

MIGRANT MOTHER, SISTER, DAUGHTER:
WOMEN IMMIGRANTS IN THE BEL PAESE

A professional project

Presented to

the Faculty of the Graduate School
at the University of Missouri-Columbia

In Partial Fulfillment

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Master of Arts

by

ALEXA AHERN

Dr. Jeanne Abbott, Project Chair

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First, I would like to thank my committee. Their words of advice and encouragement were the light on the other side of the Atlantic that kept me from fully losing sight of my goals.

To the women in the stories who welcomed me into their lives and shared with me their most vulnerable moments, their unfortunate pasts and bright futures, I am eternally grateful. They possess a strength I will forever aspire to. As we stumbled through conversations and miscommunications with accents and grammatical mistakes, they showed me that storytelling is more than just perfect sentences and fluency.

To my parents, for never discouraging me from taking on grad school and more debt or dissuading me from pursuing faraway adventures.

And to Lorenzo, per avermi sostenuto in qualsiasi modo nonostante lo stress, le delusioni e gli attacchi di panico. Non ce l'avrei fatto senza di te. Sei la mia ispirazione.

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INTRODUCTION

The idea for this project is an extension of my interest in Italy and immigration. My interest in Italy comes from my studies of the Italian language and history in my undergraduate studies. My interest in immigration comes from a personal fascination with the movements of people. I am passionate about travel and I do so with relative ease, yet so many people move under unfortunate circumstances and sometimes remain under unfair and exploitative conditions, as is true for some people in Italy.

I spent a year between 2013 and 2014 in Italy. I worked as a nanny and interacted with many women immigrants who cared for other children or cleaned the homes that I visited. As I worked through ideas and found some didn't work out, I became more and more interested in the specific experiences of these women immigrants. They work many of the domestic jobs of elderly caretaker, nanny, dog-walker and house cleaner. They are essential for Italian families and are very visible in public life. Parks and sidewalks are laden with Filipino women pushing strollers, Romanian women pushing wheelchairs and women of all nationalities chatting in different languages.

Originally, I planned to write 10 profiles of immigrants on their perceptions of identity in a new country. I struggled to find enough sources and to connect stories to the notion of identity. I felt it made more sense when looking at the experiences of second-generation immigrants. At a certain point, I started to panic because I hadn't found more than five people willing to talk to me consistently. Those I had found were all women. At

that point, I started to look into the experiences of women immigrants in Italy, knowing some already from my year in Italy as a nanny.

I found this to be a more specific and pressing topic, but there was almost too much to look into. The biggest challenge was maintaining a constant connection between the women. I had four that I interviewed mainly, but one I decided to leave out of the final series because I felt she didn't fit with the stories of the others. Interviews were a challenge because many of my sources didn't speak English, but I learned a lot from the interviews in Italian. Phone interviews were much more challenging, though.

I tried to pitch the idea to publications but failed to find one interested in the stories. I believe I pitched it too early because I didn't have a tight enough focus yet. In the end, I published the three stories to Medium, but I would like to find someone interested in at least one of the women's stories because I think the broader issue that these stories tells is worth communicating.

FIELD NOTES

1/11/2016

Ciao,

I hope you all doing well and had a wonderful holiday. My first set of field notes are a bit sparse. I've made some contacts, but it's been difficult to meet with anyone because everyone is on holiday from the 24 until the 8/9 (the 7th is a holiday here as well).

Project Notes

I was in Sicily for a few days, where I made a little bit of progress. I wasn't able to find any specific subject for a profile, but I spoke with a man, Claudio, who runs a sort of multicultural social center/restaurant/coworking space in the heart of Palermo. He also works for a non-profit that helps immigrant women with employment opportunities. I think it could be a good point of reference for exploring immigration in Sicilia, and a couple of his colleagues that he started the business with are immigrants themselves (unfortunately they weren't available when I visited). He referred me to a couple other organizations that work with immigrants and gave me his contact information.

Beyond my interview with him, I found Palermo to be fascinating, and very different from the north, in terms of integration of immigrants and multiculturalism of the city. The communities were visibly a part of daily life in Palermo, unlike in Milan. My plan is to find a subject through Claudio that I can speak with from Milan until I can get back to Palermo for a few more days.

I am meeting Venuz (the Filipino woman I knew from before) tomorrow evening. I hope to spend other days this week with her while she works.

Research Notes

I've emailed four people about interviews for the professional analysis, but I haven't received responses yet.

Alexa

1/18/2016

Ciao,

Project Notes

I made a few more contacts this week. I met with Venuz last week and Giulia this weekend. Venuz is from the Philippines and works as a housekeeper. I'm seeing her again on Wednesday. Giulia, from Moldova, works as a live-in caretaker for an elderly woman. Last week, Istat, an Italian national statistics institute released a study on the job qualification of immigrants versus their level of employment here. Obviously, there is a big difference in what someone is qualified for in their own country and what work they are able to find here. Giulia, for example is a doctor. She practiced family medicine in Moldova.

I also met a man from Senegal who has been here for 19 years. He used to work at a restaurant outside Milan, but I'm not sure what he does now. I have his information and plan to meet with him this weekend. Sunday, I will meet with a Peruvian woman who works as a caretaker for an elderly woman as well.

I also have contacted a friend of a friend who works for the International Center for Migration Policy Development. She is able to Skype with me later this week (she lives in England).

Other than that, I am struggling a bit with the overarching focus of the project. I haven't found anything significant with the first two women in terms of identity as immigrants. But maybe I should give it more time.

Research Notes

I haven't had much luck with my research contacts. The only person that has responded and is willing to speak is Riccardo Stagliano', a reporter for the Italian publication La Repubblica. He has done some work on immigration in the Mediterranean. I sent him my structured questions, but he hasn't responded with a time to talk yet.

I have not heard from Nicole Winfield (AP bureau chief in Rome) or John Hooper (Southern Europe correspondent for The Guardian). I have sent follow-up emails and also emailed Cynthia Gorney for an interview. She is a contributor for National Geographic and has worked extensively in Central/South America (she speaks Spanish) and most recently is working on a story in Saudi Arabia (she doesn't speak Arabic).

Alexa

1/25/2016

Ciao,

Project Notes

I spent more time with Giulia this week. I also met a woman from Peru, Laura, who works as a caretaker for an elderly woman as well. I will see her again on Thursday. I will also meet with a woman who works with asylum-seekers on Thursday. I'm not going to profile refugees, but she might have an interesting perspective on the challenges of assimilation or might be able to direct me to other organizations.

I also met with Francesco Giambertone, who has been a journalist in Milan for a few years. We talked about the project in general, and he gave me some advice. We spoke a lot about the immigrants who work as caretakers for the elderly and children, which in Italy are called *badanti* and *tate*, because they hold an integral role in Italian society. I sent Jeanne a quick email about possibly steering the project in this direction, profiling, for example, four *badanti* and four *tate* from different countries and how they came to work here as such. These positions are underappreciated and the women, sometimes men, but almost always immigrants, work difficult jobs sometimes without contracts. Some of them risk a lot, but end up developing strong relationships with the people they care for.

I've been throwing out random ideas, but I will continue to talk to whomever I can in the meantime without choosing to follow one direction too closely for now. However, I should get at least one story done soon. While I continue to build contacts, I think I will start with the *badante* story, continue meeting with Giulia and other people who care for the elderly and focus on getting to a point where I can start writing.

This weekend I will be going to Puglia. Originally, I wanted to find immigrants all over Italy, but I think it might help with narrowing my focus if I stick to people in and around Milan. Puglia would be a good place to look at newly arrived immigrants, asylum-seekers and the crisis in the Mediterranean. Also, according to Istat, the Italian statistics agency, only 14 percent of immigrants live in the South.

Research Notes

I finally have an interview scheduled with Cynthia Gorney (National Geographic). And I've contacted three more people. The first is Fabrizio Gatti, an investigative reporter for

L'Espresso, who has worked all over Europe. Second is Sophia Jones, a Middle East correspondent for the Huffington Post. Her LinkedIn says she speaks French and Arabic. And last is Claudio Salvalaggio, who currently works in D.C. for Ansa, an Italian wire service. He was previously the Moscow Bureau Chief for Ansa and speaks both Russian and English. Here's a quick rundown of the people I've contacted and how they have responded:

Cynthia Gorney (National Geographic — U.S. S. America) Interview scheduled

Riccardo Stagliano' (La Repubblica — Italy) Agreed to interview, not scheduled yet

Domenico Stinellis (AP — Italy) Declined interview

Nicole Winfield (AP — Italy) no response, follow-up email

John Hooper (Guardian/Economist — S. Europe) no response, follow-up email

Fabrizio Gatti (L'Espresso — Italy/Europe) no response

Claudio Salvalaggio (Ansa — U.S.) no response

Sophia Jones (Huffington Post — Middle East) no response

Alexa

2/1/2016

Ciao,

Project Notes

I spent Wednesday morning with Venuz while she worked, and Sunday I will be going to church with her. She attends an Evangelical Christian church with mass in Tagalog. There she will also introduce me to some of her friends from the Philippines. On Thursday, I stayed with Giulia. I will see her again this weekend, along with Laura (Peru).

Research Notes

I had a really great interview with Cynthia Gorney last week, and she put me in contact with three more people, Ben Hubbard, Fulvio Paolucci and Angelica Marin. Ben Hubbard is a Middle East correspondent for the New York Times. According to Cynthia, he is very good at Arabic. He hasn't responded yet. Fulvio (Italian) and Angelica (Mexican) are a couple based in Rome. From what I understand, they both speak English, Spanish and Italian, have worked in a number of countries and in various media (video

and text) for various organizations, including the AP, Public Radio International and the Global Post. They both agreed to talk to me, hopefully in person if they come to Milan or I make it to Rome. If not, we will schedule a Skype interview. I have another interview scheduled for Friday with Claudio Salvalaggio. Here's a quick rundown of the people I've contacted and how they have responded:

Cynthia Gorney (National Geographic — U.S. S. America) Done

Claudio Salvalaggio (Ansa — U.S.) Interview scheduled

Riccardo Stagliano' (La Repubblica — Italy) Agreed

Fulvio Paolucci (Various) Agreed

Angelica Marin (Various) Agreed

Ben Hubbard (The New York Times — Middle East)

Nicole Winfield (AP — Italy) no response, follow-up email

John Hooper (Guardian/Economist — S. Europe) no response, follow-up email

Fabrizio Gatti (L'Espresso — Italy/Europe) no response

Sophia Jones (Huffington Post — Middle East) no response

Domenico Stinellis (AP — Italy) Declined interview

Alexa

2/8/2016

Ciao,

Project Notes

Yesterday I went to Venuz's church service. Despite being pressured to become a member of their evangelical Christian church by a feisty 71-year-old woman named Marilou, her friends were friendly and willing to tell me their stories. I started writing today, but Venuz also invited me to her birthday party on the 20th. Tomorrow I am going to try to track down a Filipino catholic organization that I couldn't find a location for online. The church they are associated with is a very important one in the center of Milan. I think it would be helpful/interesting to include something about the much larger Catholic community and their role in Milan/Italy in Venuz's story.

This weekend I will see Giulia again. (She lives outside of Milan, so that's why I usually only see her on weekends).

I also met a guy named Matteo the other day who works for an organization that goes into schools to teach about multiculturalism. Matteo knows a couple of immigrants who do this work as well that he said he could put me in touch with. It's also a little outside of Milan. He spoke specifically about a Ghanaian man he knows who has been in Italy for a while, but I didn't specifically understand if he had some connection to the group that goes into schools. Anyway, I will see Matteo this weekend as well. A friend is also possibly putting me in contact with a couple of people — her friend from Morocco who moved here as a child and an Iranian woman.

Research Notes

I Skyped with Claudio Salvalaggio. He had an interesting perspective because he lived for a long time in Moscow but didn't speak Russian. He used translators for work. He has recently moved to the U.S. where he won't have to use translators. I could have a second interview with him a month or so from now to talk about the differences he finds between reporting in English in the U.S. and through a translator in Russia. I also had an interview with Nicole Winfield. She had very little time to talk and didn't seem as interested as Claudio or Cynthia, but her experience as a strictly news journalist who deals with a lot of public officials (the Pope, diplomats, political figures) will be important to include. She had similar views to that of Cynthia, but wasn't nearly aware of the decisions she makes regarding translation and language in her reporting. Although, Cynthia acknowledged that this is something she is very passionate about. Here's a quick rundown of the people I've contacted and how they have responded:

Cynthia Gorney (National Geographic — U.S. S. America) Done

Claudio Salvalaggio (Ansa — U.S.) Done

Nicole Winfield (AP — Italy) Done

Riccardo Stagliano' (La Repubblica — Italy) Agreed

Fulvio Paolucci (Various) Agreed

Angelica Marin (Various) Agreed

Ben Hubbard (The New York Times — Middle East) no response

John Hooper (Guardian/Economist — S. Europe) no response

Fabrizio Gatti (L'Espresso — Italy/Europe) no response

Sophia Jones (Huffington Post — Middle East) no response

Domenico Stinellis (AP — Italy) Declined interview

Alexa

2/15/2016

Ciao,

Project Notes

I have written drafts about Venuz and about Giulia. I spent Saturday with a few of Giulia's friends, two sisters from Moldova who are also badanti and who have been in Italy for much longer. I also went back to Venuz's church service and talked to more of the people there, two women mainly, one that arrived a year ago and one that has been here for 20 years. A friend of mine will get back to Milan from Vienna next week and will introduce me to a Moroccan friend of hers who has lived in Milan almost all her life, as well as to an Iranian woman. I mentioned these contacts last week. They both said they'd be happy to talk to me. I am also waiting to hear back from someone else who works with immigrants to teach multiculturalism in schools (also mentioned this last week). I wanted to meet him in Varese this past weekend, but he was out of town.

Research Notes

I heard from John Hooper, a correspondent for the Guardian. He will be in Milan next Thursday and agreed to meet with me for an interview. I also contacted Nathan Thornburgh, former editor/contributor for Time and co-founder Roads and Kingdoms. He speaks four languages and has written stories about everywhere from Brazil to Myanmar to Chechnya. When he contacts me about an interview, I will also ask him about pitching my first two stories to Roads and Kingdoms. Here's a quick rundown of the people I've contacted and how they have responded:

Cynthia Gorney (National Geographic — U.S. S. America) Done

Claudio Salvalaggio (Ansa — U.S.) Done

Nicole Winfield (AP — Italy) Done

John Hooper (Guardian/Economist — S. Europe) meeting next week

Riccardo Stagliano' (La Repubblica — Italy) Agreed

Fulvio Paolocci (Various) Agreed

Angelica Marin (Various) Agreed

Nathan Thornburgh (Time/Roads and Kingdoms — U.S./South America) no response

Ben Hubbard (The New York Times — Middle East) no response

Fabrizio Gatti (L'Espresso — Italy/Europe) no response

Sophia Jones (Huffington Post — Middle East) no response

Domenico Stinellis (AP — Italy) Declined interview

Alexa

2/22/2016

Ciao,

Project Notes

I unfortunately haven't made much progress here. I rewrote both stories to focus on different people. Instead of Venuz, the Filipino profile is about Marina, who has been in Italy for 20 years. I found her story much more striking and particular while also more representative of the Filipino experience in Italy than that of Venuz's. And instead of Giulia, I am focusing on three sisters from Moldova, one of which came here 19 years ago. I spent a couple hours on Saturday in a piazza listening to them chat — and argue — about the fall of the Soviet Union and how they learned Italian when they first arrived.

Anyways, what's more important at this point is finding new sources. This weekend I'll finally meet the Iranian woman and Moroccan woman. An Albanian girl that I met once two years ago is willing to talk to me. I just received her number and will call her tomorrow. I don't think she will be ideal for a profile, but I'm hoping she is a good point of reference for other Albanians in Milan.

