Ten years and five projects: the evolution of research in public service interpreting in Catalonia

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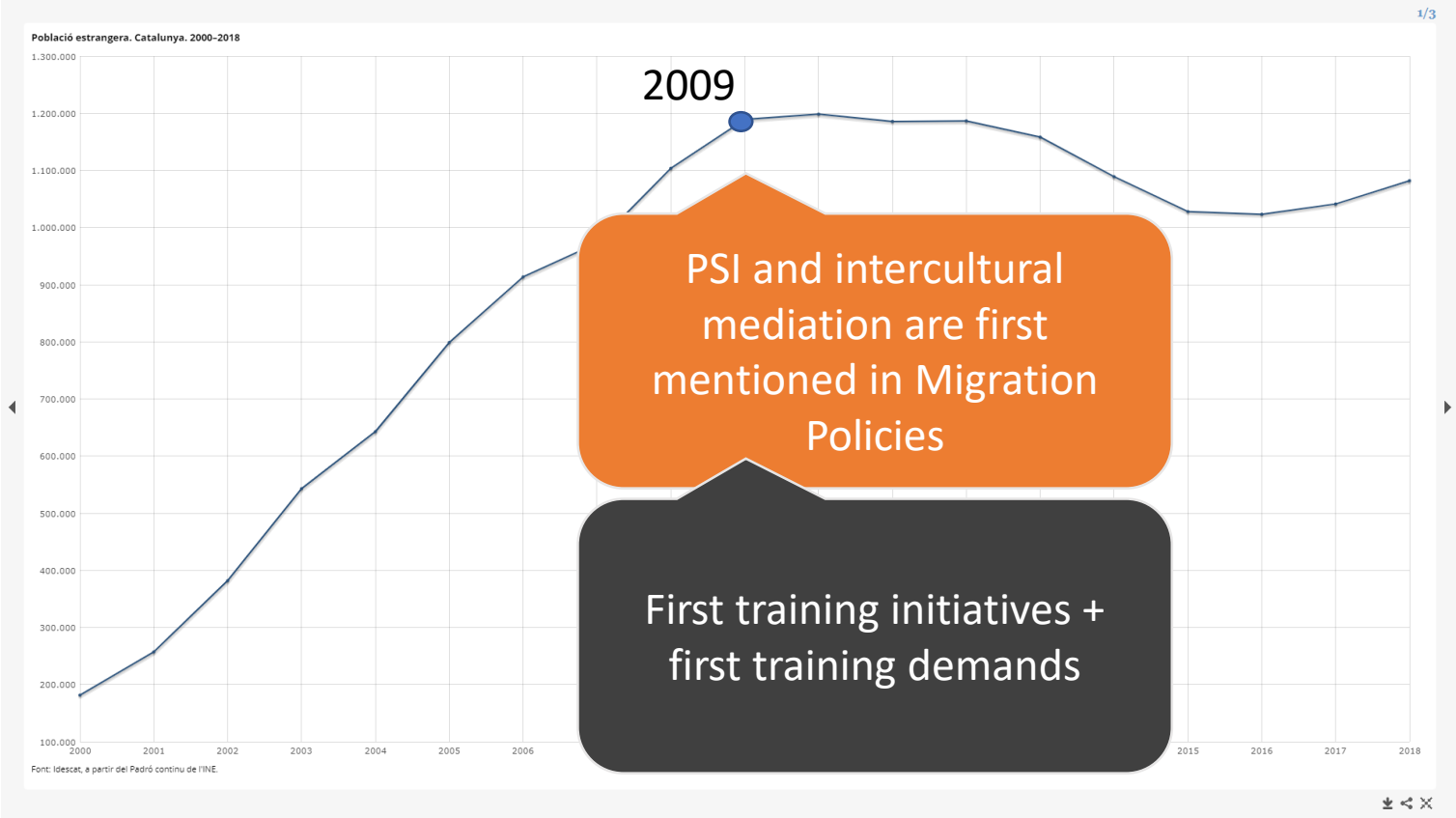
MIRAS
Mediació i Interpretació: Recerca en l'àmbit social

Context (I)



