Teilnehmer / Welcome and Introduction  
Dr. Tianji Ma
- 14.40-15.55 Prof. Dr. Gerhard Tauberschmidt, Professor of Biblical Languages, Internationale Hochschule Liebenzell, University of Applied Sciences. Translation Consultant Wycliff Germany.  
**Poetische Verse in Narrativen der Hebräischen Bibel**  
Vortrag und Diskussion / Presentation and Discussion
- Abstract:  
In der Hebräischen Bibel treten innerhalb von Narrativen immer wieder poetische Verse auf, die sich durch eine hohe Dichte an Kompaktheit, Parallelismus und literarischen Stilmitteln auszeichnen. Diese Einsprengsel in ansonsten prosaischen Erzählungen verdichten theologische Leitgedanken, verlangsamen das Erzähltempo, sprechen die Emotionen an, regen zur Reflexion und Meditation an, schaffen neue Bedeutungsebenen und heben zentrale Aussagen hervor. Zur besonderen Hervorhebung (Fokus) kann auch eine nicht standardmäßige Wortstellung beitragen, wie es die Theorie der Informationsstruktur beschreibt. Im Vortrag wird der Zweck poetischer Verse in narrativen Texten der Hebräischen Bibel anhand ausgewählter Beispiele untersucht.
- 16.00-16.30 Kaffeepause / Coffee Break
- 16.30-17.30 Jochen Danneil arbeitet bei Wycliff und war viele Jahre an einem AT-Übersetzungsprojekt für eine asiatische Sprache beteiligt. Er verfasst Artikel zu Übersetzungsfragen, bildet sich zum Übersetzungsberater weiter und arbeitet an einem Lexikon zu alttestamentlichen Kernbegriffen mit.  
**Der hebräische bestimmte Artikel: ungewöhnliche Gebrauchweisen als Übersetzungsproblem**  
Vortrag und Diskussion / Presentation and Discussion
- Abstract:  
Einige Regeln der hebräischen Grammatik – die gelegentlich in Spannung zueinander stehen – werden aufgefrischt. Während manche Regeln einfach zur Kenntnis genommen und in der Übersetzung entsprechend berücksichtigt werden können, gibt es andere, die den Übersetzer vor weiter reichende Entscheidungen stellen.

Dies betrifft den natürlichen Stil, insbesondere wo im Hebräischen generischer Gebrauch, Gebrauch mit Abstrakta, „spezifisch, aber unbestimmter“ oder diskurs-bedingter Gebrauch vorliegt. Es wird durchgängig anhand von biblischen Beispielen gearbeitet.

18.00-19.00 Abendessen / Dinner

19.00-19.15 Andacht / Devotion (Dr. Jim Harries)

19.15-20.30 Evening Section

Dr. Mark Smith is coming from a background in computing. Since 1999 he is working alongside two unreached ethnic groups in northern Africa, mainly supporting them in language development. In 2024 he finished his PhD dissertation in African Studies.

**Doing Research in the Context of Bible Translation in the 21st Century as a European in Africa: A Decolonial Approach**

Vortrag und Diskussion / Presentation and Discussion

Abstract:

More than half a century ago, Eleanor Vandevort's *A Leopard Tamed* (1968) critically examined the side effects of Bible translation (BT). Since then, similar concerns have continued to be voiced. Recently, at a Xian conference, an African practitioner working among non-Christian communities remarked: "We need the old-style missionaries. They came because of the people, not because of a project." Such perspectives from the Global South raise important questions about contemporary working relationships in Western-funded BT projects. Whereas earlier translation efforts often fostered long-term friendships between external workers and local translators, current project-driven structures tend to limit relational depth due to time constraints and multi-project supervision. This paper explores ethical methodologies aimed at reducing colonial patterns and strengthening relationships, including long-term commitment, voluntariness, mutual responsibility, and avoidance of hierarchy. Although these approaches may challenge project efficiency, they have the potential to counter lingering colonial dynamics and enhance the long-term impact of BT among largely unreached minority ethnic groups.

ab 20.40 Tagesausklang in Cafeteria und Kaminzimmer/ Close in Cafeteria

*Samstag, 30. Mai 2026 / Saturday, 30 May 2026*

07.45-8.45 Frühstück / Breakfast

8.45-9.00 Andacht / Devotion (Freddy Boswell)

9.00-9.20 „Show and Tell“: Austausch über Neuerscheinungen (bitte mitbringen) / New Publications

9.20-10.35 Dr. Bayarijargal Garamtseren, Project manager and Translation consultant, Mongolian Standard Version project, Mongolian Union Bible Society. Pastor, trainer and translator of theological books into Mongolian.