Research Notes

I am meeting with John Hooper (Guardian) on Thursday. I've also reached out to five new people and heard back from one: Rachel Donadio, European correspondent for the New York Times, based in Paris; Azam Ahmed, bureau chief for the New York Times in Mexico and previously in Afghanistan; Elizabeth Dickinson, reporter and editor for Foreign Policy, Economist and Deca out of the Middle East; Andrew Roth, reporter in Russia and Ukraine for Washington Post; and Dan Bilefsky, London correspondent for the New York Times and previously in Eastern and Central Europe. Dan Bilefsky, who I am most excited to speak to, responded immediately. I'm waiting to hear from him on a day and time to talk. Travis Hartman, who sent a message to Nathan Thornburgh for me, said Nathan is interested and will contact me when he has a chance. Here's a quick rundown of the people I've contacted and how they have responded:

Cynthia Gorney (National Geographic — U.S./S. America) Done
Claudio Salvalaggio (Ansa — U.S.) Done
Nicole Winfield (AP — Italy) Done
John Hooper (Guardian/Economist — S. Europe) meeting next week
Fulvio Paolucci (Various — Italy) Agreed
Angelica Marin (Various — Italy) Agreed
Dan Bilefsky (New York Times — Central/Eastern Europe) Agreed
Riccardo Stagliano' (La Repubblica — Italy) Agreed
Rachel Donadio (New York Times — Europe) no response
Andrew Roth (Washington Post — Russia/Ukraine) no response
Azam Ahmed (New York Times — Mexico) no response
Elizabeth Dickinson (Deca/Foreign Policy — Middle East) no response
Nathan Thornburgh (Time/Roads and Kingdoms — U.S./South America) no response
Ben Hubbard (The New York Times — Middle East) no response
Fabrizio Gatti (L'Espresso — Italy/Europe) no response
Sophia Jones (Huffington Post — Middle East) no response
Domenico Stinellis (AP — Italy) Declined interview

Alexa

2/28/2016

Ciao,

Project Notes

We have hit the halfway point. I am feeling fairly confident, more so about my research than my project, but I think the next week might bring more progress. My roommate, who was going to introduce me to the Moroccan and Iranian woman, decided she wants to wait to set something up until after her exams in two weeks. The Moroccan woman is a fellow student of hers, so I will just put an interview with her to the side for now. But I will see if I can meet the Iranian woman on my own to get something moving or at least get a better idea of whether her story will work for my project. I have a couple of other

possibilities for contacts, but I don't want to get ahead of myself in case they don't work out.

In the meantime, I met with Martina (from Albania). She only moved to Italy recently, but her father lived here for 20 years, coming over in the early 90s. Martina came to Italy with the hope of bringing her father home, but has stayed to study Pharmacy in Milan. They have had a complex relationship in the last few years, and when her father got sick, Martina was the one to take care of him and pay for medical bills, putting her studies on hold. I will see her again Wednesday and set up some way to talk to her father, who is now back in Albania.

Research Notes

This week, I met John Hooper, an incredibly accomplished journalist, who says he is the longest working foreign correspondent out of England (or some similar superlative). He speaks about 6 languages and has reported during multiple wars, including Kosovo and Afghanistan. It was exciting and a little intimidating to get to speak to him in person, but he was very generous with his time and engaging in the conversation. I hope I made a good impression as well.

I've setup my Skype to call international landlines (Thanks, Jacqui), and I have scheduled to speak to Dan Bilefsky tomorrow morning. Elizabeth Dickinson is available only by email in the next couple weeks due to visiting family. I've asked her if we can wait and set something up when she is available by phone, but I haven't heard back yet. I am still waiting to hear back from Nathan Thornburgh as well. Here's a quick rundown of the people I've contacted and how they have responded:

Cynthia Gorney (National Geographic — U.S./S. America) Done

Claudio Salvalaggio (Ansa — U.S.) Done

Nicole Winfield (AP — Italy) Done

John Hooper (Guardian/Economist — S. Europe) Done

Elizabeth Dickinson (Deca/Foreign Policy — Middle East) Agreed

Dan Bilefsky (New York Times — Central/Eastern Europe) Agreed

Fulvio Paolucci (Various — Italy) Agreed

Angelica Marin (Various — Italy) Agreed

Riccardo Stagliano' (La Repubblica — Italy) Agreed

Rachel Donadio (New York Times — Europe) no response

Andrew Roth (Washington Post — Russia/Ukraine) no response
Azam Ahmed (New York Times — Mexico) no response
Nathan Thornburgh (Time/Roads and Kingdoms — U.S./South America) no response
Ben Hubbard (The New York Times — Middle East) no response
Fabrizio Gatti (L'Espresso — Italy/Europe) no response
Sophia Jones (Huffington Post — Middle East) no response
Domenico Stinellis (AP — Italy) Declined interview

Alexa

3/7/2016

Ciao,

Project Notes

I have continued meeting with Martina, and will see her again tomorrow, although haven't sorted out an interview with her father yet. Thursday I have set a time to meet with Dounia, who is the Moroccan student and friend of my roommate. What I know so far is that she moved here with her family when she was very young. She went back to Morocco briefly to get married, but broke things off and moved back to Milan to study Psychology.

I also might have found two more people, a Chinese woman named Giada who works as a tailor and a Turkish man who makes kebabs. I am waiting to see if they agree to an interview.

Research Notes

I interviewed Dan Bilefsky this past week. I also forgot to add Dionne Searcey to last week's notes. Jacqui suggested I contact her. I emailed her, but haven't heard back. I haven't heard from anyone else either, but in the meantime I sent follow-up emails and started sorting through the transcriptions of interviews I've already done to find interesting themes and make connections between the journalists. Here's a quick rundown of the people I've contacted and how they have responded:

Cynthia Gorney (National Geographic — U.S./S. America) Done

Claudio Salvalaggio (Ansa — U.S.) Done
Nicole Winfield (AP — Italy) Done
John Hooper (Guardian/Economist — S. Europe) Done
Dan Bilefsky (New York Times — Central/Eastern Europe) Done
Elizabeth Dickinson (Deca/Foreign Policy — Middle East) Agreed
Fulvio Paolucci (Various — Italy) Agreed
Angelica Marin (Various — Italy) Agreed
Riccardo Stagliano' (La Repubblica — Italy) Agreed
Dione Searcey (New York Times — West Africa) no response
Rachel Donadio (New York Times — Europe) no response
Andrew Roth (Washington Post — Russia/Ukraine) no response
Azam Ahmed (New York Times — Mexico) no response
Nathan Thornburgh (Time/Roads and Kingdoms — U.S./South America) no response
Ben Hubbard (The New York Times — Middle East) no response
Fabrizio Gatti (L'Espresso — Italy/Europe) no response
Sophia Jones (Huffington Post — Middle East) no response
Domenico Stinellis (AP — Italy) Declined interview

Alexa

3/14/2016

Ciao,

Project Notes

This week I will continue interviewing Martina and start writing her profile. I will have enough after another interview or two. We talked a lot about her memories of her childhood growing up in a chaotic Albania and her relationship with her father, who she only saw every 3 years. Her story shows a different side of Albanian immigration in Italy, while also being a story of immigration itself. Although her father's move to Italy in 1993 gave her better opportunities as an adult, she's still struggled a lot, and she has taken nearly 10 years to get through her degree. And she holds much of the responsibility of taking care of her family, like her father had before.

Now he's sick and can't work. She also told me about the difficulty she has had in making friends with Italians because of the stereotype of Albanians that exist in Italy. Many see Albanians as drug dealers and prostitutes, which Martina said is due to the reputation left by mafia-linked traffickers that went to Italy before the exodus in '91.

Dounia, from Morocco, also talked about the stereotypes and discrimination she has encountered in Italy. Finding housing in Milan has been a challenge for her because people don't want to rent to Muslims. She says it has worsened since the Paris attacks. Yet she grew up in Italy and speaks with a thick Romagnolo accent (from Emilia-Romagna), but also speaks Arabic and French. She's currently studying Psychology. I think her story is important in the mix of immigrant tales because, as she said, she belongs to a generation in transition. She has lived in Morocco as well, but calls Italy her home. She's a fascinating person and has an interesting perspective on her double identity.

I am looking for some men to interview and might have some possibilities, such as the man from Turkey that I mentioned last week. I will meet with Giada this week. I also found a woman from Sri Lanka, Priyanka, who agreed to meet with me this week.

I've been looking at what I can do with the presentation of the published articles, and I would really like to design the pages myself (and am pretty positive I can do so). The problem will just be hosting the project, but I think keeping it a cohesive story map is the best way to stay true to the stories and the purpose of the project. From there I can always adapt the stories to pitches.

Research Notes

I don't have any new interviews yet. I will continue sorting through the interviews I have already. While I'm waiting, I would also like to start writing the analysis. I am going to approach it as any other research paper, but if it should be different in any way, just let me know. Here's a little bit of what I have found so far:

There is definitely a difference between feature and news stories when dealing with language difference between sources and journalists. This is probably obvious as tight news deadlines don't permit as much reflection on the importance of language/translation process as feature deadlines do. In both feature and news reporting, however, these journalists don't seem to consciously think of the translation process. All of them do tend to acknowledge the language differences they encounter somehow in their writing, in small ways — a phrase or word in the source language — or by overtly stating the

language barriers they crossed in the reporting process. In general, translation seems to be an afterthought. When asked about standards they follow in interviewing in other languages and translating information, all the journalists referred to general journalism standards of transparency and accuracy. There don't seem to be specific and consistent guidelines for translation in reporting. They all have their own method of translating. They also acknowledged that there's a bit of leeway in how something can be translated.

Not everyone would translate something in the same way. For this reason, they said, a journalist has a lot of power when translating information to readers who don't understand and almost never come into contact with the source information, which is something that was mentioned a lot in the preliminary research I did. A couple of the journalists see this as an advantage, a way to add nuance and depth to a story, but it's also something that has to be kept in check. Some of them have ways of making sure they double check their translations, usually through another person. Here's a quick rundown of the people I've contacted and how they have responded:

Cynthia Gorney (National Geographic — U.S./S. America) Done

Claudio Salvalaggio (Ansa — U.S.) Done

Nicole Winfield (AP — Italy) Done

John Hooper (Guardian/Economist — S. Europe) Done

Dan Bilefsky (New York Times — Central/Eastern Europe) Done

Elizabeth Dickinson (Decca/Foreign Policy — Middle East) Agreed

Fulvio Paolucci (Various — Italy) Agreed

Angelica Marin (Various — Italy) Agreed

Riccardo Stagliano' (La Repubblica — Italy) Agreed

Dione Searcey (New York Times — West Africa) no response

Rachel Donadio (New York Times — Europe) no response

Andrew Roth (Washington Post — Russia/Ukraine) no response

Azam Ahmed (New York Times — Mexico) no response

Nathan Thornburgh (Time/Roads and Kingdoms — U.S./South America) no response

Ben Hubbard (The New York Times — Middle East) no response

Fabrizio Gatti (L'Espresso — Italy/Europe) no response

Sophia Jones (Huffington Post — Middle East) no response

Domenico Stinellis (AP — Italy) Declined interview

Alexa

3/22/2016

Ciao,

Project Notes

I'm in the process of writing Dounia and Martina's profiles. After that I will have four done. I reconsidered the idea of doing just women. I had said that I didn't think there was a connection to immigrant women and immigration in Italy, meaning that, although writing about the experiences of women is always warranted, I didn't have any reason to write about immigrant women specifically in Italy, other than my original point of writing about general immigration in Italy (that it's a recent phenomenon here and it's ever-increasing). But I talked to Dounia and Martina about their experiences as women living alone in Italy.

Although they've found opportunity and independence that they wouldn't have found in their home countries, they still face stereotypes, particularly those that perpetuate a binary of female roles — *la vergine o la puttarella* (the virgin or the whore). Italy is interesting in this way when it comes to gender politics. It's a modern, western country in which women "do it all," but there's prejudiced gender norms that persist, such as traditional roles in the home and in society, which probably comes from the Church. This goes both ways — women should be delicate and reserved and men are upheld to standards of *maschilismo*. I see these stereotypes often in the way people speak (such as calling women whore or prostitute for trivial reasons), but Italians I have talked to don't seem to think it's a problem.

Anyway, all this to say that I think talking to women immigrants about gender roles in the cultures of their home and in Italy is an interesting angle. Dounia and Martina also spoke of the fluidity of their roles as women. When they go home, they maintain slightly different roles out of respect for their cultures and parents, and furthermore, they make it a point of discussion.

For example, Martina explained how her older brother, having only ever lived in Albania, is very closed-minded. He tries to sway her from going out to bars to protect her from the gossip of the community that might follow. She lives in a small village where women who drink/party are seen as promiscuous. She listens sometimes out of respect, but when she wants to go out, she explains that she has lived on her own for the past 10 years, largely supporting their entire family while studying and can do what she wants. Dounia, similarly, said that when she goes to visit her parents in Morocco, she wears a headscarf

and follows the religious traditions her parents uphold, but she rejects their desires to have her marry and move back to Morocco instead of pursuing her career in Italy.

As for additional contacts, Giada (Chinese) decided she didn't want to be interviewed. The woman who put me in contact with her knows another Chinese woman she said she will contact. I started talking to Priyanka, but we haven't met yet. I also met a young Egyptian girl who moved here a few years ago with her family. We were supposed to meet Sunday, but she rescheduled for tomorrow. I also got the contact for a Brazilian man last night. If I'm moving forward with only women however, I will try to see if he might know someone else from Brazil or maybe another South American country.

Research Notes

I still haven't heard anything new from anyone I've already contacted. I have, however, contacted Fulvio Paolucci and Angelica Marin again about setting up a time to talk. We had originally planned to talk on Skype only if I couldn't make it to Rome to talk in person. I'm not sure if I'm going to be able to travel there in the next few weeks, so I figured I'd just set up a Skype interview in the meantime. I also sent requests to two more people. Hanna Ingber was a Global Post reporter in India and Central Asia and now works for the New York Times. I also emailed Stephan Faris, who currently lives in Rome, but has reported from all over the world for both magazines, particularly Time, and newspapers. His resume says he only speaks a little Italian and a little French, so I think he could provide more perspective on not speaking the language of sources/having to rely on English or translators. But he might be difficult to get in touch with. Here's a quick rundown of the people I've contacted and how they have responded:

Cynthia Gorney (National Geographic — U.S./S. America) Done

Claudio Salvalaggio (Ansa — U.S.) Done

Nicole Winfield (AP — Italy) Done

John Hooper (Guardian/Economist — S. Europe) Done

Dan Bilefsky (New York Times — Central/Eastern Europe) Done

Elizabeth Dickinson (Deca/Foreign Policy — Middle East) Agreed

Fulvio Paolucci (Various — Italy) Agreed

Angelica Marin (Various — Italy) Agreed

Riccardo Stagliano' (La Repubblica — Italy) Agreed

Dionne Searcey (New York Times — West Africa) no response

Rachel Donadio (New York Times — Europe) no response

Andrew Roth (Washington Post — Russia/Ukraine) no response

Azam Ahmed (New York Times — Mexico) no response
Nathan Thornburgh (Time/Roads and Kingdoms — U.S./South America) no response
Ben Hubbard (The New York Times — Middle East) no response
Fabrizio Gatti (L'Espresso — Italy/Europe) no response
Sophia Jones (Huffington Post — Middle East) no response
Stephan Faris (Time — Rome) no response
Hanna Ingber (New York Times — India) no response
Domenico Stinellis (AP — Italy) Declined interview

Alexa

3/28/2016

Ciao,

Project Notes

I met with Marina this week. She's from Egypt and moved here a few years ago with her mother and brother to meet her father who has lived here for more than five years. I actually had a really difficult time understanding her. She studies English and Italian but said her spoken English wasn't very good. In Italian, she had a hard time understanding me, and her answers didn't always make sense. They tended to be very simple and short, which might make a more profound story difficult to come by. I'll see how things go with the next interview. She does have a friend from Lebanon she said she could put me in contact with. From what I understood, she is also rather young and in school but lives with an Italian family that helps her with some sort of medical condition. Her experience living with this family could be interesting to compare to the women whose home lives remain immersed in the culture of their home country.

I've started looking more into the actual conditions of women's rights in Italy and the contradiction that I wrote about last week. There's a whole guidebook put out by the city of Milan for women immigrants that spells out their rights in Italy, but knowing the bureaucratic hurdles that people have to go through here, especially immigrants, I'm sure

these rights (such as maternity pay for domestic workers) aren't always easily obtained if at all.