Source: Statistical Institute of Catalonia (Idescat)

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Context (II)

Growing interest for PSI in the academia

MIRAS' research

2009 2010 2012 2014 2019

Panoramic overview of PSI situation in Catalonia

Results

- Lack of specific training
- Access to PSI services is uneven
- Lack of definition of the role of the interpreter
- Users, in general, satisfied
- Increasing use of telephone interpreting

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Ugarte & Vargas-Urpi (2012)

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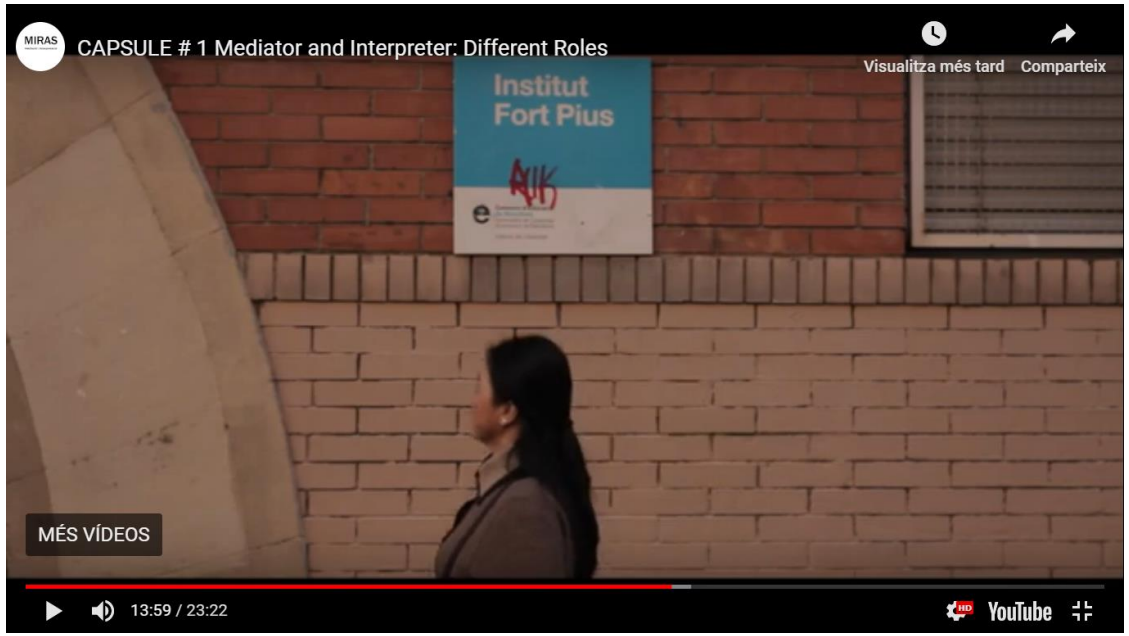
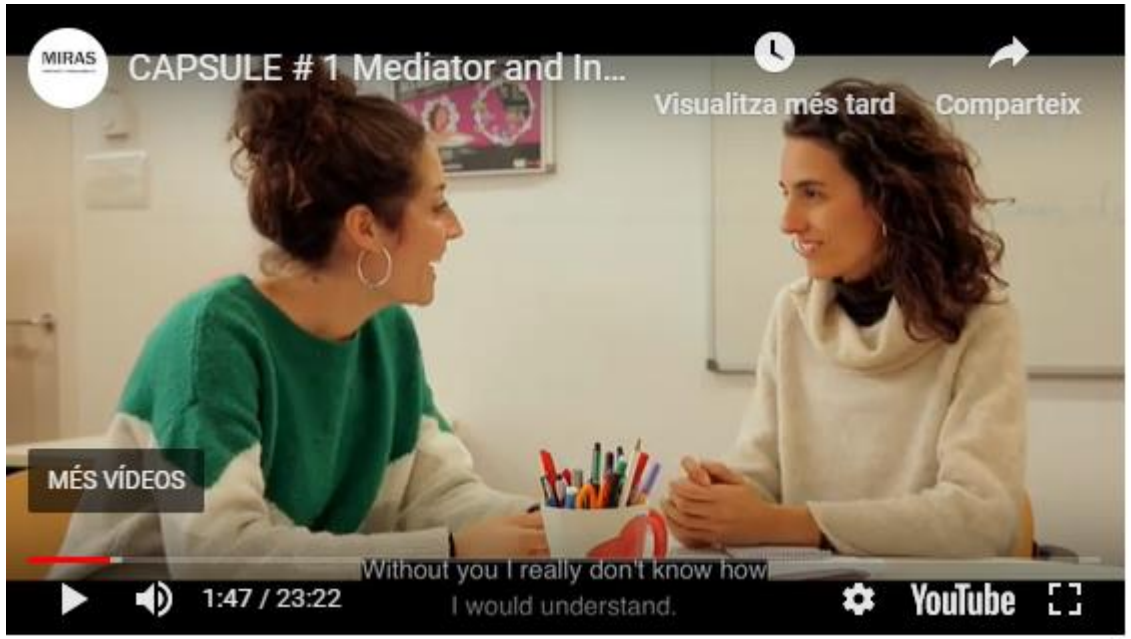




