

Sophie Seita
Performing Textures (Bard College, May 2022)
Performing Translational Metaphors (Oxford University, February 2022)

In this practice-based workshop, we will try our hands at visualising and performing translational metaphors. How can we give shape to metaphors of translation or metaphors *within* a specific translation? How do we create a physical or tactile translation through manipulating materials or interacting with our environment? What shapes, movements, actions and effects does a particular material invite? How can we transpose an abstract idea or a vivid verbal image into a concrete movement or gesture? Participants are invited to play with materials, such as clay, string, paper, tape, felt fabric, plastic bags, salt, wire, as well as with movement and gesture to create dialogues between written/spoken/signed texts and material objects. The workshop will draw on and respond to some theoretical work in translation studies, queer studies, disability studies, performance studies and dance studies. The workshop is rooted in a spirit of play, curiosity, and experiment, and no preparation or background in crafts or performance is necessary. Participants are invited to bring their own materials and translational metaphors.

(The workshop at Bard College was preceded by a panel in conversation with Sawako Nakayasu, who shared extracts from her book *Say Translation is Art* and invited audience members to sonically improvise a live translation collectively.)