Priyanka, the woman from Sri Lanka couldn't meet again. She had time off for the Easter holiday.

Research Notes

Again nothing this week from the already contacted journalists. I am hopeful that Fulvio and Angelica will respond soon since they already agreed to speak with me. I'll keep looking for more people to contact and continue to work through what I've already collected in the meantime. Here's a quick rundown of the people I've contacted and how they have responded:

Cynthia Gorney (National Geographic — U.S./S. America) Done

Claudio Salvalaggio (Ansa — U.S.) Done

Nicole Winfield (AP — Italy) Done

John Hooper (Guardian/Economist — S. Europe) Done

Dan Bilefsky (New York Times — Central/Eastern Europe) Done

Elizabeth Dickinson (Decca/Foreign Policy — Middle East) Agreed

Fulvio Paolucci (Various — Italy) Agreed

Angelica Marin (Various — Italy) Agreed

Riccardo Stagliano' (La Repubblica — Italy) Agreed

Dionne Searcey (New York Times — West Africa) no response

Rachel Donadio (New York Times — Europe) no response

Andrew Roth (Washington Post — Russia/Ukraine) no response

Azam Ahmed (New York Times — Mexico) no response

Nathan Thornburgh (Time/Roads and Kingdoms — U.S./South America) no response

Ben Hubbard (The New York Times — Middle East) no response

Fabrizio Gatti (L'Espresso — Italy/Europe) no response

Sophia Jones (Huffington Post — Middle East) no response

Stephan Faris (Time — Rome) no response

Hanna Ingber (New York Times — India) no response

Domenico Stinellis (AP — Italy) Declined interview

Alexa

4/4/2016

Ciao,

Project Notes

Priyanka decided to pass on being interviewed, and instead sent me the contact for a friend who has been here longer. Her friend, Ramya, is also from Sri Lanka and works as a domestic helper.

She has been here for over 30 years and next year will retire and move home where her daughter has lived without her since she was 3 months old. Ramya moved here with her husband, but he died in a car crash around 20 years ago. She liked talking about Sri Lanka and cooking as well. I did have some difficulty understanding her, but I think that's also on me as she didn't always understand what I was asking. I'm going to keep meeting with her.

The Lebanese girl I mentioned last week is in the hospital, so I'm not so sure if anything will come of that. With Marina, the Egyptian student, I am also unsure, just for the language difficulties, but when I see her again, I would like to try speaking English with her.

Lastly, a Brazilian man I contacted, Junior, has said he is asking his wife and other friends if they are interested and will pass along their information if they agree.

Research Notes

I heard back from Elizabeth Dickinson, who works in the Middle East for various publications, including Foreign Policy and Deca. I will interview her Wednesday. I also heard back from Dionne Searcey. We will be Skyping tomorrow. I was hoping we could set a deadline for a draft of my research for next week. In the meantime, I will try to set up a couple more interviews, but I think I will have enough after these two interviews for a decent draft. My motivation is waning, and a deadline would be very helpful at this point to keep me on track. Here's a quick rundown of the people I've contacted and how they have responded:

Cynthia Gorney (National Geographic — U.S./S. America) Done

Claudio Salvalaggio (Ansa — U.S.) Done
Nicole Winfield (AP — Italy) Done
John Hooper (Guardian/Economist — S. Europe) Done
Dan Bilefsky (New York Times — Central/Eastern Europe) Done
Dionne Searcey (New York Times — West Africa) Agreed
Elizabeth Dickinson (Decca/Foreign Policy — Middle East) Agreed
Fulvio Paolucci (Various — Italy) Agreed
Angelica Marin (Various — Italy) Agreed
Riccardo Stagliano' (La Repubblica — Italy) Agreed
Rachel Donadio (New York Times — Europe) no response
Andrew Roth (Washington Post — Russia/Ukraine) no response
Azam Ahmed (New York Times — Mexico) no response
Nathan Thornburgh (Time/Roads and Kingdoms — U.S./South America) no response
Ben Hubbard (The New York Times — Middle East) no response
Fabrizio Gatti (L'Espresso — Italy/Europe) no response
Sophia Jones (Huffington Post — Middle East) no response
Stephan Faris (Time — Rome) no response
Hanna Ingber (New York Times — India) no response
Domenico Stinellis (AP — Italy) Declined interview

Alexa

3/11/2016

Ciao,

Project Notes

I will meet with Priyanka again this week, and I hope to find out more about her 30 plus years here that fits with the other stories so that I have a good focus to move forward with. I will try to get a hold of Junior again to see if he has found anyone. I will also check back on past contacts that I lost touch with to see if there is anyone interested that I missed.

Research Notes

I interviewed both Dionne Searcey and Elizabeth Dickinson this week. I also heard back from Nathan Thornburgh, who is a former Time foreign correspondent and co-founder of Roads and Kingdoms. I'm waiting to hear back from him to set up an interview. I will have a draft ready by Friday. If I hear back from the two or three other people that have agreed to help, I will feel really good about this part of the project. Here's a quick rundown of the people I've contacted and how they have responded:

Cynthia Gorney (National Geographic — U.S./S. America) Done

Claudio Salvalaggio (Ansa — U.S.) Done

Nicole Winfield (AP — Italy) Done

John Hooper (Guardian/Economist — S. Europe) Done

Dan Bilefsky (New York Times — Central/Eastern Europe) Done

Dionne Searcey (New York Times — West Africa) Done

Elizabeth Dickinson (Deca/Foreign Policy — Middle East) Done

Nathan Thornburgh (Time/Roads and Kingdoms — U.S./South America) Agreed

Fulvio Paolucci (Various — Italy) Agreed

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Riccardo Stagliano' (La Repubblica — Italy) Agreed

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Azam Ahmed (New York Times — Mexico) no response

Ben Hubbard (The New York Times — Middle East) no response

Fabrizio Gatti (L'Espresso — Italy/Europe) no response

Sophia Jones (Huffington Post — Middle East) no response

Stephan Faris (Time — Rome) no response

Hanna Ingber (New York Times — India) no response

Domenico Stinellis (AP — Italy) Declined interview

Alexa

4/18/2016

Ciao,

Project Notes

I wanted to meet more with Ramya last week, but I haven't heard back from her. I'm hoping to meet a couple times this week. I didn't hear back from Junior, but a friend of mine knows another woman from Brazil, Maira. She lives a little outside of Milan, but I hope to meet with her this week and go from there, whether that means she can direct me to someone else or she's a good source for a profile herself. I also contacted again a woman from Iran named Solheila who had agreed to meet a while back but we never did. I am waiting to hear from her. I hope to start moving forward again this week and have something more interesting to share.

Research Notes

I sent Jeanne a draft of my analysis last week. If you would like to look at it as well, Jacqui and Tom, just let me know and I'll share the google doc. While I wait for edits and suggestions from Jeanne, I am trying to get one or two more people to interview. I'm hoping Nathan Thornburgh will reply soon. He had me send him an email with a request (I had originally contacted him on Facebook) about a week ago, but I haven't heard back. I also tried to set a time with Fulvio Paolucci and Angelica Marin, who are both in Rome, but they left for India this week and won't be back until May. Riccardo Stagliano' hasn't responded in months, but I will try reconnecting one more time. It would be nice to have 10 subjects total, but if I can't get any more interviews, I think it will be okay. Here's a quick rundown of the people I've contacted and how they have responded:

Cynthia Gorney (National Geographic — U.S./S. America) Done

Claudio Salvalaggio (Ansa — U.S.) Done

Nicole Winfield (AP — Italy) Done

John Hooper (Guardian/Economist — S. Europe) Done

Dan Bilefsky (New York Times — Central/Eastern Europe) Done

Dionne Searcey (New York Times — West Africa) Done

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Ben Hubbard (The New York Times — Middle East) no response
Fabrizio Gatti (L'Espresso — Italy/Europe) no response
Sophia Jones (Huffington Post — Middle East) no response
Stephan Faris (Time — Rome) no response
Hanna Ingber (New York Times — India) no response
Domenico Stinellis (AP — Italy) Declined interview

Alexa

4/26/2016

Ciao,

Project Notes

It was another frustrating week. I haven't heard back from anyone, but I've decided to move in a different direction instead of waiting around for them to get back to me. I have sent a pitch for my project to The Global Post (their website moved to PRI.org and there's no contact on the old website, so I sent it to PRI, so let's hope it gets to an editor from global post), Roads and Kingdoms, and The Local Italy, an English language news site that covers basically everything in Italy. I am looking for other publications as well. I think this is definitely better suited for a European audience, but it's hard to find publications in English that might be interested in this sort of story, or at least I haven't figured out where to find them yet.

I feel confident with what I have so far in terms of stories and reporting. The five women I have spoken to so far represent some issues facing women migrants here that I could definitely develop more, such as what good job opportunities are available to women and, as we've discussed before, the fact that they have to adapt to differing expectations and roles. I don't have more details to offer, but I promise next week's notes will be thick with interesting findings.

Research Notes

I am working on edits from Jeanne and will try to have them done this week.

Alexa

5/3/2016

Ciao,

Project Notes

I sent my pitch to two more places, Al Jazeera English and Refugees International. I heard back from an editor at The Local Italy who said they would be interested in looking at the stories when they are all done. I said I would let them know when I can send something, but I would like to make sure I have no other options first. Someone from PRI also responded saying the stories sounded interesting and the pitch would be passed on to the editorial department.

For the stories, I have four general topics I am looking at. First is the problem with legal and stable contracts for in-home jobs — house cleaner, *badante* (elderly care) and tata (child care) — which are something like 90 percent foreign workers and 80 percent women. The majority are without contracts. A few months ago, I spoke to Sergio Pasquinelli, who works for a research institute, about the history of foreign badanti in Italy. We talked again this week, and he told me more about the conditions of these jobs. Because these jobs are poorly regulated, problems such as high incidence of depression and mental health problems are ignored and obscured.

I am in contact with a woman who founded the Filipino Women's Council in Rome. We will speak again on Wednesday. She has told me some about the challenges women immigrants have with access to education and resources for financial planning and saving. For the in-home jobs especially, women travel alone to work and send money home to their families. Costs of schooling and child care are too high in Italy. The problem is a lot of the money is shipped away and spent immediately and little is invested. The founder of the women's council is trying to educate women immigrants about investing their money as well as on resources for borrowing when needed.

I'm still trying to find more information/an expert on the expectations of women and the challenges women immigrants face when moving between cultures. But this is related to the last topic, which is on what realistic, upward-moving opportunities there are for women immigrants, meaning how easy is it for a woman who came to Italy for better job opportunities and decent wages to do something other than a select few jobs such as those listed above. It's common that immigrants have skills beyond the jobs they find in their

new country, but many of the women I have met who have been here for more than 10, even 20 years, can't seem to find opportunities beyond house cleaner, *badante* and tata.

Research Notes

I am still working on edits, but no concerns with anything Jeanne said.

Alexa

5/10/2016

Ciao,

Project Notes

I sent another pitch to NPR Goats and Soda per Jacqui's recommendation. I am looking for others as well and have sent follow-up emails to those I already contacted.

As for the stories, this week I will meet one more time with each of the four women to get any additional details I need and to take photos. There are a few more people I am trying to get in contact with. I would like to speak with a woman named Lea Melandri who has been a famous activist for women's rights in Italy since the sixties and is now a writer and journalist. Another person who I would like to talk to is Evelyne Afaawua, an immigrant from Ghana who runs a blog about Afro-Italian culture and beauty standards. She has talked about the differences in beauty standards between her home country and Italy and how difficult it was to feel accepted growing up in Italy.

Research Notes

I am very close to finishing the edits. It's taking much longer than I expected, but I will have it done as soon as possible.

Alexa

5/16/2016

Ciao,

Project Notes

Jacqui asked me last week what sort of trends were emerging from the stories, so I will answer that in this week's field notes while giving summaries of the stories, which I am feeling much more confident about and hope to finish up along with photos and infographics and be ready to publish next week or the following week. I've returned to the idea of publishing on Medium since, unfortunately, I haven't heard from any of the publications I sent pitches to. However, as these stories have taken form, they've become singular stories (each with their own focus) as well as connected (by the trends I will explain below) pieces of a larger story. So I think they would do well in the Medium format after all. Originally, I wasn't so sure.

Anyway, as for trends, the stories of the two older women, Marina (Philippines) and Katia (Moldova), share similarities, and the stories of the two younger women have a lot in common as well. What connects them all is that they are women, they immigrated or live alone, and in attempting to find what they came for — a job, higher income, higher education — they have ended up staying longer than they expected and run into various challenges.

Katia and Marina were both smuggled into the country and found jobs immediately as elderly caretakers, a difficult job for immigrant women because it is poorly regulated by the state. Multiple sources said that these workers are often taken advantage of and paid unfairly. The demand however persists and is the main reason so many immigrants from the Philippines and Eastern Europe are women. Another commonality is that many have to leave behind their families, including children. This has caused challenges in both immigrant populations, for example, there is an incidence of depression among Eastern European women who work as in-home caretakers, and among Filipina women, there is a problem with poor financial literacy and stability because remittances are used up by families too quickly.

Martina has faced similar problems I think. Although she came here to study, she has had to work as well. Her job as a nanny has at times prevented her from carrying on her studies because she has no set contract and is often taken advantage of. Nonetheless, she continues to study for a career that will pull her out of the immigrant experience that her father lived as a caretaker in Italy. Dounia as well, with her studies, will be able to maintain a more lucrative and stable career than her parents and grandfather before her. But she has also hit speed bumps along the way, these I believe are largely related to the identity crisis she experienced as a young Moroccan-Italian woman.

As such, Dounia has fought the stereotypes of both her cultures — being the modest Muslim woman her parents want her to be and the liberated young Italian woman that she feels she is. Martina has confronted these conflicting stereotypes as well, finding herself devalued as a woman in her home country while in Italy she's the breadwinner for her family back in Albania. Even Marina seems to have combatted with the expectations of her two cultures. She came to Italy when she was only 19. Although she is a practicing evangelical Christian, some of her lifestyle choices don't always align with the expectations of the church she attends, such as drinking and smoking with friends or living with a boyfriend. She has been in Italy for so long now though that she has come to terms with these conflicting expectations.

Some of these trends seem to be particular to the immigrant communities each woman belongs to, therefore, each of their stories will also focus on these trends. Katia's focuses on the job regulation problems that have plagued the Eastern European women who work as badanti. Marina's focuses on the Filipino community and particularly the inability of women domestic workers to get financial gains from their exhausting jobs. Dounia's focuses on the gender expectations, particularly that found in second-generation immigrants and in the Muslim community. I wanted to look at mental health with Martina's story, but I don't know if it works yet. There are an increasing number of young Albanian students in Italy, but nothing about it is particular to women, so I am still trying to figure this out. If not, the focus will be very similar to that of Dounia's story.

Research Notes

I finished the second draft of my analysis. I imagine Jeanne is busy with the end of the semester, so I will just wait until she gets back to me.

Alexa

Ciao,

I am sending you my project report with a final set of notes.

The defense is scheduled for July 11 at 12:00 p.m.

Jeanne has edited the whole project once already. I'd love any further feedback you all might have on both the analysis and the story project. I have been struggling a bit with

the final story and in the end, decided to scratch it and edit the introduction a bit to reinforce the theme of the three I did include.

The last story, about Dounia, was too different from the others. The other three left their families behind to work and live on their own for a better life in Italy and for their family back home. The parallels in their stories are strong, with connections in their work and personal lives. Dounia, on the other hand, is a second-generation immigrant who has easily integrated in Italy and struggled less with the basic needs of life and more with identity and acceptance. Although I think her story represents valid and interesting issues for second-generation and young immigrants in Italy, I thought it was too out of place with the other three.

The introduction presents the stories as representative of the particular waves of women immigrants, the work opportunities they have available to them and the challenges associated with those jobs.

Again, any feedback is welcome!

Finally, I would just like to thank you all for being on my committee and seeing me through this unusual project. I appreciate all the patience and advice you've provided in these months.