CAPSULE 1:
MEDIATOR AND INTERPRETER: DIFFERENT ROLES

MIRAS' research

2009

Panoramic overview of PSI situation in Catalonia

2010

Accreditation systems around the world

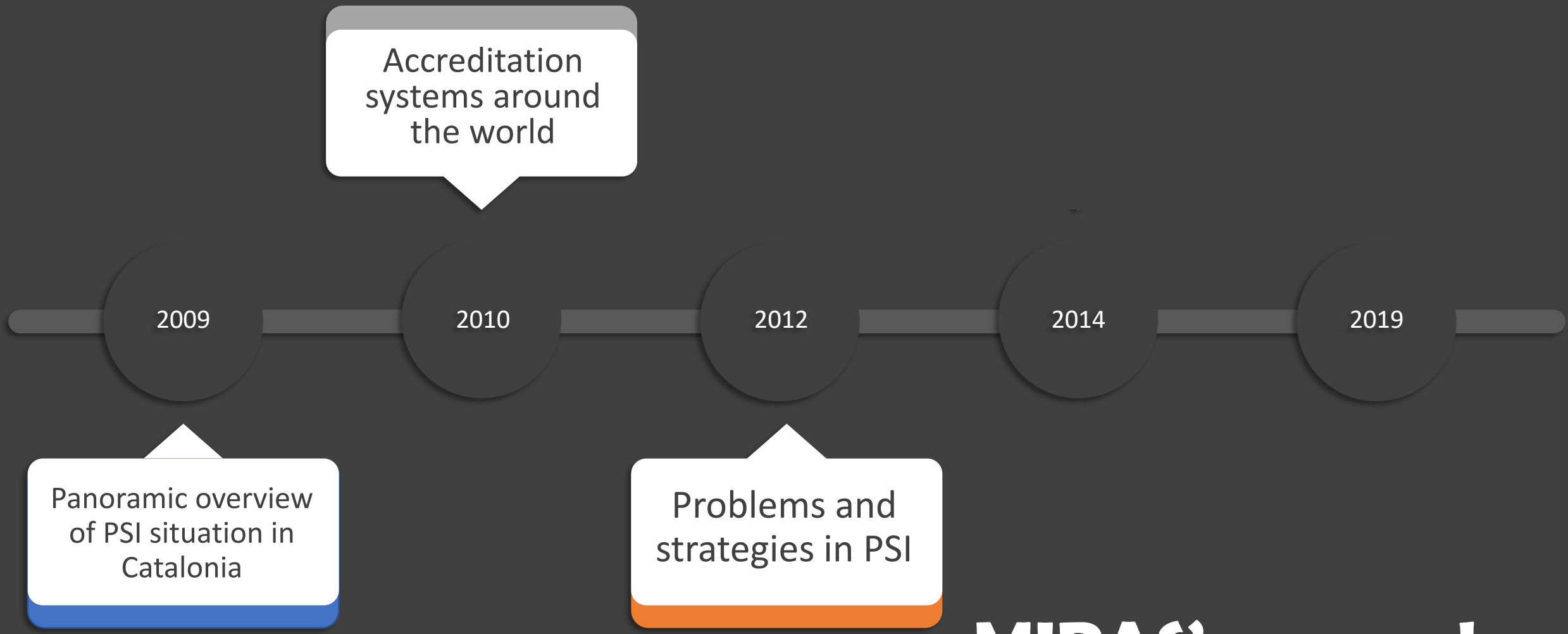
2012

2014

2019

CAPSULE 3:
MINIMUM THREE PARTICIPANTS AND EACH IN THEIR PLACE

MIRAS' research



Problems and strategies in PSI

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Experimental design based on 30 roleplays (15 Chinese-Catalan/Spanish, 15 Arabic-Catalan/Spanish) + retrospective interviews

Arumí & Vargas-Urpi (2017), Gil-Bardají & Vargas-Urpi (forthcoming)

Problems and strategies in PSI

MIRAS
