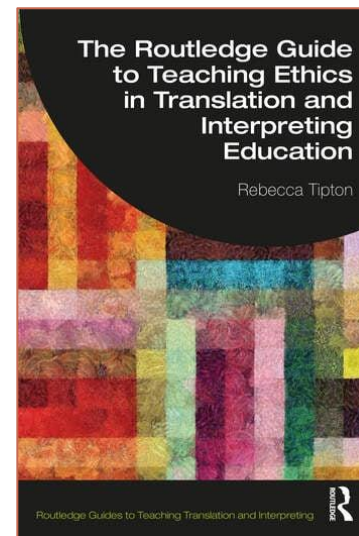
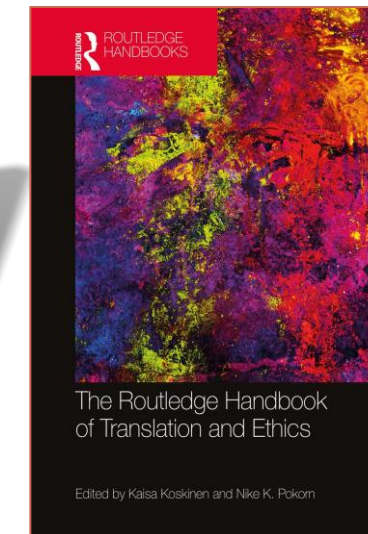
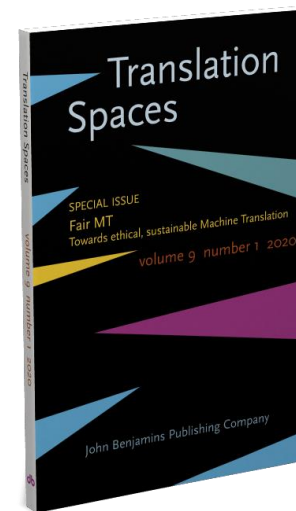
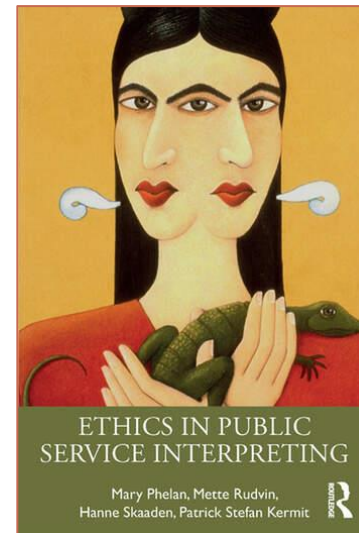
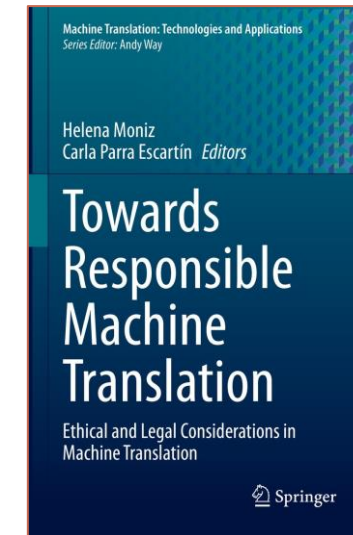
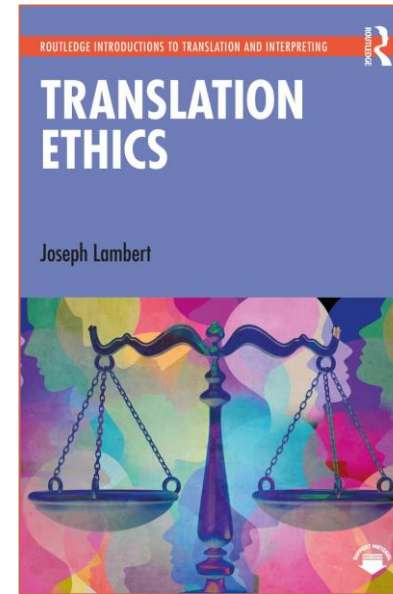