I hope you all are enjoying summer and that the following long document isn't too difficult a read :)

Alexa

SELF-EVALUATION

My eyes were bigger than my stomach with this project. I'm relieved but also a bit surprised to have reached this point, and I hope what I've done with the project reflects the time and work that I've spent on it, even if it doesn't resemble my initial proposal of writing 10 profiles.

Nonetheless, it's been a great experience. I've had to independently work through the process of turning a big idea into streamlined stories that are at once their own and connected to a bigger idea. This is something I have been trying to improve on over the past two years, and I believe this project has helped me get closer to mastering it. It was more difficult in the beginning, but as the semester progressed, I learned to let go of ideas that weren't working out. I easily get caught up on an idea about a story or a source, and it gives me tunnel vision. Being prepared doesn't necessarily mean having a clear idea of the finished project. Not limiting myself was one of the biggest lessons I learned from this project. After letting go of things, I felt freer to go out and report and talk to people even when it was not exactly what I imagined I needed.

Although formidable at first, this project has given me the chance to become more independent. It required finding sources in a new place, reporting and interviewing in another language and translating interviews. I believe I really improved my interviewing skills through interviews in other languages. I had to be hyper-attentive and focused.

These were valuable lessons to work through (and sometimes lose my mind over), but I think the biggest mistake was thinking I could do it on my own. Not having an

editor or someone to collaborate with was difficult, and at first I thought it was a weakness to not be able to work independently. With the help of my committee, I realized that I do work better with consistent support. It would have helped, and saved time, if I would have sought out someone to talk to about story ideas and who could read my drafts.

So in the end, although I'm happy with the stories that I've turned out and I hope they find a home together in a publication, there are a few things I might have done differently. I should have planned a more manageable project for the time allotted. I should have sought out people in Italy who could have helped me along the way with my writing and reporting. And I should have either had a more focused theme or connecting thread for the multiple stories I planned to write or planned to write more loosely related stories.

I also learned a lot about journalism, such as the limits of freelancing and the work of foreign correspondents. I'm grateful for how many journalists were willing to spend some time talking to me about their careers. They shared so many stories of challenges and failures in the reporting process and proved that not all works out perfectly in the field. In the absence of an editor, talking to these journalists was consoling when I was struggling with my own projects. It helped me to not become too discouraged when an interview fell through or an idea didn't pan out.

I also learned a lot from trying to pitch stories. I had never pitched to a publication before. I struggled at first, but it helped me learn the best techniques for finding an appropriate publication, finding contacts for publications in creative ways

(because no one posts it on their website), molding a pitch for a certain publication, being specific and brief with a pitch and not getting discouraged when no one responds.

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Editor's note

In the last decade, immigration to Italy has swelled to more than 5 million foreign residents, about 8.2 percent of the population. Most recent migrants have made their way by sea to the *bel paese* from North Africa and the Middle East.

A country known worldwide for its own diaspora, Italy is still learning to adapt to its multicultural status.

Waves of migration from Eastern Europe and East Asia started small in the late 1980s and '90s. According to the Italian National Statistical Institute, there were 360,000 foreigners in 1991, which was less than 0.6 percent of the total population. In 2001, it grew to more than 1.4 million.

Italy has historically seen slightly more women than men immigrate, according to a 2007 study on gender and migration in Italy.

Women make up the majority of Italy's foreign population at 53 percent of the 4,387,721 foreign residents in Italy as of 2013. Today there are 5,014,437 foreign residents.

This disparity is even more distinct when looking at the countries with the most migrants in Italy, including Romania, Albania, Morocco, China, Ukraine, Philippines, India, Moldova, Bangladesh and Peru. From these ten immigrant populations, about 54 percent are women and 47 percent men. This might not seem significant, but when broken down by country, the channels of migration are majority single-sex, with mostly

women arriving from Philippines and Eastern Europe and men from Pakistan, Bangladesh and North Africa.

The jobs most available to women are for domestic work such as cleaning homes, childcare and elderly care. These jobs are widely available, especially with Italy's aging population, but they can be troublesome for the women working them. Beyond the challenge of finding an employer who offers a full-time position with a contract, women who do these jobs can be overworked and exploited — not necessarily intentionally but just by the nature of working as a caretaker.

With the added challenge of Italy's persistent gender inequalities, such as the pay gap, a lack of women in full-time and management-level positions and poor benefits for maternity leave, living and work conditions for migrant women can be taxing and unfair.

The heaviest strain on many lives, however — one that affects not just their work but their entire life — is having to care for families in Italy while their own families are at home in faraway countries.

Venez knows this reality all too well. She left her twins in the Philippines when they were just seven-months-old to join her husband in Italy. This was in 2008. She had poor wages from her job as a secretary at a spa. She knew the work her and her husband could find in Italy, where she still works as a house cleaner, would provide more for their kids long-term. The twins and their youngest son live with her father in the Philippines until Venez and her husband can finish the paperwork to bring them to Italy next year.

Katia is also familiar with raising children long-distance. She left her home in Moldova in 2002 to find better work in Italy. Her two children stayed behind with her

husband. She has worked as an elderly caretaker for 14 years in order to send money back home for her kids' college education.

Martina knows the life of a transnational family from another perspective. Her father fled to Italy in 1993 after the fall of communism in Albania. Martina grew up seeing her father every three years and still lives with the pain and consequences of that distance. She now attends college in Milan and works as a nanny as much as possible to pay for her education and help out her family back in Albania.

Thousands of women make the journey to Italy every year. There, their stories diverge and intersect as they navigate life as women from all over the world looking to support themselves in a new country and their families back home.

STORY #1: KATIA LOPOTENCO

In the past 14 years, Katia Lopotenco has said goodbye to four grandmas and two grandpas. At least that's what she called them. These elderly men and women weren't related to her at all. They were her employers.



Before becoming an elderly caretaker in Italy, Katia was a history teacher in Moldova.

Each time one dies, she loses a friend and her job.

She moved from Moldova to Italy in 2002 after eight months without paycheck from the state for her teaching job. She found a job immediately in Italy as a *badante*, or caretaker.

Hundreds of thousands of foreign workers take care of Italy's growing elderly population. The *badante* has become as integral to family life as the grandma herself.

The mutual support between these women and Italy is undermined by the lack of regulations that provide enough of these positions with appropriate benefits and visas. Although it has improved over the years, much of the difficulties these women face — exploitation, lack of contracts and mental health issues — go unseen.

OSPEDALE DI CIRCOLO, VARESE, ITALY — MAY 2016

Katia spent all of May in and out of a hospital in Varese, Italy, taking care of her seventh *nonnina*, an Italian term of endearment for a grandma. The woman has been sick, and

having spent the last eight months in the care of Katia, enjoys having her at the hospital bedside.

For Katia, it's a difficult yet beautiful moment. She waits to say goodbye, but also savors the increased affection from the woman she devotes every day to.

"I suffer a lot," Katia said as she combed the fragile gray hair of a woman connected to several small tubes. "Even more when they are sick. I'm not like a doctor, but I come to the hospital anyway because I know she likes for me to feed her."

Her energy and youthful smile contradict her age and tiring job.

While Katia sits in one hospital, her husband sits thousands of miles away in another in Chişinău, Moldova, the couple's hometown. Her husband, who permanently lives with Katia in Induno Olona, Italy, had to return home for a surgery while she stayed behind to continue working.

It's not the first time Katia has had to miss being at home for family in times of need.

The distance between her and her family is just one of the aspects of being a *badante* that puts strain on her life in Italy.

She remembers the day her daughter gave birth and she couldn't be there. There were complications that they didn't tell her about because they knew it would upset her.

"I was angry that I couldn't be there, but they told me that what happened would have happened even if I would have been there," she said sitting in an empty hospital waiting room. She paused and then added, "Today is my grandson's first birthday."

As the years have passed, so has her dream of returning home, along with other significant family moments.

Family, however, is what has kept her working a job that demands a lot. Katia says she is lucky to have found considerate employers even if some were in difficult mental and

physical condition, such as her first employer who was paralyzed. Another put her in the hospital after accidentally hitting her with a car.

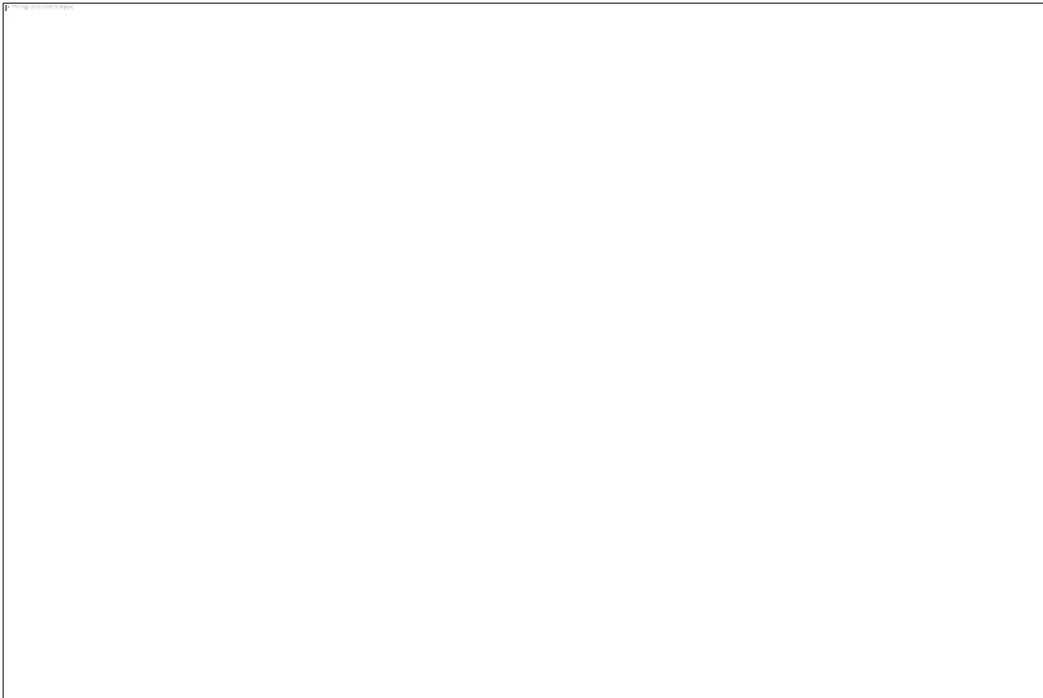
Some elderly folks can be extremely challenging, requiring 24/7 care. This combined with the isolated living conditions of foreign caretakers has spurred an incidence of depression.

According to Sergio Pasquinelli, director of the Institute for Social Research, it's hard to tell just how pervasive this problem is because so many workers live without contracts and are less likely to seek help for such problems.

“The problem is hidden just as the whole *badante* phenomenon is hidden,” he said.

Soletterre, a humanitarian organization, estimates that around 830,000 people in Italy work as caretakers. Ninety percent of them are foreign and nearly two-thirds work either without a contract or both without a contract and without a living permit. Detecting any trend among such a large and invisible demographic is nearly impossible.

All these problems make integrating into Italian life difficult.



Katia first moved to Italy in 2002 to find better work than the opportunities in her home country of Moldova.

CHIȘINĂU, MOLDOVA — 1991-2002

When Katia moved to Italy, she had 4,000 euros in debt and two daughters in high school back home.

She had worked as a middle school history teacher for the past 18 years. She remembers dreaming about seeing ancient sites in Italy, Greece and Egypt.

“I went to Rome once and spent two days in the Moldovan embassy before returning home,” she said. “When work awaits you, there’s no time to enjoy anything in Rome.”

Moldova is today the poorest country in Europe. Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, it has yet to free itself from an economic chokehold prolonged by corrupt officials, organized crime and a lack of industry.

Between 1999 and 2009, nearly one-fourth of the Moldovan population emigrated abroad. Many chose to go to Italy because the language is easy to learn given its similarity to Moldovan. Because Moldova is not a part of the European Union, citizens must have a visa to enter E.U. countries.

Since 2007, Moldovan citizens can apply for dual-citizenship with Romania, but the process can take years to filter through the bureaucratic backlog. That same year, Romania became a member of the E.U. making the forgery business even more lucrative.

Katia paid 3,000 euros to the local mafia network to be smuggled into Italy after a failed attempt to enter Israel with a forged passport.

INDUNO OLONA, ITALY — JUNE 2002

Three days after arriving in Italy, not knowing anyone, she paid another 600 euros to a smuggler to find her a job. She started immediately as the caretaker for an elderly couple.

“They just catapulted me in there without knowing anything,” she said. “I didn’t even know how to open the front gate.”

But her teaching experience paid off in learning the language. She taught herself Italian in three months using children’s books.

Katia was fortunate to have arrived in Italy nine days before the [Sanatoria law](#) passed. The law granted any foreign worker in Italy with employment before September 6, 2002, a residence permit.

This May, Katia received citizenship in Italy.

PIAZZA XX SETTEMBRE, VARESE, ITALY — FEBRUARY 2016

A few months before she sat in Piazza XX Settembre in Varese with two of her sisters. They moved to Italy to be caretakers as well in the years after Katia arrived. Every Saturday they meet to enjoy their day off.

They are part of the majority of caretakers in Italy that hail from Eastern Europe, particularly Romania and the former Soviet Republics of Moldova, Ukraine and Russia.

As more and more immigrants fled the aftermath of the Soviet dissolution in 1991, Italy’s elderly population was growing.

As of 2014, 408,659 people from the former Soviet countries of Russia, Ukraine and Moldova live in Italy. Nearly 75 percent are women. Another 487,203 women come from Romania. Most work as caretakers and most are long-distance mothers like Katia and her sisters.

They sat on a bench with their friend Giulia, also from Moldova. It was Carnival. A parade was thundering by in the background, but the women were engrossed in a conversation about their families and their country. The piazza was a cacophony of languages.

Giulia's sharp, assertive voice garbled the language, but it's clear she's well-educated and witty. She rattled off Soviet history with Katia. Back in Moldova she was a nurse and the mother of two boys. She has been in Italy for almost seven years working to send money home to her family. Giulia recently lost her employer and friend after working with her for five years. With the end of her employment, she's heading back to Moldova to be with her family.

"Everything we do, it's for our children," she said.

OSPEDALE DI CIRCOLO, VARESE, ITALY — MAY 2016

In the absence of family, Katia and the others find companionship in the people they take care of.

While she waits in the hospital, Katia looks for a new job. She would like to go home, but it's been 14 years. Things have changed, she said, and her knowledge is no longer as up-to-date.

Besides, back home, she is no longer close with people she once knew having returned home only once a year. She is a stranger in her own home.

At least here, for a short time, she has her *nonnina*.



Even though her employer is always at the hospital now, Katia likes to spend time there taking care of her.

“When I’m there, she cries,” said Katia. She’s back in the hospital room holding the woman’s pale, wrinkly hand. “I spend all day with her. The more she clings to life, the more she clings to me. I think this is true affection.”

STORY #2: MARTINA MESSINI (name changed at the request of the source)

Martina often cries when she reflects on her life — on her mother’s life in Albania, her father’s life in Italy and her own life between the two.

In May, her mother arrived in Milan, Italy, where Martina, 30, has been studying for the last 10 years.

“My mother is very shy,” Martina prefaced. They sat together in the courtyard of a boarding house where Martina lives. Martina’s spectacled eyes kept looking down at the table but she was smiling. Her mother’s tawny, wrinkled face watched Martina, her equally wrinkled and worn hands clasped in her lap. She spoke in Albanian, but her

words needed no translation. She was at ease, a contrast to Martina's previous descriptions of a perpetually distraught and overworked mother.

This time, there were no tears.



Martina and her mother Lira chat about Martina's childhood in Albania.

It was the second time her mom has come to visit her in Milan. She planned to stay indefinitely this time.

Martina has worked as a nanny since her first year in school. With little flexibility and no contract, the job has forced her to put her studies on hold at times. But between tuition, bills and trying to help her family back home in Albania, she can't afford to give up hours.

Now that she is about to start the thesis for her Pharmacy degree, working 8 to 9 hours a day with a 10-month old baby is too much. Her mother was getting too old to continue hand-cultivating vegetables in Albania. She wanted to take over Martina's position so her daughter can finally finish a degree that will pull her out of the poverty she lived as a child and an immigrant experience similar to that which her father lived in the 1990s in Italy.