Mediació i Interpretació: Recerca en l'àmbit social

1. Frequent non-renditions in both language combinations (24% of interpreters' turns)
   - Used to confirm, complete, or clarify information
   - Used to provide more details (especially to user)
2. Unfrequent use of note-taking
3. Strategic use of non-verbal communication (conversation management + empathy)
4. Strategic use of conversation markers (either to indicate reception of message or empathy)

Arumí & Vargas-Urpi (2017), Gil-Bardají & Vargas-Urpi (forthcoming)

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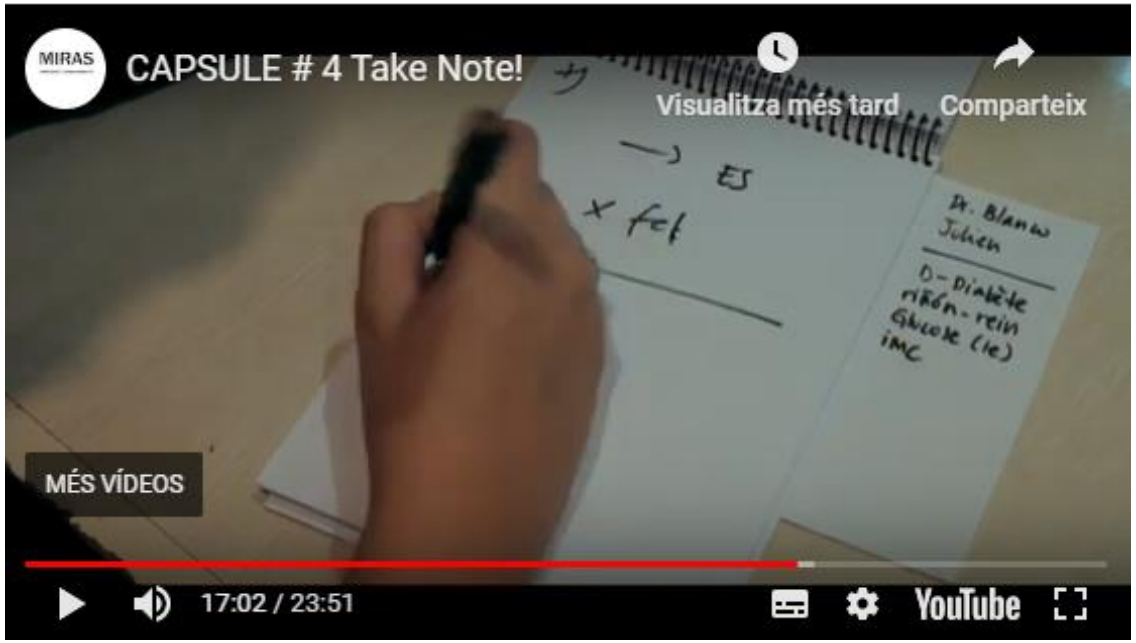

CAPSULE 4: TAKE NOTE!

