

# Manchester City of Literature

আন্তর্জাতিক  
মাতৃভাষা  
দিবস

Dzień  
Językowy  
Międzynarodowej  
Matki

اليوم الدولي للغة الأم

Día  
Internacional  
De La Lengua  
Materna

مادری زبان کا عالمی دن

International  
**Mother  
Language**  
Day 2021



A UNESCO City  
of Literature



MANCHESTER  
CITY COUNCIL



Manchester  
Metropolitan  
University



The University of Manchester

#MCRIMLD21

16-28th February 2021

[manchestercityofliterature.com](http://manchestercityofliterature.com)

“Manchester is proud to celebrate International Mother Language Day. As someone who grew up speaking many languages it’s fabulous to see – and hear – languages placed at the heart of our city.

Not so long ago, Cllr Luthfur Rahman brought to my attention the astounding fact that more than 200 languages were spoken in our city. That conversation inspired the Made in Manchester multilingual poem. I composed the core poem in English and then it threaded its way out to schools and community centres to gather additional languages. We wove the original poem into a glorious tapestry of 64 languages. The poem continues to breathe life and it will grow, adding more languages as time goes on. No doubt you will hear it throughout the festivities!

International Mother Language Day offers us this incredible opportunity to celebrate our city’s incredible living diversity, and I’m so pleased to invite you all to take in the multitude of events we have from a range of organisations and communities across Manchester. There really is something for everyone.”

**Zahid Hussain**

Manchester City of Literature Chair and Director of Muslim Writers North

“International Mother Language Day is a flagship festival in Manchester’s annual calendar of events. This day is unique! It brings our communities together under a single banner to celebrates languages, cultures and our entwined histories.

As a British Bangladeshi I am personally overjoyed to see Manchester celebrating International Mother Language Day because its roots lie in the Bangla language movement. This was a pivotal moment in history which created a powerful sense of national pride. Ultimately, that movement led to the creation of International Mother Language Day which is now recognised by UNESCO and celebrated across the globe.

This year in Manchester we have organised many community-led events and family-friendly activities. There will be something for everyone: activities for primary aged children, academic discussions on what it means to be multilingual, poetry, music, cookery, dance and of course the chance to learn other languages.

It’s vital we celebrate the diversity of our communities because they bring so much life to the city and make Manchester the vibrant and great place it is today.”

**Cllr Rahman**

Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure, Manchester City Council

## International Mother Language Day 2021

International Mother Language Day is celebrated globally on 21 February.

2021 will be the fourth consecutive year that Manchester has celebrated the event. In 2019 and 2020 over 5,000 people engaged with activity across the city centre and neighbourhoods. The event is always a celebration of the nearly 200 languages spoken in Manchester and of the cultural diversity that is one of the city’s strengths.

The events involve libraries, cultural venues, community groups, universities, schools, poets and writers. For 2021 we are increasing the cultural content of the programme and making international links with other UNESCO Creative Cities, particularly through online platforms.

Events happening between 16 and 28 February will be celebrating community, friendship – and also the new collections at the brand new Manchester Poetry Library. Come and be entranced by multilingual story telling for families, try your hand at Mandarin with the Confucius Institute, be part of the audience for the ever-popular multi-language mushaira (a night of song and poetry) and hear how you can be involved in Manchester Museum’s community translation project. Artist Sumay Wu will also be creating a special Manchester Audio Cookbook artwork made up of recipes and stories in different languages.

From 16th-28th February we will be celebrating with a series of events from a range of partners across the city and beyond. Keep reading to find out everything that’s happening, be sure to book your places.

Join in the conversation with us @MCRCityofLit, using the hashtag #MCRIMLD21 and #MotherLanguageDay.

## Tuesday 16th February

### Manchester Libraries Storytelling

Tuesday 16th February, 11.00

Join Manchester Libraries via their Facebook Page for a very special week of multi-lingual storytime. Each day from 16th Feb at 11am there will be stories in different languages for children, including: Lithuanian, German, Portuguese, Urdu, Romani and Spanish. Tune in for free!

### Manchester In Translation Day 1 Comma Press

Tuesday 16th February, 11.00-16.30

This February, Comma Press will host a series of free online workshops and talks offering advice and insight into the world of translation. Manchester in Translation will be an opportunity for budding translators – or those with a passion for languages – to develop practical skills for literary translation in particular, learn about the life of the translator and discover ways of getting themselves published.

**11.00 Keynote:** Award-winning translator Arunava Sinha reflects on his career as a translator and the joys and perils of linguistic multiplicity. This talk will be an opportunity to find out more about what makes a good translation and the tools you'll need to break into the industry.