Kicking off
a new era
for ethics

CONTEXT

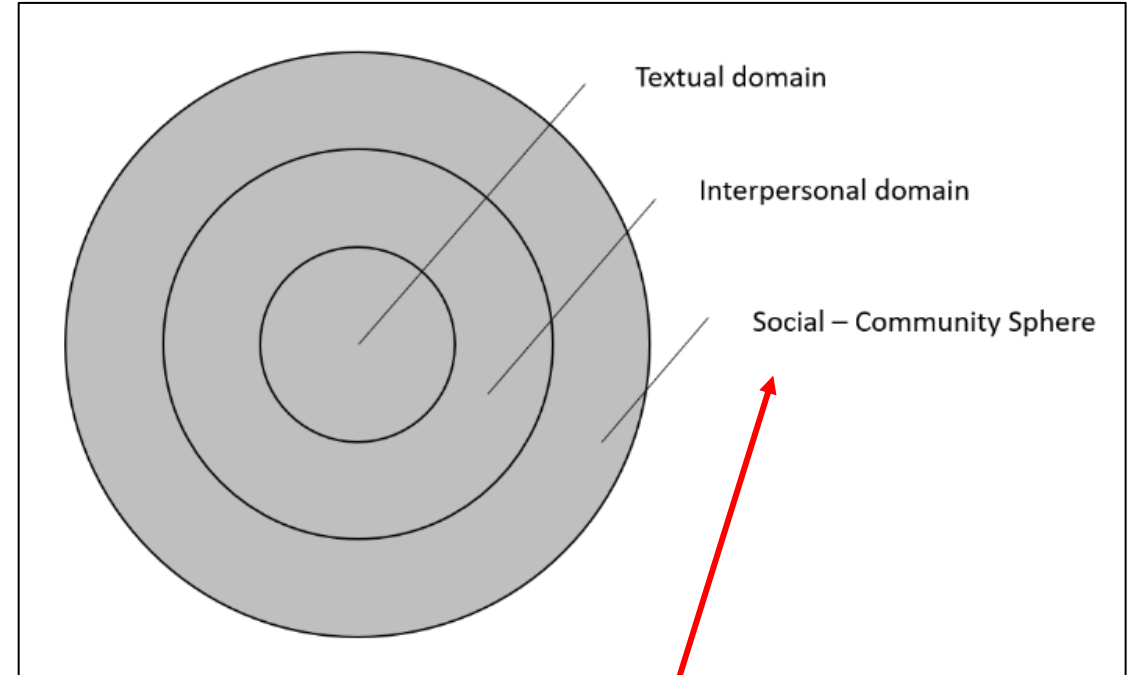
- At its most basic level, we are looking at questions of right, wrong, good and bad in the specific context of translation.
- Ethics has long been an important concern for translation scholars, professionals, and students.
- Ethics is a hugely wide-ranging domain.
- The challenging contemporary environment that we find ourselves in has arguably brought key ethical issues into sharper focus than ever before.



THE DEVELOPMENT OF ETHICS IN TRANSLATION STUDIES

Andrew Chesterman (2016: 168) sums up a range of ethical issues rather neatly by suggesting a division between micro-ethical and macro-ethical matters:

- **Micro-ethical** matters pertain to the “relation between the translator and the words on the page”. Often focusing on **accuracy** and **fidelity**.
- **Macro-ethical** issues encompass **broad** social questions...



Translation and interpreting ethics “levels” – adapted from Phelan et al. 2020: 62

This is very much where our focus lies now

SOME OF THE ISSUES COVERED

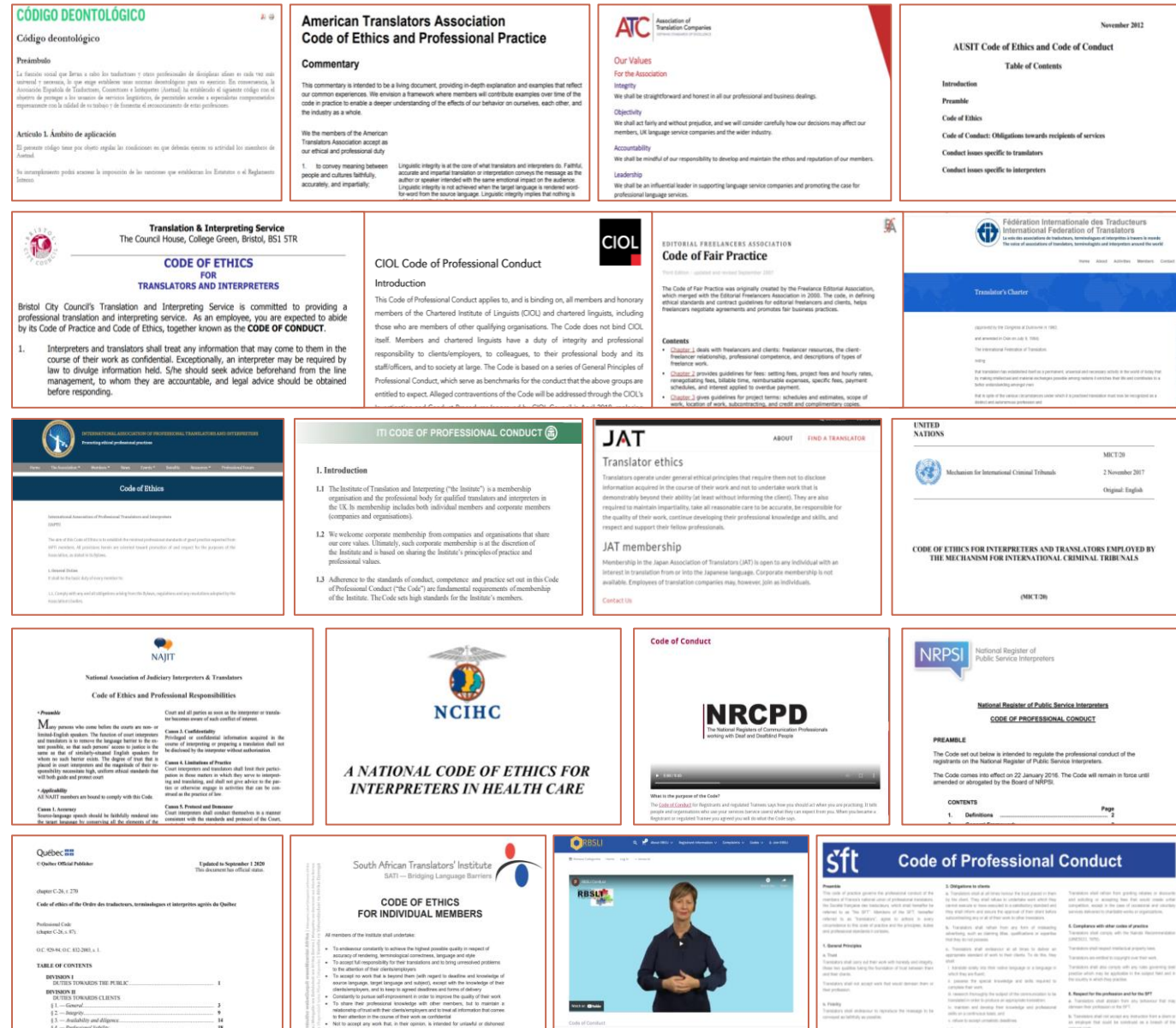
- Personal vs professional ethics
- Agency
- Neutrality
- Fidelity
- Loyalty
- Conflicts of interest
- Representation
- Confidentiality
- Finances
- Technology
- Copyright and intellectual property
- Ethical stress
- Self-care
- Ecological sustainability