MIRAS' research

2009

Panoramic overview of PSI situation in Catalonia

2010

Accreditation systems around the world

2012

Problems and strategies in PSI

2014

2019

TIPp project: study of court interpreting based on a corpus of naturally-occurring data

Translation and interpreting in court proceedings

MIRAS
Mediació i Interpretació: Recerca en l'àmbit social

TIPp
Traducción e Interpretación en los Procesos penales

1. Collection of a corpus of 55 naturally-occurring court proceedings where interpreting took place
2. Transcription and annotation using EXMARaLDA
3. Analysis using both quantitative and qualitative methods

Orozco-Jutorán (2019)

1 Only an average 46% of the total length of the hearing is interpreted.

Translation and interpreting in court proceedings

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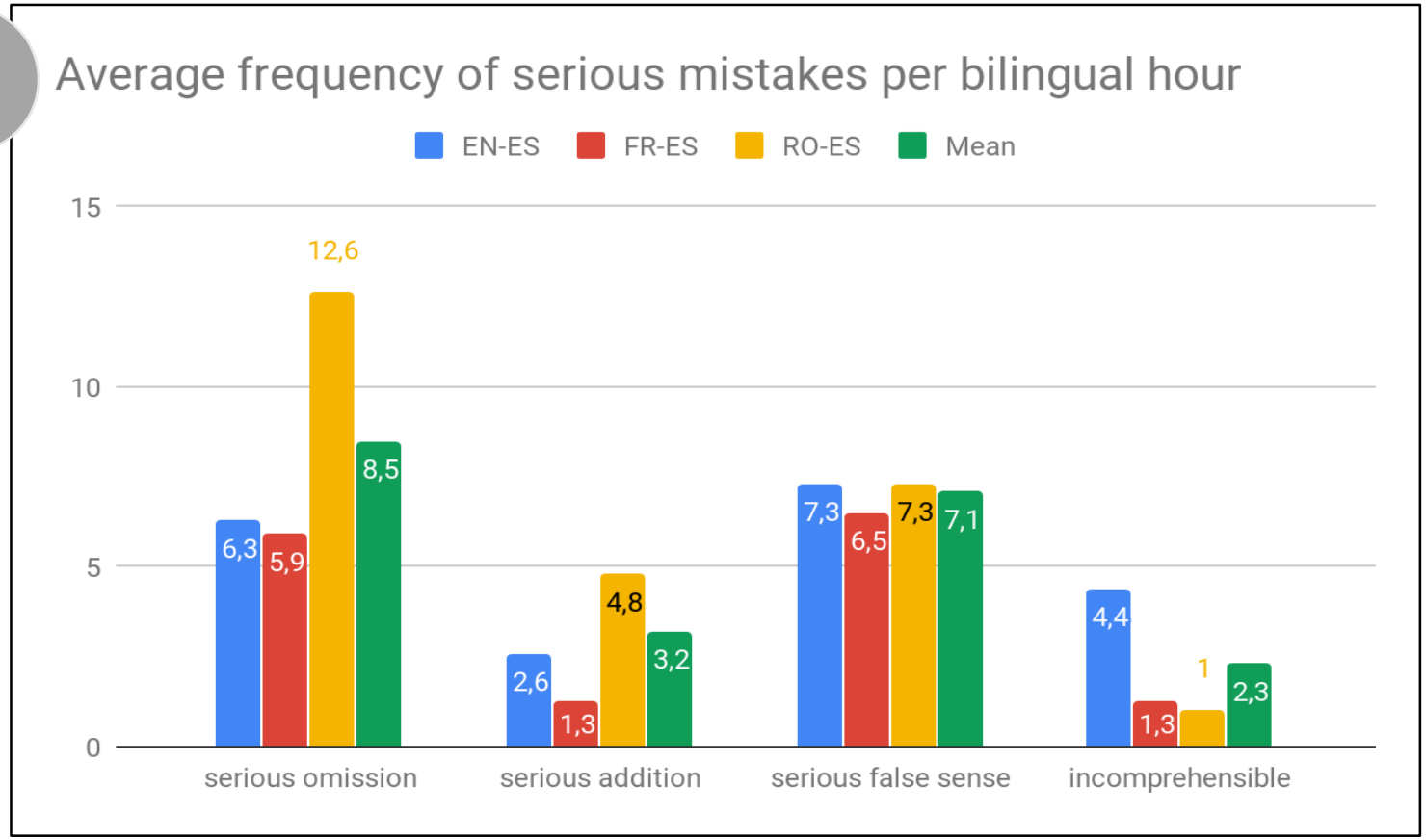
TIPp
Traducción e Interpretación en los Procesos penales

