

## **Guest Editor's Introduction**

**Malcolm Coulthard & Sandra Hale**

Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brasil & UNSW, Australia

Two years ago we planned to publish a Special Issue on *Translating and Interpreting in Legal Contexts*, however, the area is now so important and has become a major research focus in so many countries, that we were able to produce not one but two volumes, of which this is the second – the first, Volume 3.1, on Legal Translation guest-edited by Luciane Fröhlich, appeared in June 2016.

The authors come from five continents and from jurisdictions with very different kinds of interpreting provision. They discuss the problems of face-to-face interpreting in both police stations and courtrooms and the difficulties introduced by cost-saving audio- and video-link technology, which may be used to link an interpreter located at a distance to a face-to-face interview between a police officer and a suspect, or to link an interpreter located in a court-room along with the lawyers to an accused confined in prison. The topics of the articles range from provision – the question of who decides whether there is a need for an interpreter and then whether interpretation should be provided for all of the proceedings or only for the spells the accused spends in the witness box and crucially if the interpreter is provided free – to: the training, evaluation and accreditation of interpreters, the need for interpreters to work in teams for real-time quality control and the advisability of compulsory audio-recording to order to facilitate later checking of accuracy.

As we write large numbers of people are fleeing from Aleppo, many going to Turkey and a million refugees are struggling to settle into living in Germany. The need for legal interpreters is increasing exponentially, which makes this issue of the journal not only timely but of even greater importance. The articles identify problems that all countries need to address, but at the same time the authors provide examples of successes and proposals for improvements which we can use to evaluate the quality of the provision of interpreting services in our own countries.

We hope you enjoy reading these papers as much as we did when editing them.

Malcolm Coulthard & Sandra Hale

Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil & UNSW, Australia