Her father immigrated to Italy in 1993 to find work. He spent 15 years there and seldom went home.

Over the years, Martina began to assume his role as breadwinner for the family, sending money home when she could and dealing with family issues from abroad. This role switch distorts the gender norms that Martina grew up with and subsequently broke when she first moved to Italy. They are expectations she still actively sheds both in Albania and Italy.

But then her mother was never one to do what was expected either.

DIVJAKË, ALBANIA — 1991

Martina grew up in Divjakë, Albania, in the 1990s, the tumultuous period that followed the collapse of a 40-year communist reign. From the eyes of a child, it was at times confusing.



Lira walks with her daughter to catch the metro in Milan.

“My mother taught us to lay on the ground as soon as we heard shots,” she said. “I still hear the gunshots in my head. My memories of 1991 are of just complete chaos. I didn’t understand why they were destroying everything. Even the cinema they destroyed.”

Albania fell into a state of anarchy for the next decade. Government-involved Ponzi schemes led to violent protests and eventual overthrow of the government in 1997. In many cities, criminal gangs took control.

Her happy memories of this time are of the things most sacred to a child — playtime and her mother. Without money, toys were salvaged. The copious bullet casings that littered the ground were toy soldiers and corn cobs became little dolls. As she grew older, her mother protected her from mafia members who bought off or took young girls for the sex trade.

The worst part, however, was living without a father after he left on an inflatable lifeboat for Italy in 1993.

Albanians migrated to Italy by shiploads in the ’90s in what culminated in the Albanian exodus of 1991. Photos from March of ’91 show throngs of people spilling off the sides of ferries docked at Bari, Italy. The exodus followed the collapse of the communist regime and the subsequent opening of borders after 40 years of isolation. The power vacuum allowed for the competition of gangs.

Food was rationed and violence was common in Albania at the time. Martina said her family was actually lucky to be poor. They had nothing to offer the demanding mafia members. Her mother meanwhile took care of three children and her aging in-laws and continued to work in the fields.

TORINO, ITALY — 1993

In Italy, Martina’s father joined a growing diaspora of Albanian refugees and immigrants. He spent three years begging for money to send what he could with letters to his family.

Three years after he left, he went home for the first time. Martina remembers playing in the yard when her uncle arrived with a guest. She ran to tell her mom of the visiting stranger’s arrival.

“But that’s not a guest, that’s your father,” she remembered her mother telling her. “I didn’t recognize him. I remembered him, but he was so changed.” Her voice cracked, and she began to cry.

She was 11, still oblivious to the difficulty of the time. His next visit would be more troubling for her.

Back in Italy, he found work as a caretaker for a woman in Torino.

“He sends us enough money for bread, nothing for meat,” Martina manages to explain in gasps as she cries. “Difficult. Too difficult. For my mom. For my grandparents.”

Although he was still the breadwinner, he was never the glue keeping the family together. That was always her mother.

After another three years, he visited a second time. Martina was happy to have him back, but then she hears a conversation that will change her forever.

One night, pretending to be asleep, she listens to her grandmother asking her father why he is sleeping in another room.

A 15-year-old girl from rural Albania, Martina is fairly clueless about the birds and the bees. She was sleeping in her mother’s room, a fact she was used to living in a small house with many people all her life. Her father’s answer troubled her, and when her grandmother accused him of having an affair back in Italy, it stirred in her the need to find out what sort of life her father was leading in Italy.

Another three years passes and Martina graduates from high school. She decides to attend school at the University of Milan, a few hours from Torino, where her father was living.

Martina arrived in Milan in the fall of 2004 with big eyes and lofty goals — a degree in Pharmacy and the task of bringing her father home to Albania.

“I wanted to come to Italy to study but not only to study,” she said. “I wanted also to see what he was doing.”

She had thus far seen little beyond the carrot and potato fields of her hometown. Despite her mother’s cautioning, she approached life in Milan at full speed.

“I was a happy child, so I was also a very naive girl, lost in my little world,” she said. “When I came to Italy, I wanted to make friends, I wanted to study, I wanted to take on the world, you know, like, yes, I can do this.”

The first crash with reality came the first day. Her father met her in Milan to see where she would be living. When her plans fell through, she suggested they get a cheap room for the night until she could figure out a new place to live. He instead suggested she go back home to Albania.

She questioned his devotion to their family. Then he forgot her birthday, and when she was at her lowest point, with no money for food, he wouldn’t help. She shut the door on their relationship, found a job as a nanny and started sending what she could home to her mom and brothers.

She focused on school and making friends. But life knocked her down in that realm as well. She learned about the existing prejudice against Albanians in Italy. A friend clued her in on the stereotypes of Albanian women being prostitutes.

This was news to her. She was working toward a degree in Pharmacy while nannying 30 hours a week.

She was an anomaly not just for her new friends in Italy. When she would go home to Albania, her brothers would tell her not to go to cafes to hang out with friends or go dancing at the local club because people would think she was easy and lose.

“It was never about living well,” Martina said. “But surviving.”

Her mother taught her to depend on no one. Eventually, she realized no one included her father.

In her fifth year of school, she got a phone call from a woman she didn't want to believe existed.

“She calls and says ‘Hello Martina. I’m someone who cares a lot about your father. He is sick and needs you to take care of him,’” Martina said.

So she went to Torino. She took time off from her studies. And she took care of him. And in 2011, her mother had her bring him home to Albania.

“I asked her, are you sure you want him there,” she said of her mother’s decision to have him brought home. “Yes, he will always be the father of my children. I don’t want him to suffer. We lived 10 beautiful years together. I will do it for that,” she said.



Martina Messini and her mother head to catch a green line metro to another day of babysitting

In the end, Martina's mother returned to Albania. She couldn't get the nanny job because she doesn't speak Italian.

"It's OK," Martina said. "I'm happy to have spent some time with my mom."

When she thinks about it now, Martina doesn't know how her mother handled sending her 19-year-old daughter to live in another country alone.

"She's a courageous woman," said Martina

Her mother, likewise, shares her pride in her daughter, her drive and grit in her studies and her resilience and resourcefulness in taking care of her family, just like her mother.

She stayed for 40 days. Her mother went through some of the same culture shocks that Martina dealt with 10 years ago — learning the first few words of Italian, getting used to the food and discovering the ways of the metro system.

"Do you like Milan?" she asked her mom one day before she left.

A smile creased the coppery wrinkles deepened from years of cultivating potatoes and carrots in the Mediterranean sun.

"She says yes, that she likes being here with me," said Martina.

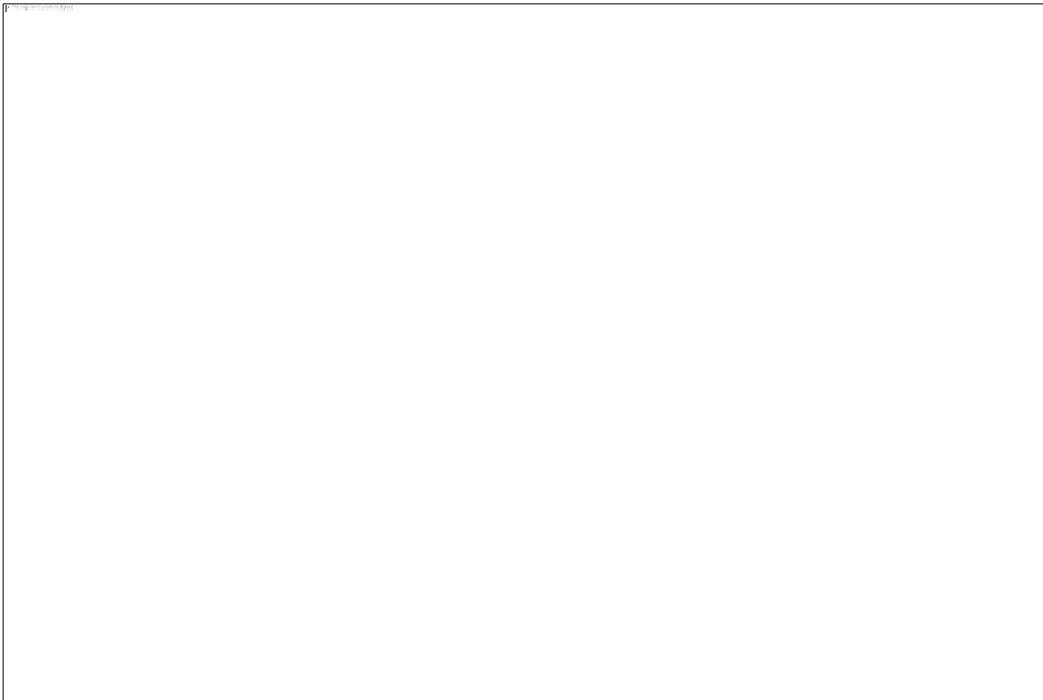
STORY #3: VENUZ TABORA

Venuz Tabora is an experienced multi-tasker. One morning in April in the Milan apartment she cleans three days a week, she bounces from chore to chore, fielding calls from friends with one hand, ironing with the other, and chatting about her life as a domestic worker in Milan.

The tea she made when she first arrived has gone cold on the kitchen table. She sips it anyway. She has cleaned this apartment since she moved from the Philippines in 2008. Back then she didn't know a word of Italian and cried every day, she said.

“Oh, it was so hard, mamma mia,” she said. Her speech is now a mix of English and Italian.

She cleans six houses a week, Monday through Saturday. On Sunday, she sings at her church and Skypes her children. She and her husband, who was born in Milan to a Filipino immigrant mother and lives in Milan with Venuz, have three children, Callista, Vaughn and Artur. All three live 6,500 miles away in the Philippines.



Venuz Tabora irons in one of the homes she cleans every week. Ironing is one of the many responsibilities of her job as a domestic worker.

As she moves on to sweeping, then dusting, then laundry, her carefree smile never quivers. Her round, tan face denies her 39 years and all the stress of long-distance motherhood — two things that seem to be almost invariably Filipino. She has some good news.

She and her husband found out that they can begin the process that will finally bring their children to live with them in Italy. They hope it will be quicker than the reunification process that brought Venuz here in 2008.

Family reunification is a troubling issue for the expanding Filipino population in Italy. By now the community is well-established, and in Milan, it is the largest ethnic population. Historically, this population has been majority women who came for the in-demand domestic worker jobs.

For better and for worse, this trend has changed the role of women in the Philippines.

PHILIPPINES — 1970

Venuz grew up with a father who worked abroad as well. He worked as a safety inspector in an Australian mine. She remembers the treats he would bring when he came home to visit — fresh fruit, dolls and chocolates. She always wanted to work abroad as well.

In the Philippines, she got a degree in secretarial studies. She spent time in Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore training as a professional, in-home housekeeper before meeting her husband in 2004.

The two were set up by a mutual friend. He was in Milan while she was in Singapore. In 2006, having only spoken by phone, they decided to go back to the Philippines and get married. There they applied for a reunification visa for Venuz to join him in Italy. Two years later, in August 2008, she was granted the visa. In the meantime, she gave birth to twins. It was too late to apply for a visa for them as well because the process takes so long.

In November, Venuz left for Italy. Her twins were seven months old.

“Mamma mia, I always cried,” she said. “Before my flight, before going to Manila, I was crying. I arrived in Italy and I was still crying. And it took about three to four months to recover. I just kept crying.”

In the eight years since she arrived, they decided to leave their kids in the Philippines with Venuz’s father.

“Nobody will look after them here. You know, with the kind of work we are doing here, we are always busy,” she said.

In 2011, her youngest was born in Italy. Venuz’s mother-in-law took care of him until she died last year, at which point they took him back to the Philippines as well.

Transnational families are a reality the Philippines is familiar with. Women in particular are leaving at an unparalleled rate.

Rhacel Salazar Parrenas has studied Filipina migrant workers for years as a professor of sociology and gender studies at the University of Southern California.

“The outflow of women from the Philippines and their entrance into domestic service in more than 130 countries represent one of the largest and widest flows of contemporary female migration,” she said in a 2001 study of women domestic workers.

According to Charito Basa, director of the Filipino Women’s Council in Rome, this flux in family dynamics has changed the role of women in the Philippines — not necessarily for the better. It’s empowering, of course, giving women more control over their lives and work, she said. However, being so far away from their families, they don’t necessarily have control over the money they’ve earned and sent home.

MILAN, ITALY — 2008

When Venuz arrived in 2008, she started as a substitute housekeeper and eventually got a more stable position through other domestic workers.

The Filipino population in Italy has been growing ever since 1977 when the first group was brought over to work as domestic workers under an agreement between the two governments. Venuz’s mother-in-law belonged to this group.

The population has been sustained since then by domestic workers, mostly women, who clean and maintain homes and sometimes even care for children and pets.

However, the demographics both employees and employers are changing. For domestic workers, these changes mean legal work is hard to find and integration is even harder.

Hiring a domestic worker was a luxury for Italian families during the economic boom of the '80s. Over time it became commonplace, even a mainstay of Italian home life, to hire a domestic worker. In fact, so many domestic workers are from the Philippines that the word *Filipina* describes the occupation not the person, being synonymous with housekeeper.

Domestic workers remained in-demand even as the economy slowed. However, it's now more of a necessity than a luxury.

According to Basa, families with two working parents need the extra help in the home and with children. While they provide many jobs for Filipina domestic workers, these employers can't afford to hire them full-time, meaning the workers have a harder time finding work with legal contracts.

To get a living permit in Italy, one must work at least 25 hours a week with a legal contract. Many of these jobs aren't even 10 hours a week. Workers like Venuz take on multiple employers to make enough money to live on. But that doesn't mean one of them will provide the worker with the contract needed to legally live in Italy.

"It can also be the fault of the Filipina domestic worker," said Basa. "If they need a job, they say, 'use the 25-hour contract so you don't have to pay taxes.'"

Since the 1980s and '90s, the qualifications of these women migrant workers has shifted, said Basa. Where before women were overqualified for these jobs having worked as teachers and nurses back in the Philippines, today, many arrive with nothing more than a high school degree. This doesn't mean they can't maintain a job here, but upward mobility is more difficult.

"Women most especially can't access simple courses and technical schools because they have a hard time learning the language, and even college grads have a hard time applying for higher-level jobs because diplomas aren't recognized," she said.

Venuz, although qualified for work beyond housecleaning, said she has never tried to look for any other job.

“I can’t because I don’t speak Italian,” she said. She’s been able to get by speaking English with employers.

“My husband, he’s an assistant to his boss. He has a good job because he speaks very good Italian,” she said.

In addition, women are less educated on financial planning, said Basa. With bills to pay on two continents, saving money isn’t always possible. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, fewer than 40 percent of overseas migrant workers who sent cash remittances to the Philippines in 2015 were able to save any money.

It doesn’t help that the families back home never see the work behind the remittances, said Basa. Money just arrives every month.

Venez wants her children to learn these lessons early. That’s why she wants to bring them to Italy while they are still young.

“I want to show them the work we do here and how hard it is to earn money.”

CIMIANO, ITALY — FEBRUARY 2016

One cold and rainy February day, Venez was moved to tears while singing “Amazing Grace” in the multipurpose basement of a bar outside the center of Milan.



Marilou, a member of the Global Heart Mission Ministry, raises her hands during a song.

The space is the home of the Global Heart Mission Ministry, an evangelical Christian church founded in the Philippines. A friend and fellow member, Marina Ballutay, swayed behind a computer projecting the lyrics on the blank front wall.

Venez's church is made up of 20 or so other Filipino immigrants with similar stories — families left behind to find work with decent wages to support them.

Marina moved to Milan in 1992 as an eager 19-year-old looking to help her family.

“I was young,” she said. “I’m courageous.”

She’s held all manner of jobs and after 24 years has found one that she enjoys with good pay and reasonable hours. She works as a quality controller of designer handbags at Fontana Pelletterie, a leather manufacturer.

“I don’t need money; I don’t want to be rich,” she said. “I just want to be *contenta*, you know -- happy.”