Ethics in the translation profession

ETHICAL CODES

- Well established, institutionally-embedded documents providing principles of practice for translators and a symbolic badge of honour resulting in elevated status to and trust in the profession (Baixauli-Olmos 2021:311)



CODES OF ETHICS VS CODES OF CONDUCT

ITI currently employs a Code of Professional Conduct, rather than a Code of Ethics and, in the translation world, it is common to use the two titles interchangeably, despite them fulfilling quite different purposes.

- A **code of ethics** is designed to convey a bigger picture, vision or overall philosophy of an institution or industry as a whole, and should help guide members' or employees' decision-making.
- A **code of conduct**, meanwhile, outlines the concrete, small-scale behaviours expected of an employee or member, which should be enforceable rules with obvious applications.

THE STATE OF CODES OF ETHICS (1/2)

- Eight common principles:

Accuracy

Competence

Confidentiality

Conflicts of interest

CPD

Impartiality/neutral

Integrity and professionalism

Role boundaries

CODE OF ETHICS	Accuracy	Competence	Confidentiality	Conflicts of interest	CPD	Impartiality
ASETRAD	Red	Green	Green	Green	Red	Red
ATA	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green
ATC	Red	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green
AUSIT	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
BCCTI	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green
CIOL	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
EFA	Green	Green	Green	Red	Red	Red
FIT	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Red
IAPTI	Red	Green	Green	Red	Green	Red
ITI	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
JAT	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green
MICT	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green
NAJIT	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
NCIHC	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
NRCPD	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
NRPSI	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green
OTTIAQ	Red	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green
RBSLI	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red
SATI	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green	Red
SFT	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green	Red
Total /20	14	20	20	13	13	13

Lambert 2023, on the prominence of ethical buzzwords in a corpus of 20 codes of ethics.

THE STATE OF CODES OF ETHICS 2/2)

- While academic engagement remains relatively sparse, a number of scholars have drawn attention to considerable shortcomings including:

Coverage

Enforcement

Internal conflicts

Problems of interpretation and application

- For instance, the codes usually call for complete, accurate, impartial translations, of optimum quality.
- What of practices such as subtitling, which necessitate sacrifices in terms of completeness?

SOME POTENTIAL AREAS TO CONSIDER FURTHER?

Codes have remained static, and many key issues continue to be overlooked, for instance:

- **Rates** – mentioned in half of codes at best, often with a general link to ‘fair rates’
- **Technology/AI** – very rarely even addressed, let alone covering current developments. Technological developments impact **status, job satisfaction, and pay, as well as adding concerns over data privacy, fair practice, bias, ownership of resources, and more.**
- **Quality** – blanket statements asking for optimum quality
- **Environmental sustainability** – no guidance on this range of key concerns. The tools we use and the data we store have an inevitable environmental impact, and the increasing use of energy-intensive technologies reinforces our responsibilities.
- Questions of **representativeness and diversity** within the translation profession.
- Finally, **well-being issues**, we are seeing increasing attention paid to the importance, and ethical necessity, of self-care.

SOME FURTHER REFLECTIONS...

- With such a wide range of concerns, are we asking the codes to do too much?
- They should cover the core expectations of a professional in their specific field – so how and where do we draw the line?
- What does it mean to be a professional?
- What should we prioritise when it comes to ethics?
- These are among the questions we will start to address today!