2



Orozco-Jutorán (2019)

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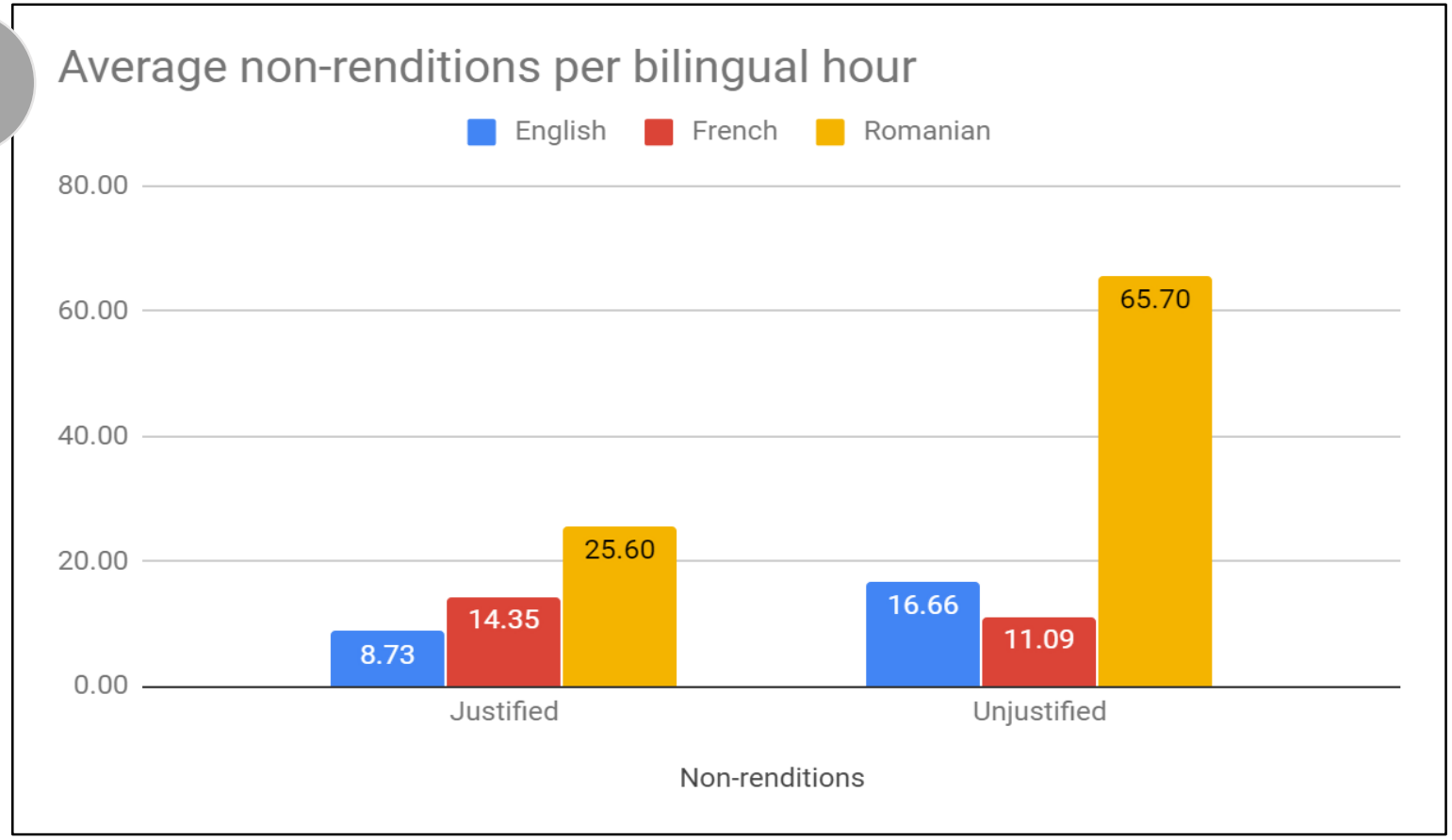