**Mongolian Standard Version: Innovative and remarkable approaches in translation and distribution**

Vortrag und Diskussion / Presentation and Discussion

Abstract:

The Mongolian Standard Version (MSV) is a Bible translation project of the Mongolian Union Bible Society, initiated in 2015 and completed in 2025. It represents an ambitious undertaking for Mongolia's young Christian community, which emerged in the early 1990s. A distinctive feature of the MSV was its strong emphasis on capacity building, with translators trained in biblical languages both locally and in Israel, including online Koine Greek instruction during the Covid-19 period. This investment contributed significantly to textual accuracy, quality assurance, and efficient translation. The project began with the Old Testament, revising the transliteration of biblical proper names and introducing the rendering of the Tetragrammaton as "ИАВЭ." Special attention was given to poetic books to achieve natural Mongolian style while reflecting Hebrew poetic features. Early digital releases via a website and mobile app enabled reader feedback. The completed Bible includes extensive notes, cross-references, and culturally adapted design elements.

10.35-10.50 Kaffeepause / Coffee Break

10.50-12.05 Dr. Jim Harries, Missionary in East Africa. Adjunct Faculty, William Carey International University.  
**Bible Translations' Wider Responsibility with respect to Theological Bifurcation in the World of Artificial Generative Intelligence**  
Vortrag und Diskussion / Presentation and Discussion

Abstract:

Contemporary debates often portray AI as massively disruptive, yet current AI remains narrowly Western in outlook. Bible Translators (BTs), with their deep engagement in non-Western societies, are uniquely positioned to offer corrective perspectives. World Christianity is bifurcated between tradition-based churches shaped by post-biblical Western histories and indigenously oriented churches that cannot draw on experiences they never shared. When BTs privilege traditional interpretations, they risk marginalizing indigenous theologies. This article argues that translators should read Scripture through the eyes of their intended audiences, acknowledging "indigenous orthodoxies" and the theological gaps they reveal. Such translation practices could reshape global theological discourse and challenge Western-centric AI systems.

12.10-13.10 Mittagspause / Break

13.20-14.35 Freddy Boswell, Senior Translation Consultant for SIL, editor of SIL's Journal of Translation.  
**Translator Intelligence': What it is, and Why it is Still Needed**  
Vortrag und Diskussion / Presentation and Discussion

Abstract:

AI has taken the world by storm, impacting the composition of global work forces. Regarding Bible translation, the questions are relevant: Is human involvement still needed, and if so, to what extent? In this paper, I highlight the continuing importance of human translators. I focus on the translator's language knowledge, intuition, handling of meaning, and specialty techniques, none of which can be substituted by machine knowledge. For substantiation, this proposal is based on the overlap of two case studies from Solomon Islands: one highlights the role of a highly prolific mother tongue translator of the Cheke Holo language and his impact on the neighboring Gao language, and the other examines the inter-play between Cheke Holo, Gao, and Solomons Pijin. Of interest to the study is the established feedback loop for continued improvement in initial production of two of them and revisions in all three. It is the author's contention that these improvements would not be possible through AI, and that what I call 'translator intelligence' is indeed necessary for a successful translation.

14.40-14.50 Ausblick 22. Forum Bibelübersetzung 2027 in Forum Wiedenest? / Outlook 22nd Forum Bible Translation 2027 in Forum Wiedenest?

Abschluss des Forums mit Reisesegen / Closing of the forum with blessing of travel

**Anmeldung und Kosten / Registration and Costs:**

**Melden Sie sich bitte bis zum 30. März 2026 an. Informationen über die Kosten werden noch bekannt gegeben. / Please register by March 30, 2026. Information about costs will be provided at a later date.**

Bei Fragen wenden Sie sich bei Dr. Tianji Ma ([tianji.ma1309@gmail.com](mailto:tianji.ma1309@gmail.com)). /  
If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Tianji Ma ([tianji.ma1309@gmail.com](mailto:tianji.ma1309@gmail.com)).

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