For Venuz, the small church's weekly worship sessions are therapeutic. She's able to connect not only to her faith but also to her country.

It's the small group's first week in the space that's usually rented out for parties by the Chinese couple that owns the bar.

The singing is intense and booming for 15 minutes. Then it calms, and some members add their own words of prayer in English and Tagalog. A few are crying.

The world outside the small blank room becomes evident again — the whir of the espresso machine, cups clinking, muffled narration from a soccer game playing on a TV upstairs.

But the members of the church are unaware. They could be anywhere.

Venuz's mind was with God, she says, with God and her children.

MILAN, ITALY — APRIL 2016

"I miss them so much," she said as she finished off the cold tea. "It's so hard even with my husband beside me."

She was scrolling through pictures of her kids on her phone and talking about their recent trip to the Manila zoo with their uncle. She stopped on a picture of her youngest dwarfed by a thick yellow snake wrapped around his neck, a wide grin on his face.

"Oh, mamma mia!" she said. "He's so brave. The other two, the older ones, they wouldn't go near this snake."

She kept scrolling.



Venez proudly shows off pictures of her kids back in the Philippines.

“I want them to go to school here,” she said. “I want them with me. I don’t want them getting to high school and not knowing me. And I want them to learn Italian, so they can teach it to me.”

Analysis

Introduction

Language translation in journalism demands trust. When readers in the U.S. sit down to read a New York Times story about refugees in Idomeni camp on the border of Macedonia, they are reading words that have been passed through many gatekeepers.

One gatekeeper is often invisible — the translator. They aren't seeing the exact words spoken by a Syrian refugee or a Macedonian border patrol agent or a Greek volunteer. The words have been translated by a journalist or interpreter, and the reader trusts that one or both have translated the words correctly. They trust that they are essentially reading exactly what the quoted source said.

But translation isn't that simple. It's more complicated than knowing the Arabic word for "ocean" or the Greek word for "refugee." Translators and journalists must interpret nuance in language — idioms, expressions, implications, sarcasm and slang, not to mention gestures and emotions.

In his 1992 essay *Traduttore, Traditore*, which roughly means "the translator is a traitor" in Italian because a translator can easily obscure truth in translation without readers knowing, John Tusa, former director of the BBC World Service, wrote, "Translators then are not simply traitors. They are more complex than that — they are jugglers, conjurers, mind readers, psychologists, games players, poets, social scientists. At the end they are cultural porters, offering the use of one language an imaginative equivalence of the meaning expressed in another. The question is not whether they get it wrong. The wonder is that so much of it is right" (as cited in Baumann et al, 2011a).

Professionalism in journalism requires self-discipline and accountability, so it is appropriate then that journalists hold the responsibility of accurate translation. They also hold the responsibility of being liaisons between cultures. As the “cultural porters” that Tusa describes, they are responsible for explaining events and their circumstances in one culture to people of another culture. This research looks at the ways in which international journalists deal with translation in the field.

Research Questions

While there was a lot of literature about how translation has been used in journalism and particularly in the editing process, I found little research that looked at the practices of multilingual journalists and the decision-making processes of translation while reporting in the field. For that reason, this research, through interviews with international print journalists, sought to compile and compare the practices and decisions of these journalists when translating during the reporting process. I have included questions about how they work with translators as well in order to compare those practices to those of the journalists when translating themselves. Doing so might assist in further research that looks at how these decisions might affect content and how that content might influence readers’ worldviews. I hope to fill a small gap in the research about translation in journalism.

The following research questions framed the interviews and helped to keep the research focused on the reporting process:

RQ1: What are the principal challenges and benefits to reporting in multiple languages?

RQ2: How do reporters maintain journalistic professionalism and ethics when reporting in multiple languages?

RQ3: How do journalists work to include not just linguistic nuance but also cultural nuance when reporting across language barriers?

In this discussion of the findings from the interviews, I will address each of the research questions. I found similarities in the way the journalists overcome challenges of and benefit from reporting in a foreign language.

These commonalities are outlined as best practices for translation in international reporting.

Methodology

This study used semi-structured interviews as the main method for obtaining information about how journalists report across language barriers. Interviews were used because the research largely examines the reporting process as opposed to other parts of the news production, and therefore, anecdotal information about the journalists' experiences was more valuable than textual content. Interviews were conducted with journalists about the decisions they make in the field when interacting with sources in languages other than English. The semi-structured interviews maintained a somewhat consistent set of questions, with only a few questions varying in each interview. This allowed me to more easily compare answers among the journalists, and therefore, find trends or best practices for reporting across language barriers.

Structured questions included:

1. How long have you been a journalist?
2. What countries have you worked in?
3. How many/which languages do you speak?
4. Do you use translators for interviewing sources who don't speak your language(s)?

Open-ended questions included the following, and additional questions were added depending on the answers from each journalist:

1. How do you translate information from sources who speak other languages?
2. How do you make sure information is accurate when you don't speak the language of your source?
3. What process do you use for finding reliable translators?
4. How do you verify information from sources who speak poorly in the language in which you are interviewing them?
5. How transparent should journalists be about what they translate during or after reporting?

The interview subjects were found by word of mouth and through online searches. The first few journalists I spoke with, Cynthia Gorney and Giovanna Dell'Orto, recommended other journalists who had experience reporting from various countries. Additional journalists, such as Dan Bilefsky, were found by searching for English news from other countries that was written by a journalist in the field and not by a member of a wire service.

I wanted the pool of journalists I interviewed to be varied in experience. I interviewed seven journalists who have reported from six continents and speak eight languages collectively. In addition to reporting in languages other than English, all the journalists have had experience using translators in the field. One interview was

conducted in person, with John Hooper, while the rest were done over Skype or by phone.

The following list includes the journalists I interviewed, the publications they work for, areas of the world where they work in and the languages they speak.

Cynthia Gorney — National Geographic; U.S. and South America; English and Spanish

Claudio Salvalaggio — Ansa; U.S. and Russia; English and Russian

Nicole Winfield — The Associated Press; Italy; English, Italian and French

John Hooper — The Guardian/The Economist; Southern Europe; English, French, Italian, Spanish, German, Portuguese

Dan Bilefsky — The New York Times; Central and Eastern Europe; English, French, Hebrew, Portuguese

Dionne Searcey — The New York Times; West and Central Africa; English and French

Elizabeth Dickinson — Deca/Foreign Policy; Gulf States; English, French and Spanish

The interviews are supplemented with personal observations through the professional skills component. For my reporting project, I conducted several interviews in Italian; therefore, the discussion of my findings from the interviews will also include some personal observations from my own reporting.

Findings and Discussion

I identified each journalist's primary steps for reporting and translating for a story. I then compared the steps to find patterns among a majority of journalists interviewed. Finally, I went back to the interviews to further explain the reasoning behind the common steps or practices. One journalist, Claudio Salvalaggio, I left out of the final

findings because I decided his experiences were too different from the others. When I interviewed him, he was about to start a job in Washington, D.C., where he reports in English for an Italian wire service called Ansa. However, his past experience, that which he spoke about in the interview, was as an editor for the Ansa Moscow Bureau where he mostly oversaw the translation of news text from Russian to Italian. Therefore, he didn't yet have much personal experience in translation.

Speaking the local language provides a strategic advantage.

This practice is the most essential to international reporting. All of the journalists interviewed know at least one language other than their native language, and almost all mentioned that their ability to speak the language where they were reporting was indispensable to their job. Nicole Winfield, who works for the Associated Press in Rome and covers the Vatican, said, "I couldn't do my job if I didn't speak other languages." She said that speaking Italian helps her to gather more nuanced information.

"I have been in many situations in which a source might have been able to speak English but both the source and I concurred that it would be better for them to speak in a native tongue so they can express themselves better. You get a better sense of what someone is trying to convey if they are speaking in their native tongue," Winfield added.

John Hooper, who has reported from countries all over Europe, the Middle East and North Africa since 1973, also sees his ability to speak multiple languages as crucial to his job. He believes he developed a reputation among editors as a linguist, or someone who can easily learn languages, which has allowed him to report from many countries.

“Being able to speak another language is a huge benefit. It gives you access to a whole group of people, but it also puts people at ease because it makes them feel like you are making an effort with them,” Dickinson said.

When using translators, it is important that they have a strong command of both the reporter’s and the source’s languages, the ability to control the interview and an understanding of the purpose of journalism.

Speaking the local language is not always possible. All of the journalists who were interviewed have at some point used translators in their reporting. With many of the journalists, these translators were local fixers, or someone who is a guide to an area or country in addition to being a translator.

The journalists have had both positive and negative experiences with translators/fixers. Finding reliable translators/fixers can be challenging, but they all agree that two things are most important. First, is obviously a good command of both the source’s language and the translated language, usually English, and second is the ability to control the interview well enough that they can provide a clear and thorough simultaneous translation.

Dan Bilefsky, a New York Times reporter in London, called fixers “jacks-of-all-trades” because often they don’t just translate but also serve as cultural ambassadors by setting up meetings and interviews, doing research and fact checking. Bilefsky said he finds fixers himself, or engages ones that come recommended by other journalists. For him, it is important the fixer or translator knows the newspaper he works for or at least understands the field of journalism. Interviews must be conducted with simultaneous translation, or translating to the journalist in their language as the source speaks in

another, in order for the journalist to ensure everything is translated fully and accurately. When a translator listens for long periods before translating to the journalist, they often offer their own abridged version of what was said.

In crisis situations, where biased translation is common, be diligent about vetting translators.

Much of the international reporting that makes its way into American publications is done from crisis situations. These situations aren't the best conditions for finding the most reliable and talented translators. In many countries that are steeped in conflict and violence, communication and dissemination of information is inconsistent and often unreliable.

Furthermore, these places are often dangerous environments for journalists. Journalists run the risk of hiring biased translators in these places, where educated and experienced translators are already hard to come by compared to other parts of the world.

Hooper spoke of a situation during the war in Kosovo in which he accidentally corresponded with a biased translator:

“I speak about five words of Serbo-Croat and no Albanian. We went into Kosovo after the NATO bombings. I had an interpreter with me, and it was quite a different experience because you're at their mercy and I remember one occasion where I came across a commander of the KLA, the guerrilla army that fought the Serbs, and we had been told — I was working with another correspondent — that there had been atrocities in that area. And my interpreter, who I realized more and more had really strong links to the KLA, he knew where to find people with suspicious rapidity and sometimes knew about things before they had happened. So I put a question like, ‘Had there been killings of Serbs here?’ and you'd

hear this incomprehensible Albanian, and the guy would make movements and at the end my translator would say ‘No.’

Biased translators can be detrimental to a journalist’s reporting, and when reporting from a war or conflict zone, the time to find a new translator is scarce.

Similarly, Dionne Searcey has found it difficult to hire reliable translators where she works in West Africa. She started as The New York Times bureau chief in Dakar, Senegal, in October 2015 and is still learning to navigate the challenges of being a reporter in the various countries of West Africa.

“Everything is hard in West Africa. Communication in general is hard. Phone lines are terrible. Internet connections aren’t available. I’m traveling far away on unreliable airlines to get everywhere,” Searcey said. It’s not impossible to find someone who speaks English, but it’s definitely a challenge, and then there’s no certainty that they know how to translate. She says that she often has to train the translator she’s working with while they are translating in order to get them to translate well what a source is saying.

Although she speaks French, which is the prevalent language in the countries she reports from, she deals with translators for the numerous tribal languages found across Western and Central Africa. She travels to many poor, rural areas, where English- and even French-speakers are much harder to find.

“In one case, I arranged for a translator who speaks English and Hausa, the Nigerian language, and, well, the guy *kind of* spoke English, but what are you going to do, you are in the middle of nowhere.”

She also deals with very sensitive sources, such as victims of severe violence. Good translators for her know how to deal with these types of sources in polite and professional ways. For example, she had a good translator in Bamako, Mali, who knew how to respectfully interrupt victims of a bombing while interviewing them in a hospital.

When it doesn't work out, it takes a lot more time and effort. "When you're reporting in really dangerous areas, you don't have the luxury of spending two hours in a town where Boko Haram is known to check, and when they know there is a Western journalist there, you are just a huge target."

Use translators that make the source feel comfortable.

Unlike the other journalists, Elizabeth Dickinson, a freelance journalist in the U.A.E., doesn't like to use fixers because they can be expensive. She doesn't speak Arabic, but that doesn't always hinder her reporting because so much of the population is able to speak English. Often, when setting up an interview with a source who doesn't speak English, she will ask the source if they know someone who speaks English who can translate. She finds this helps to make the source feel more comfortable. "For example, if I'm speaking with a cleric in Kuwait, he's going to feel much more comfortable speaking through his friend than if I show up with a Western-educated Kuwaiti student," Dickinson said.

Record all interviews as a backup to notes.

Note-taking while interviewing in a foreign language can be stressful. From personal observations, I've found that when I'm interviewing in Italian, it is best to take

notes in Italian as well because my memory in Italian is weaker than it is in English. If I take notes in English, I have a hard time recalling exactly what a source said in Italian.

The journalists I interviewed had mixed opinions for note-taking, but one thing they all agreed on is that the interviews should be recorded in case one's notes are confusing.

Bilefsky takes notes in English unless there is a word with a specific connotation or meaning, then he jots that down as well. Dickinson as well takes notes in English. Searcey said her notes are a mix of English and French. She has only been working from Dakar since October 2015, and therefore, is still figuring out the best way to take notes when interviewing in French. Winfield said she takes notes both in the language the person is speaking and does the translation in her head as she goes.

Rely on multiple channels to rigorously fact-check a story.

Fact checking is especially important when dealing with multiple languages. All of the journalists agree that interviews should be recorded when having to translate or when using a translator in order to ensure accuracy.

Bilefsky always fact checks with one or two other native speakers to make sure that his own translation is correct. Dickinson and Searcey both mentioned that they will send recordings to someone they trust to double check the translation afterward.

Follow standard practices of transparency in disclosing the extent of translation used in a story.

When asked about standards they follow in interviewing in other languages and translating information, all the journalists mentioned the importance of maintaining journalistic standards of transparency and accuracy. Each journalist has their own method of interviewing and translating, but there is overlap in these methods. Despite the importance of these two practices, some of the journalists acknowledged that there is flexibility in how something can be translated.

Not everyone would translate something in the same way. For this reason, a journalist has a lot of power when translating information to readers who don't understand and almost never come into contact with the source information. This was mentioned often in the research of my literature review. Journalists such as Gorney see this as an advantage, a way to add nuance and depth to a story, but it's also something that has to be kept in check. Some of them have ways of making sure they double check their translations, usually through another person.

Some of the journalists said that there's no point in disclosing that a quote or citation is translated by a journalist or translator. It is a behind-the-scenes process and the responsibility of the journalist to get it right.

According to Bilefsky, "Two translations might be slightly nuanced in different ways depending on who is doing the translation." The key is to be as accurate and clear as possible.

For the most part, all the journalists agree that translation is implicit in international reporting, and including disclosure of the translation process in writing is to be done on a case-by-case basis. For example, if an interview is conducted through a

biased translator, such as someone from a local government, that might be something to note in the story.

Winfield said she tends to lean towards a more conservative translation. “I sometimes sacrifice flow of a quote for the sake of a literal translation, so I err on the side of caution.”

Use source language to convey precise meaning and add color to a story but not when it hinders readability.

In many of the stories written by international journalists, the fact that information or dialogue has been translated is invisible to the reader. Some journalists believe there’s no need to use source language, or words in the original language it was spoken or communicated in, because they write for English-speaking readers; and therefore, the source language is irrelevant. But others believe the source language is a tool that can provide valuable context and garner interest from readers. However, it should be strategically and intentionally placed and not interfere with the readability of the story.

Gorney’s writing often contains traces of the language she is speaking to her sources in, using them as cultural references. In *Cuba’s New Now*, she frequently inserts Spanish words into the text, like in this sentence at the beginning of the story:

“He had borrowed a friend’s *máquina*, which means “machine” but is also what Cubans call the old American cars that are ubiquitous in the Havana souvenir postcards.”