**14.00-16.30 Workshop:** Punjabi-English Workshop with Kavita Bhanot.

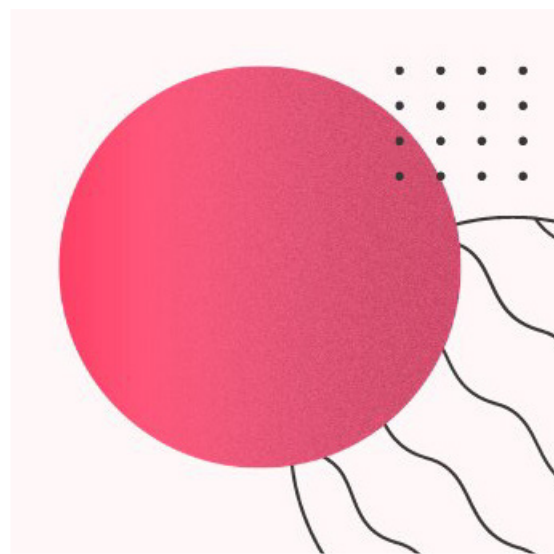
### Jennifer Lee Tsai, Kit Fan and Natalie Linh Bolderston at Manchester Poetry Library

Tuesday 16th February, 19.00

Join us to celebrate the launch of the brand new Chinese Language poetry collection at Manchester Poetry Library.

Hosted by Manchester Metropolitan University, the event will include readings from three exciting UK-based poets of contrasting Chinese heritages – Kit Fan, Jennifer Lee Tsai and Natalie Linh Bolderston; with work which explores and interrogates urgent questions on race, identity, myth, narrative, the effects of inter-generational trauma, loss, language inheritance and estrangement.

Following the readings, there will be time for a Q&A with each poet.



## Wednesday 17th February

### Manchester Libraries Storytelling

Wednesday 17th February, 11.00

See page 4 for more information.

### Manchester In Translation Day 2 Comma Press

Wednesday 17th February, 11.00-16.30

**11.00 Panel 1:** How the publisher will work with you

Industry professionals discuss the relationship between a translator and their publisher, and what the translator can expect once they sign a deal: who they'll work with, what's expected of them, what a timeline to publication looks like and problems (and solutions) that can occur along the way.

**14.00-16.30 Workshop:** Urdu-English Workshop with Anjum Malik.

## Thursday 18th February

### Manchester Libraries Storytelling

Thursday 18th February, 11.00

See page 4 for more information.

### Manchester In Translation Day 3 Comma Press

Thursday 18th February, 11.00-16.30

**11.00 Panel 2:** Surviving and thriving as a literary translator

How do you stay afloat in a competitive industry? What are the benefits of collaborative working and networking for emerging translators? Join a panel of expert translators and publishers as they discuss best tips for emerging translators.

**14.00-16.30 Workshop:** Spanish-English Workshop with Gitanjali Pate. Pre Booking is essential.

## Friday 19th February

### Manchester Libraries Storytelling

Friday 19th February, 11.00

See page 4 for more information.

### Mandarin language taster with Confucius Institute

Friday 19th February, 12.30

Join us for a fun language taster session to find out what it is like to learn Mandarin from the comfort of your own home! You will have the chance to get an insight into our online teaching practices and content of our courses. This informal, fun and interactive session will be delivered by one of our native Confucius Institute teachers, who are highly experienced in delivering lessons via Zoom

Learning Mandarin is becoming more and more popular and is being widely recognised as a valuable language in business and education. You will leave the session having learned some words and phrases, like how to greet someone and how to count in Mandarin Chinese.

### Macaronic Poetry Event

Centre For New Writing UOM

Friday 19th February, 17.30

Join us for an evening celebrating bilingual poetry and macaronic poetry, which uses a mixture of languages. There will be an opportunity to hear readings in English, Urdu, Farsi.

Poets from the Centre for New Writing will perform poetry and share stories about identity, culture and community, in their native language.



## Saturday 20th February

### Manchester Libraries World Party

Manchester Libraries

Saturday 20th February, 10.30

We've got a World Party right here in Manchester Libraries and everyone's invited!

Join Manchester Libraries online as we celebrate this year's International Mother Language Day, which is all about Friendship! We've got a fabulously fun-packed free day of activities for all ages from all parts of the world! Rock out to Mento B's West Indian Reggae and ska music, soothe yourself with soulful songs and music from Sarah the Sufi, pick some Spanish at our multilingual StoryTime, share El Condor's lush sounds and rhythms of traditional folk songs and culture from South America. There's so much to do and see – making new friends, dancing, singing, music, science, stories, crafts, games and poems! It's gonna be amazing!

Say Hola this half term to every language and culture in our wonderful diverse city of Manchester.

