**NSBT 2016 Course Description**

**Course Overview:** This is a hybrid course (utilizing distance and residential learning approaches) that seeks to introduce you to concepts from the field of Translation Studies that may inform and enrich the work of Bible translation and to help you see how they might be applied to your work. We will be exploring themes like translation as communication, creation, and culture as part of a strategy to expand conceptions of translation beyond those with which participants may already be familiar. Each faculty member is being asked to make a compelling case for the viability of these TS concepts in ways that directly benefit Bible translation. Our goal is for participants to be able to grapple with an expanded set of concepts and for them to begin imagining concrete ways they might apply them to their work in Bible translation.

**About the sub-themes:**

- "**Translation as Communication**": At first glance, it may be easy to think that the assertion 'translation is communication' really says nothing surprising. But the more we take time to consider the complexities of human communication, even within just *one* language and culture, the more questions this apparently simple statement opens up for us to think about:
  - Questions about the situatedness of the translator within context and community, affecting his or her own interpretation of a text;
  - Questions about the role of the translator as cultural mediator, negotiating similarity and difference on every side;
  - Questions about the experience and reading traditions of those who take up a translated text, informing how they receive and make sense of it;
  - Questions about the range of people and perspectives engaged in the communicative chain of translation, and the layers of understanding and/or mis-understanding that pile up as a result.

  The goal of these sessions focused on 'Translation as Communication' is to help us engage seriously with some of these questions, and to wrestle with how awareness of these issues should inform the translational choices we make on a daily basis. Starting from concrete case studies of single texts that have been translated multiple ways, participants will be led to explore some of the factors that influenced the various translators' decisions and to reflect on the significance of these choices, whether for better or for worse.

- "**Translation as Culture**" Translating a text is not just mediating between cultural practices and ideologies of source and host worlds, translating it self is a social and cultural practice that varies from culture to culture, in status, reward, expectations. Translating the Bible is a social and cultural activity that involves Holy Texts and religious traditions. During the course we focus on both aspects, mediating between cultural environments and Bible translating as culture, reflecting also on our roles within both our specific

cultural and historical contexts and within the glocal contexts of international Bible translation agencies.

- "**Translation as Creation**" Considering translation as creation involves two distinctive yet complementary foci: a descriptive and an evaluative one. Under the first one, we will take a close look at the phenomenon of translation, its processual character and natural pulsation; the second one will help us go beyond the widespread view of translation as a necessary evil and instead celebrate its epistemological potential. In these explorations, largely polemical towards the commonly held positions, we will be guided by a holistic perspective which attaches as much attention to intellectual analysis as it does to psychosomatic reactions: a translation needs to look, sound and feel right.

**Program Development:**

- A small number of pre-residence assignments are intended to get the participants thinking about and engaging with the issues before arriving in Misano.
- We have an introductory day and a concluding day, with three days focused on each of the three sub-themes, with a session on technology (especially ParaTExt) on each of those days as well. While each day has a session dedicated to practical work, the other sessions will also be marked by attention to practical implications.
- On the last day of the seminar each group will present on an integrative project reflecting learning from the whole week.
- There will be a final assignment offering greater opportunity to reflect on and apply what was learned during the seminar. Its due date is set for August 15, 2016.