Hooper, as well, includes words in the source language in some of his stories. In a story about Francesco Totti, captain of AS Roma soccer team, Hooper wrote the following:

“A revered figure in his native city — his nicknames include that of *Il re di Roma* or “the king of Rome” — he has patronized many good causes.” When asked why he included the nickname written in Italian, Hooper said it adds detail.

Bilefsky, however, said it depends. He said he uses words from the source language if it is something particularly colorful or culturally relevant. Readability is key, he said, which in news writing means being scrupulously clear and concise. “You don’t want the article to be peppered with a foreign language,” Bilefsky added.

The difference might be in the style a journalist is writing in — where the story is a feature or a short news piece, although not all of the journalists agreed on this.

Dickinson said that only if it’s a word English speakers might already know, such as the common greeting “Inshallah” in Arabic or if there really is no translation for the word in English, will she include it in the story. The remaining journalists also agree that it is not often relevant to the story.

In my personal observations, I found that source language can be useful in conveying certain meaning in a story. Sometimes people break from one language to speak in their own language, and sometimes that break can show emotion or meaning beyond the words they are speaking.

Dialogue is a powerful literary technique, and the depth that bilingual dialogue provides pushes it to the next level. For example, one day I was interviewing a Filipino mother. She was talking about her daughter back in the Philippines, describing her character, and at a certain point she couldn’t think of the Italian or English equivalent to a Filipino word she wanted to use to describe her. I asked what the Filipino word was and

we translated it online. It came out to mean something like “troublesome.” But it was clear that the word reminded her of her daughter, that that word meant more than just “troublesome.” For her, it meant “Serena,” her daughter.

Conclusion

This research sought to understand and record the practices of multilingual journalists and the decision-making processes of translation while reporting in the field. Through the discussion of the interviews I conducted, I have collected a series of practices that most if not all the journalists have in common.

All the journalists interviewed for this study agree that their knowledge of the language and culture of the countries in which they report is indispensable to their job as an international correspondent. In addition, they follow other similar practices, outlined above, that govern the way they interview sources in foreign languages and how they translate those interviews back into English.

Here are the eight practices again that the research developed:

1. Speaking the local language provides a strategic advantage.
2. When using translators, it is important that they have a strong command of both the reporter’s and the source’s languages, the ability to control the interview and an understanding of the purpose of journalism.
3. In crisis situations, where biased translation is common, be diligent about vetting translators.
4. Use translators that make the source feel comfortable.
5. Record all interviews as a backup to notes.
6. Rely on multiple channels to rigorously fact-check a story.
7. Follow standard practices of transparency in disclosing the extent of translation used in a story.
8. Use source language to convey precise meaning and add color to a story but not when it hinders readability.

I found these practices to be common among the journalists with the exception of number eight, using source language, for which there were stark differences in opinion. Some believed that using source language to be beneficial to the story while other believed that it mostly hindered readability.

Those in the first camp, namely Gorney, Bilefsky, Winfield and Hooper, use their translation skills to explain cultural difference in addition to syntactically translating interviews and text. As this research primarily focused on the reporting phase of the journalist's job, further research is needed in order to fully understand how the lack of consensus on this point plays out in the writing and editing processes.

If we think of translation as a gatekeeper, for many of these journalists, that gate closes as soon as the writing begins. For a few of them, however, translation as gatekeeper serves two purposes. The journalist translates the information linguistically from source language to English and then in writing the story translates or explains information about one culture in a way that readers of another might understand it.

“Translation is an imprecise art. You can have a very literal translation, or you can have a more figurative translation. We allow ourselves that wiggle room to present the quotes as accurate as we can while conveying what we understand the intended meaning to be,” Winfield said.

For example, she spoke of the idiom ‘It’s raining cats and dogs.’ If someone were to use the Italian idiom for a lot of rain — “Piove a catinelle” — it wouldn’t make sense to translate it literally. Instead, the phrase ‘It’s raining cats and dogs’ would be used to convey the same meaning.

Here are the first few lines of an earlier example from Gorney's *Cuba's New*

Now:

"I want to show you where we're hiding it," Eduardo said.

Bad idea, I said. Someone will notice the foreigner and wreck the plan.

"No, I figured it out," Eduardo said. "You won't get out of the car. I'll drive by, slowly, not so slow that we attract attention. I'll tell you when to look. Be discreet."

He had borrowed a friend's *máquina*, which means "machine" but is also what Cubans call the old American cars that are ubiquitous in the Havana souvenir postcards. This one was a 1956 Plymouth of a lurid color that I teased him about, but I pulled the passenger door shut gently, the way Cubans always remind you to, out of respect for their máquinas' advanced age.

The first few lines of dialogue are translated from Spanish; although, it's not noted as having been translated. Essentially the fact that Gorney had to translate what her sources said from Spanish is invisible to the reader. Then, in the fourth line we are offered a glimpse of the translation being done. Not only does Gorney show the reader that she is translating, but she uses the translation as a way to explain cultural nuance — the significance of vintage cars to Cubans. In this way Gorney is not only very transparent and clear, but also a cultural translator.

The difference might fall along news versus feature lines. Journalists who deal in only news stories are pressed for time and translate on the spot; whereas, feature writers have more time to reflect on the importance of language and the translation process.

Bilefsky said that in some cases, particularly with feature stories, journalists can allow themselves more poetic license when translating. He noted a story he wrote about a French Nobel Prize winner that required a higher degree of linguistic and literary

dexterity, and he felt he had the time to play with the language more than he would a news brief about the Paris terrorist attacks.

Despite how they think about translation or the ways they use it in their reporting, all the journalists agree that their ability to speak a local language is indispensable to their job as an international journalist. Whether it is useful in their writing or not, crossing linguistic borders helps reporters to connect with their sources, which in itself makes for more nuanced and profound reporting.

Limitations and Future Research

In this research, I was limited with my access to the journalists I interviewed. Because all of the subjects were in different parts of the world, almost all my interviews were conducted by phone or Skype call, which is much more limiting than a face-to-face interview. In fact, the only interview I conducted in person, with John Hooper, was one of the longest interviews and provided me with much more in-depth information and examples. Many of the subjects had little time to talk, and therefore provided much less detailed information.

There are many findings from this project that can be developed for future research. It would be interesting to approach the topic with a different methodology. For example, I could do a textual analysis of a journalists stories compared to their translations to see if the practices outlined in my findings are useful and successful. Whatever the method, here are some topics and questions that could frame future research projects related to my analysis of the translation practices of foreign correspondents:

1. I interviewed one freelancer, and she explained that she often had to be creative with limited funds and resources, unlike a reporter with The New York Times or Associated Press. With the decline of established foreign correspondents in the last decade, are there more freelancers taking on the role? How are freelance journalists in foreign settings finding translators and fixers? Are they having to use alternative methods? How does this affect the way they translate, obtain translations, maintain accuracy and fact-check? Do these differences affect their job in any way?
2. All of the journalists I interviewed work with the written word, which is commonly less transparent about translation than TV or radio. How might showing subtitles and playing transcripts in another language be beneficial to the viewer? In what ways is print transparent about translated content that radio and TV aren't? Why are print journalists less transparent about the translation process of their stories?
3. A few of the journalists said that there can be flexibility in how something can be translated because the literal translation might not mean the same thing as a figurative translation. A textual analysis of translated content might show how much flexibility is allowed. Are conservative or flexible translations more readable, clear and contextual? How much flexibility is generally accepted? What benefits might a more liberal translation provide the reader?
4. I believe there is a difference in how news writers and feature writers approach translation. Deadlines are a major factor in the amount of time that can be spent

on a translation, so exactly how much of a difference in translation is there between stories written on tight deadlines compared to those that aren't? Is this difference observable in stories? Are journalists on tight deadlines generally more conservative or liberal with their translations? Why?

APPENDIX

ORIGINAL PROJECT PROPOSAL

BEYOND THEIR SEA: A REPORTING PROJECT ON IMMIGRATION IN ITALY

Professional Skills Component

Introduction

Mass immigration is a relatively new phenomenon in Italy. Italians are coming to terms with being a multicultural nation — and fast, as the biggest influx has been in the past 10 years. In addition, its economic recession has made the change more difficult.

As of Jan. 1, 2015, an estimated that 5,014,437 immigrants were residing in Italy, not including those living without legal permits, according to the National Institute for Statistics. That amounts to about eight percent of the total population. Some immigrant communities — Albanian, Ukrainian, Chinese, Moroccan and Filipino — have been established in the country for a few decades.

Already bursting at the seams, Italy doesn't have the luxury of deciding how many migrants can cross its borders as some EU member states do.

Since the beginning of 2015, more than 50,000 migrants have reached the shores of Italy from North Africa and other Mediterranean countries — a treacherous journey often orchestrated by ruthless smugglers who require exorbitant sums for dangerous rides. In 2014, nearly 2,500 migrants died crossing the Mediterranean, and by Nov. 3,

2015, another 2,860 migrants had died on the same journey. In October 2013, the Italian Navy initiated Operazione Mare Nostrum, a rescue operation to prevent capsizing tragedies like those off the coast of Libya and Italy previously that year. Mare Nostrum means “Our Sea” in Latin and was a Roman term for the Mediterranean Sea and later a term associated with nationalist sentiment under Mussolini’s fascist regime.

The migrant influx is so overwhelming in Italy, as well as in Greece and Hungary, that the countries’ inability to handle the stream of immigrants is an emergency and therefore, the three countries have been named “frontline” member states by the European Commission. In September, the Commission released the European Agenda on Migration, which will redistribute migrants in these three countries to relieve their immigrant reception and asylum processing centers. In addition, under the Dublin Regulation, immigrants seeking asylum who have already arrived in the EU, must apply for asylum in the country in which they were first processed.

Italy is dealing with the migrant crisis while also working through several major domestic issues. The Eurozone crisis has exacerbated Italy’s already challenging economic and political troubles, such as a complex — in some cases, corrupt — political system fraught with bureaucratic hurdles, especially for immigrants and asylum seekers. In addition, there is a contentious divide between the industrial north and poor, agricultural south; and the high youth unemployment rate, which hit 42 percent in June.

In a psychological study about immigrant identity, Horenczyk et al. (2001) said, “the strengths of ethnic and national identity vary depending on the support for ethnic maintenance and the pressure for assimilation” (p. 493). In the past century, Italy has

been mostly a country of emigrants, and 92 percent of the population today is ethnically Italian, according to the National Institute of Statistics. The immigrant communities, existing and forming, face the challenge of assimilation in a country that not only had been largely homogenous until around the 1980s but also internally faces its own identity crisis. Communities often adhere to local and even European identity more than national identity.

Italy does represent the issues of mass immigration found throughout Europe, such as the exposure to religious and cultural difference that has spurred xenophobia and racism in some countries.

Purpose of the project

The project will record the experiences of different waves of immigration and their process of assimilation and identification after arriving in Italy. The goal of the project is to understand and share the similarities and differences among immigrants and the ways their experiences of assimilation and identity intersect across years of arrival, ethnicities and religions. The project will explore who they identify as immigrants and how their new countries identify them.

I want to understand and share what life is like for an immigrant in Italy, not just the challenges, but also the triumphs. The diversity of these groups of people that live in Italy are often diluted by all-encompassing words such as immigrant or migrant, but what they actually have in common is not as clear. This project will attempt to put a face on immigration in Italy and Europe by revealing the minutiae of everyday life of these

individuals. The stories will be narratives of personal identity in the midst of shuffling populations.

Although subject to change, I hope to find one person of each of the following ethnic groups as they make up some of the largest minorities in Italy: Romanian, Albanian, Ukrainian, Chinese, Filipino, Egyptian, Tunisian and Moroccan, this would provide at least a glimpse of the major waves of immigration — Eastern Europe/former-Soviet countries in the 1980s and again in the early 2000s and North Africa in the wake of the Arab Spring — as well as the smaller waves from East Asia.

I would like for each story to reflect in some way the larger experience of each group of immigrants. For example, a story about a Filipino immigrant might explore the fact that the majority of Filipino immigrants in Italy are women (in Italian, *Filipina* is a colloquial term for maid or nanny), or a story about a Moroccan immigrant might look at backlash toward the construction of mosques in small Italian cities.

For 14 weeks, I correspond with 8-10 individuals from different waves of immigration and ethnicities in Italy. I will interview each extensively about his or her background, how they came to live in Italy, the bureaucratic process of immigration and the emotional process of assimilation. I hope my subjects will allow me into their lives and homes, to spend significant amounts of time talking to and observing them. It will be crucial to gain their trust, which I hope to do by finding these sources through contacts I already have in Italy. In addition to photos I will take of the subjects in their daily lives, I will have each take a modern-day self-portrait, or a photo of themselves as the header image for each narrative.

Sources that I already know and plan to contact as either subjects or as sources for finding subjects include:

1. Venuz, a Filipino nanny and housekeeper in Milan. She has three young children, all of whom live in the Philippines, and a husband in Milan. Her youngest son lived with her in Milan until recently when she could no longer afford to take care of him in Italy. I worked as a nanny for the same family as Venuz for about 6 months.
2. Giulia, a Romanian “*badante*,” or an in-home caregiver for elderly people. Giulia was a nurse in Romania before moving to Italy. She has grown children who all live in Romania. She has been working for the same woman for more than 5 years.

Academic and Personal Motives

The idea for this project is an extension of my interest in Italy, immigration and identity from my undergraduate studies at Saint Mary’s College. I have a bachelor’s degree in Italian, and my comprehensive research project for my degree was a study of Italy’s history of mass emigration and the present immigration crisis. I also did a comprehensive project on national and ethnic identity in Turkey for my degree in Anthropology. The project examined the meaning of historical monuments connected to various ethnic and cultural groups and how people interpret their identity from certain physical reminders.

Beyond education, my interest in migration comes from a personal fascination with the movements of people. I am passionate about travel and I do so with relative ease,

yet so many people move under unfortunate circumstances and sometimes remain under unfair and exploitative conditions, as is true for some people in Italy.

Professionally, I hope to improve my skills in long-form and narrative writing, finding and interviewing sources and conceptualizing a multimedia project. In addition, I want to develop a better understanding of how to report, interview and write in different languages so that I might pursue a career in international journalism. I will conduct most interviews in English or in Italian, depending on which language the source is more comfortable with. If I need more in-depth information that can't be communicated in English or Italian, I will find translators through groups and organizations that assist immigrants or through other journalists in the country.

The Project Plan

I will conduct the entirety of the project in Italy, mostly from Milan, but I plan to look for sources in other regions and cities, including Sicilia, Puglia, Roma and Torino. I will arrive in Italy Dec. 22 and will start collecting sources at that time. I will start interviewing the first week of January. I plan to finish the project April 20 in order to return and defend in time for May graduation. However, if needed, I will extend the project to the August graduation date.

The bulk of the project will focus on reporting and writing, but I plan to include photos and infographics for each story to enhance the “self-identification” narrative of each immigrant. All stories will be compiled on a website that I will design. The landing page will have a map that updates with each story showing where each immigrant is from. Most of my educational experience has been in reporting and writing, both

magazine and newspaper. The most recent experiences have been independent reporting classes, which meant working without much oversight. The project will require a lot of self-discipline, but I believe I am prepared for that, and my interest in this project will drive me. Additionally, I have acquired extensive skills in graphic design and visualizing information from my job as infographics editor for the Columbia Missourian over the past year, which will allow me to present these stories in unconventional and interesting ways.

I will submit the stories and multimedia components as the final project's abundant physical evidence. Jeanne Abbott will supervise and edit the stories unless I am able to find a publication that will edit and publish the stories as the project progresses. I plan to pitch the stories to the *Global Post*, *Roads and Kingdoms*, and Round Earth Media, a nonprofit that sets up young American journalists with journalists in other countries for long-term projects in order to foster well-developed foreign correspondence.

Professional Analysis Component

Statement of Purpose

In the high-pressure, time-sensitive world of journalism, sometimes getting the story and getting it right is challenging. To get the truth, one has to be diligent, self-disciplined and careful. There are many obstacles to overcome before publishing — finding the right sources, getting the right information and writing the story accurately. What happens when the sources and information communicate in one language and the story has to be written in another?