Orozco-Jutorán (2019)

CAPSULE 5:
WITH THE INTERPRETER'S PERMISSION

MIRAS' research

2009 — Panoramic overview of PSI situation in Catalonia

2010 — Accreditation systems around the world

2012 — Problems and strategies in PSI

2014 — TIPp project: study of court interpreting based on a corpus of naturally-occurring data

2019 — Young natural interpreters: child language brokering in education, social services

Child language brokering in Catalonia

2019-2021

Main objective:

To provide objective, empirical information about the extent and characteristics of Child Language Brokering among the major migrated communities in Catalonia

Ethnography-inspired method:

Questionnaires, interviews and focus groups

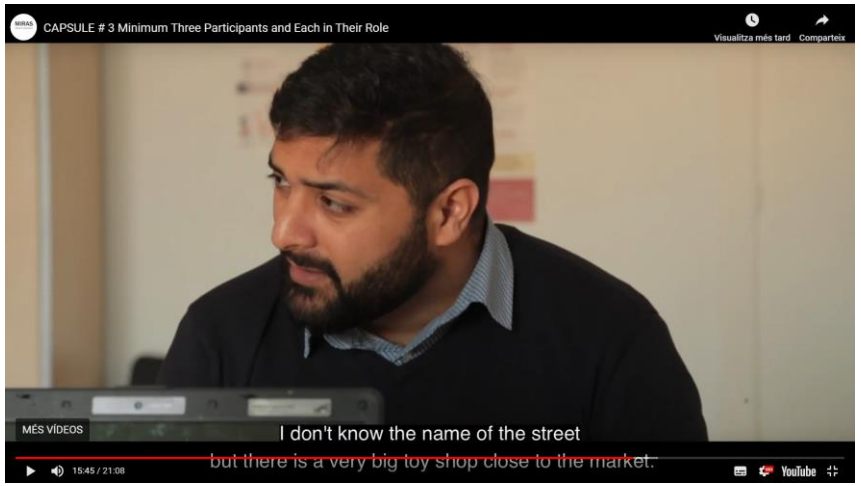
http://pagines.uab.cat/ilm/en

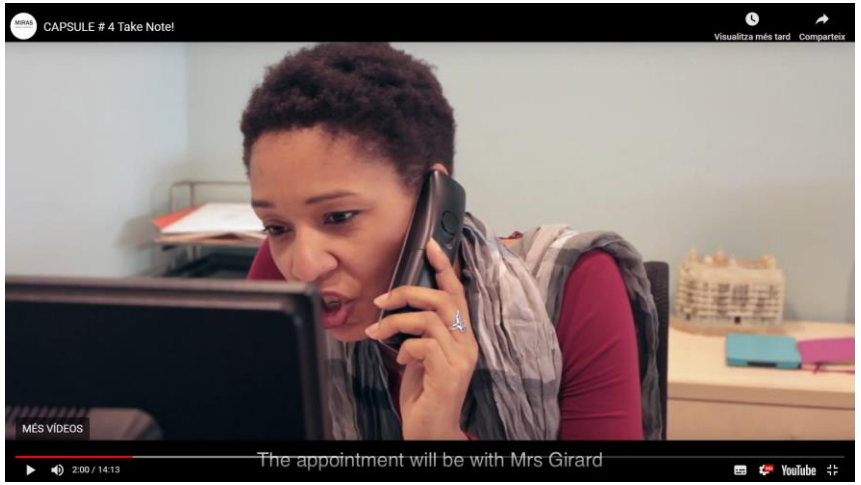
Expanding professional borders: PSI and the challenges of the new Millenium

1. The videos reflect 10 years of research in PSI by MIRAS;
2. The videos try to be realistic and reflect typical situations in Catalan public services;

However…

1. There were latent biases in the first versions of scripts:
    1. Gender bias in certain roles (e.g. interpreter, user)
    2. Ethnic bias (authenticity vs. empowerment)
2. Difficulties in recruiting actors and actresses





All the videos are available at: http://pagines.uab.cat/expandingpsi/

References + THANK YOU!

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