



Exploring the processes and practices of translation in the workplace

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Behind the diverse activities and definitions of applied linguistics lies the shared condition of relevant practical applicability to loci of linguistic interaction and transfer, including education and work. In order to be properly described and understood, the situated activity of a prototypical language-mediation profession like translation suggests that it should be investigated in situ. Yet, only relatively recently has workplace-based research gained momentum in Translation Studies, due in part to advances in research tools and methods alongside the growing impact of transdisciplinarity. In this talk, I will review how professional processes and practices in the socio-technical context of the translator's workplace have been explored and (in some cases) explained, with particular reference to cognitive and organizational ergonomic perspectives. I will address major challenges to workplace-based research and consider the contribution it can and does make to the communities of practice and organizations where it takes place.