My analysis will explore the practices that international journalists use to report and write in different languages and the checks and balances that are put in place to ensure the story is accurate and culturally appropriate. This will involve examining the ethics of professional transcultural journalism through the following questions.

RQ1: How do reporters maintain journalistic professionalism and ethics when reporting in multiple languages?

RQ2: What are the principal challenges and benefits to reporting in multiple languages?

RQ3: How do journalists work to include not just linguistic nuance but also cultural nuance when reporting across language barriers?

Relevance to Professional Component

This analysis will be essential to the professional skills component of my project because I will be interviewing subjects across language barriers. For example, some sources might know only a little English. In other instances, a source might be a native-Italian speaker, but my Italian isn't perfect. Even more difficult will be instances in which a source and I speak no language in common, and the use of a translator will be necessary. My research will help guide me in the best practices for accurately reporting on people who speak other languages, and my reporting will inform questions I will ask in the analysis portion.

Literature Review

Theoretical Framework

The process of translation as gatekeeper.

The first research that applied gatekeeping theory to mass communication was carried out by David Manning White. According to White (1950), Kurt Lewin, a social scientist, first theorized that certain points, called “gates,” along communication channels in the media regulate the flow of news (p. 383). These gates can be governed by impartial rules or by the decisions of individuals or groups (p. 383).

White studied the decisions of a wire editor at an unidentified newspaper to try to understand the decisions the editor regularly made in including or rejecting whole news stories for publication (1950, p. 384).

White concludes, “This is the case study of one ‘gate keeper,’ but one, who like several hundred of his fellow ‘gate keepers,’ plays a most important role as the terminal ‘gate’ in the complex process of communication” (p.390).

Gatekeeping is not confined to editing, as White said, and different gates enact different processes on the news they handle. The literature I examined focuses on translation as gatekeeper in the realm of editing. It examines the role of translators, who translate text in one language to text in another, and trans-editors, who translate text as well as edit for cultural appropriateness. I will make a point in my research to fill the gap where translation occurs in the process of reporting through the lens of gatekeeping.

Reporters and their practices are the first gate in news production. Foreign correspondence grows more obsolete, but in today’s globalized world where cultures collide daily, the role of reporters as both linguistic and cultural translators, as cultural liaisons, is indispensable.

According to gatekeeping theory, news passes through various gates where decisions are made about whether to include or reject news pieces. With translation gatekeeping, however, decisions are more subtle and nuanced, looking at the inclusion and deletion of words, phrases and organization of stories rather than whole stories. In this way, translation is similar to editing. According to Vuoinen (1995), “deletion, addition, substitution, and reorganization are all operations of gatekeeping” (as cited in Cheesman & Nohl, 2011, p. 218). Trans-editors not only deal with the translation of news, but also interpret the content to ensure the newly translated text is understandable culturally.

In their book on communication research, Elihu Katz and Paul Lazarsfeld refer to opinion leaders and the role of gatekeeping, but it could be applied to the news production process. They say that “Gatekeeping means controlling a strategic portion of a channel — whether that channel is for the flow of goods, or news or people — so as to have the power of decision over whether whatever is flowing through the channel will enter the group or not” (as cited in Fujii, 1988, p. 32). They highlight the influence that these gatekeepers have over the flow of messages, what goes through and what gets cut. Fujii argues that the role of gatekeeper goes beyond that.

Stetting (1989) adds that there are two functions to the process of trans-editing — cultural and situational (371). Situational refers to “the intended function of the translated text in its new social context” and cultural refers to “the semantic changes necessary because the needs and conventions of the target culture are peculiar” (p. 377).

In a case study of the BBC World Service's process of globalizing and localizing news for their Languages Other Than English services around the world, Cheesman and Nohl (2011) found that the extremely nuanced translation process (in editing) provides a significant "gate" for the flow of news across borders (p. 219).

Speaking about his research subject, White (1950) adds, "through studying his overt reasons for rejecting news stories from the press associations we see how highly subjective, how based on the 'gate keeper's' own set of experiences, attitudes and expectations the communication of 'news' really is (p. 390). In looking at literature on translation and the media, I inquire as to how the process of translation, translators and trans-editors functioning as gatekeepers might present ethical and professional dilemmas.

Introduction

The past 20 years have seen unparalleled changes to the methods of the production and consumption of news, first with the Internet's capacity of widespread distribution and then with the arrival of social media, which diversified the world's idea of a news producer. Both have amplified the need for more and quicker news on a global scale. The reporter has the same access to these tools, but faces more competition online and at the same time has fewer resources in the field from established news organizations.

What sets reporters apart from citizen journalists, bloggers and social media voices is the access they have to where the news is happening and the set of best practices they follow to ensure news is accurate and understandable. In interviews with foreign correspondents, I will attempt to compile the guidelines that these foreign correspondents

follow in order to maintain ethical reporting and professionalism when translating during reporting.

News has always been a global venture, especially in times of war or natural disaster, and translation has been a necessary part of news production across countries since the birth of journalism in 17th century Europe (Valdeón, 2012, p. 855). The way translation has been carried out in the process of news production has changed significantly since the 17th century but has nonetheless been afforded less attention than the other mechanisms of news production.

Today's automated translation services and abundant number of news sources in every language present additional challenges. According to Baumann et al. (2011), "news translation is not strictly a matter of interlingual transfer of text A into text B but also necessitates the radical rewriting and synthesizing of text A to accommodate a completely different set of audience expectations" (p. 136).

In the literature and through interviews, I will look at the adoption of cultural translation as an inherent part of global news production, which according to Baumann, Gillespie, and Sreberny (2011), is becoming more desired among news organizations and agencies (p. 136). Despite the reach of social media and the Internet, access to news around the world is limited to the language in which news is transmitted. Reporters can play the role of cultural translator, as well as linguistic translator. Outsourcing translation, for whatever reason, raises questions of context and accuracy. For that reason, Valdeón concluded that foreign reporters today must know not only the language of the country where they work, but also the culture (2012, p.858).

A history of translation and the media.

Translation has been a part of news production since the beginning of journalism, but for a long time, researchers have ignored its relevance and importance (Valdeón, 2012, p. 851). Even within newsrooms, translation has been given little recognition as part of the process. However, according to Bellos (2011), although the process of translation and the translators themselves are invisible, the importance of translation in news demands attention (242).

The story of translation in journalism starts with pamphleteering in the 17th century. At that time, any news was heavily censored and translators played a big role in the process of modifying attacks on the government from foreign news (Valdeón, 2012, p. 852). England at this time did not welcome press freedoms, and the translators' grasp on foreign languages gave them the ability and authority to manipulate the text (p.859).

The manipulation went the other way as well, and one translator was accused of spreading anti-English sentiments in England and the European continent (p. 854). Because of this, fear of legislative control of the press led nascent newspapers in the early part of the 18th century to focus solely on news from the European continent, meaning they heavily relied on translation (p. 854).

War was the impetus for a large exchange of foreign news, and in many countries, such as Sweden and Denmark, where news came from abroad, translators were hired before reporters in the 17th and 18th centuries due to the high priority of foreign news from the European mainland that needed translating for Swedish and Danish audiences (p. 855). At this point, manipulation through translation was still common.

In the 19th century, news organizations in the U.S. and elsewhere began to employ journalists as multilingual reporter-translators for well-respected jobs as foreign correspondents (Valdeón, 2012, p. 856). These foreign correspondents assumed the role of translator. Foreign correspondents gave newspapers economic and political importance at this time (p. 856). However, as is true even today, in choosing those foreign correspondents, journalistic experience was often valued over fluency in a foreign language, according to Hess (1996) (as cited in Valdeón, 2012, p. 857).

In the mid-20th century, international news agencies became powerful entities sending foreign correspondents around the world. U.S. news agencies sent by far the most correspondents abroad (Kruglak (1995) as cited in Valdeón, 2012, p. 860). According to Hannerz (2004), although journalism gained respectability as a profession in the 20th century, translation wasn't regarded with same importance, and newspapers increasingly used commercial translation services outside the newsroom (p. 153).

In the 1990s, Hess (1996) said news agencies began requiring language proficiency of their reporters because they recognized that English wasn't always the easiest or most useful way of communicating abroad and even in some parts of the U.S. (p. 81).

Since then, the Internet has significantly changed journalism, and that includes the way news is translated (Valdeón, 2012, p. 852). Newspapers have an endless stream of information and news available to them on the Internet. The diversity of media sources has increased, as well, with more alternative options available in digital universe from

various countries and in multiple languages, which, according to Valdeón, means traditional news sources are struggling to stay relevant (2012, p. 862).

Already-translated foreign news is also more readily accessible. Some news agencies, such as the BBC, provide translated news stories. It's easier and cheaper for news organizations to translate news in house or to publish translated news than it is to send correspondents to international destinations to report and translate the material. The number of U.S. foreign correspondents is dwindling, and translation of foreign news is either relegated to outside services or done in the newsroom.

Erickson and Hamilton (2007) labeled these newsroom journalists “the home-based foreign correspondent” or “the foreign correspondent with a global beat who lives within driving distance of his or her newspaper.” These journalists, then, do not leave the country and their main task is to translate and edit the information gathered from various sources, such as agencies or other news media (138 as cited in Valdeón, 2012, p. 858). In this new role, Bruns (2008) suggests that these news producers/editors/translators are more gatewatchers than gatekeepers, which he explains as “the collective intelligence and knowledge of dedicated communities to filter the news flow and debate salient topics of importance to the community” (p. 176-180 as cited in Valdeón, 2012, p. 862).

Translation practices

There have been different methods of translation throughout history, and it has only diversified with the automated translation services online.

During World War II, according to Baumann et al, translation was a questionable occupation; translators were considered potential traitors, given the control they had over the text (2011, p. 136).

According to Desmond (1982), newspapers within the Communist bloc after World War II couldn't typically afford wire services and instead would translate and re-write news from the foreign-language publications in China (p. 187). However, it wasn't always the quickest or most accurate practice, and in the absence of international copyright laws, translated stories ran without credit to the original author (p.187).

In the world of online news today, news agencies and organizations are challenged by non-institutional news sites such as blogs (Bruns 2008, p.174). This makes access to translated news easier than ever, although it is not always accurate, and there is an increasing distance between those who write and translate the news and those who publish it.

The ethics of translation.

Although journalism today has developed professional and ethical guidelines that align with the intended impartiality of news, transnational journalism presents challenges to impartiality. In discussing transnational journalism, Baumann et al (2011b) explain the pressure that comes with the self-discipline of journalists in "at least striving towards objectivity" (p. 237). It's acknowledged that full objectivity is impossible and add that, "Trans-editing is not a confidence trick, but a crucial necessity. It depends on, dare we say it, morally responsible journalists" (2011b, p. 237).

Whether conscious or not, translation nonetheless allows for the manipulation of text. In addition, translation is often invisible in news pieces, which holds translators less accountable in doing their jobs correctly because few people other than the translator, whether an editor or reporter, see the before and after texts of the translation. Bauman et al (2011b) add that these journalists have a great deal of autonomy and editorial control today (p. 136).

They note that journalists and translators are aware that literal translation is considered impossible: “How different discourses are broadcast or received is always subject to contexts and to contested readings of the same contexts” (2011a, p. 138).

That being said, intentional manipulation can be necessary in many instances to make sure cultural references are accurate, and if done correctly, does not change the initial meaning of the message. According to Baumann et al, “The best institutions of journalism, and the best translations, do more than transmit information or news. They create a culture of communication and a relationship with audiences-cum-publics that enable them to make sense of the world and in so doing create their own knowledge of worlds beyond their local lives” (2011a, p. 138).

According to Hamer (2006), the dominance of English on the world stage means English-language news agencies are agenda-setters for smaller countries (as cited in Valdeón, 2012, p. 860). This is where cultural translation proves relevant. Today, English is a dominant international language; Valdeón said that with its linguistic supremacy comes ideological authority (2012, p. 860).

A fine-tuned set of best practices— which will be sought out in my analysis — upheld by conscious ethical decisions by reporters can maintain the balance of the delicate semantic and cultural meanings of messages and the power hierarchy of languages across borders. As Baumann et al conclude:

“The most effective way of earning respect as a news provider and/or of conducting effective public diplomacy and cultural brokerage is to provide programmes that aspire to, and consistently (if not always) achieve, the highest values of truth-seeking and truth-telling in the full knowledge that all our windows on the world are partial, fragmented and subjective” (2011b, p. 238).

Cultural translation in a globalized world.

Baumann et al define transcultural journalism as “journalism that avoids ethnocentric and ideological barriers to communicating effectively across national, linguistic and religious divisions” (2011b, p. 237).

This is similar to Conway’s (2012) notion of cultural translation, which he borrows from two anthropologists, Talal Asad and Shirley Ann Jordan. They view cultural translation as the process of describing to one group how another “interprets an object or event” (2012, p. 1003).

Transcultural journalism is translation for not just consumption but for comprehension. According to Conway, this includes understanding the “Other,” that is people and groups from other countries with openness and not homogenizing groups with labels (2012, p. 997). To make his point, he adds that totalizing accounts of groups with labels, such as “Islam” or “Muslims” can obscure the differences that exist within each group and in the relationships between groups (p.998).

In the past, he said, little research has considered the role journalists can play in explaining how “Others” perceive the world (p. 998). This means that translation goes beyond word choice and framing (p. 998).

Conway’s case study examines the potential of news media to serve as a mediator — a cultural translator — between people considered “Other” and those consuming the news. His study looks at the responses of readers to a series of stories about why Muslim women wear a veil and how the series serves as a form of cultural translation for the community.

Interpretive value, he said, results from the open orientation of a journalist to a source, giving the source the space and time to speak in detail about their lives (p. 1003). Conway’s study looks at more than just translation in journalism, but interpretation and explanation, which delves into presenting more complex concepts of identity, which, he said is best attempted through open conversation between journalist and source, as opposed to one-way interpretation and explanation from the journalist (p. 1003).

This is a way to provide broader information to more diverse audiences, he said, and to foster more conversation between those audiences. He concludes that there is a contradiction between “readers’ orientation toward groups unlike themselves and their willingness to engage in conversation” (2012, p. 1009).

Methodology

The main method of this analysis will be semi-structured interviews. Structured questions will include:

1. How long have you been a journalist?
2. What countries have you worked in?
3. How many/which languages do you speak?
4. Do you use translators for interviewing sources who don't speak your language(s)?

Open-ended questions might include the following, depending on the answers to the structured questions:

1. How do you translate information from sources who speak other languages?
2. How do you make sure information is accurate when you don't speak the language of your source?
3. What process do you use for finding reliable translators?
4. How do you verify information from sources who speak poorly in the language in which you are interviewing them?
5. How transparent should journalists be about what they translate during or after reporting?
6. What standards do you follow for ethical decisions in reporting? Translating?

The interviews will be supplemented with personal observations through the professional skills component. The interview subjects will be only print international journalists with different language skills and experiences in foreign countries. I want to include both embedded journalists and ones who parachute in for specific coverage, especially coverage of the refugee and migrant crisis. I want to interview journalists who are bilingual or multilingual, who interview in their native or second language, and journalists who rely largely on translators. When possible, interviews will be conducted in person. Otherwise, I will use phone and Skype interviews. The following are five journalists that I would like to interview:

1. Cynthia Gorney: Gorney is a contributing writer for National Geographic. I have interviewed her before about her work reporting in Spanish (her second

language), but she also has reported from countries where she doesn't speak the language, most recently Saudi Arabia.

2. Fabrizio Gatti: Gatti has done award-winning investigative work on immigration in Italy and Europe. He is known for his undercover stories in which he impersonates migrants. He would be fascinating to interview on this topic since not only does he have to speak with people of different languages but pose as them as well. However, I would not necessarily use his interview as integral to my research because he writes for *L'Espresso*, an Italian magazine, and therefore might operate within a different set of professionalism and ethics.
3. John Hooper: He is the Italy correspondent for the Economist and Southern Europe correspondent for the Guardian and has written extensively about immigration.
4. Giovanna dell'Orto: Dell'Orto has worked for the Associated Press as an immigration reporter and is originally from Italy. Her book, "Reporting at the Southern Borders," explores how immigration is changing society in Europe and the U.S.

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