Family Friendly activities suitable for all ages. This is a free digital event on Saturday 20 February - Tune in from 10.30am – 4pm on our Facebook pages [facebook.com/manchesterlibraries](https://facebook.com/manchesterlibraries) and Twitter [@ManLibraries](https://twitter.com/ManLibraries)

### Celebrating Multilingual poetry and mushaira performance

MACFEST

Saturday 20th February, 14.00-16.00

A literary feast! Multi-Lingual poetry with the Bengali Anamika women group, Aziz Isa Elkun from the Uighur community, London, and Hanane EL Hadioe from the Manchester Arab speaking Moroccan community. This will be followed by a lively Circle of Literary Friends' (North West) Mushaira performance, which is widely regarded as an exciting forum of free self-expression and enjoyment.





## Saturday 20th February

### Sounds Like Scran: An Audio Cookbook

Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art / Semay Wu

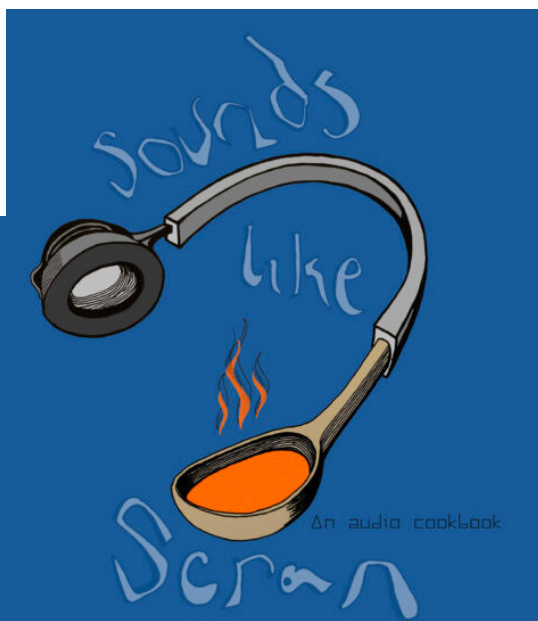
Saturday 20th February, 11.00-16.00  
(book 15 minute slots)

As part of International Mother Language Day, Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art (CFCCA) are excited to be working with artist Semay Wu on a new commission exploring Manchester's language diversity through the common thread of food culture.

We will be creating a Mancunian Audio Cookbook, exhibited online as part of CFCCA's programme. Like a traditional cookery book, each 'page' will showcase a chosen dish. This dish will not be described by the instructions on how to cook it, but by the stories and experiences that surround it. We are inviting all residents of Greater Manchester to share their food culture in the form of 'audio postcards' submitted in their mother language.

To be part of this celebratory project, you simply book a 15 minute slot on the day, choose one of your favourite dishes, and a story that connects you to it. We will record you telling your story in your Mother Tongue, include a photo and the recipe, and these elements will become your 'page', in the Mancunian Audio Cookbook. The story can be whatever comes up when you think about, make, or eat this dish: it could be about someone, or a poem, a memory, even a feeling. We all have a story to tell about food!

The responses will be exhibited online, portraying the richness of Manchester's 200+ languages. The Mancunian Audio Cookbook will celebrate the unique mix of voices, food and cultures of people across our city.



### Multilingual Mushaira

Emma Martin and Anjum Malik –  
MMU, Manchester Poetry Library,  
Stanley Grove Primary Academy

Saturday 20th February, 18.00

This live event, hosted by poet Anjum Malik at the Manchester Poetry Library, will feature poetry on the theme of Friendship. Poetry will be written and performed by the Creative Crew, a group of children from four Manchester primary schools, led by Emma Martin from Stanley Grove Primary Academy and Usma Malik from Manchester Metropolitan University.

This event is the culmination of a project that any schools can participate in. Led by Emma Martin from Stanley Grove Primary Academy and their project, Building the Bridge, this is the third Multi-Language Mushaira. It gets bigger and better each year.

Schools wishing to participate can run their own Mushaira's, create their own poetry and artwork and submit photo's online. There's also the accompanying free multilingual poetry resource pack for educators available on the Manchester City of Literature website.



## Manchester City of Literature present Our City of Languages

Sunday 21st February, 14.00

Join Hafsah Bashir and Anjum Malik for an afternoon of films, talks, interviews and performance from the many individuals, writers, poets and community groups who contribute to make Manchester a city of languages.

Hear more about how Manchester has celebrated International Mother Language Day since 2015

Our City of Languages will be broadcast live with our hosts on International Mother Language Day. Settle down for the full festivities or drop in for an activity or two.

## Running order

14.00: A welcome from our hosts, plus a very special hello from Executive Member for Youth, Skills, Culture and Leisure Cllr. Rahman.

Interview with Yaron Matras from Multilingual Manchester giving a context and history of IMLD in Manchester, and a special preview of the Multilingual Museum project happening on the 28th Feb.

A community film from LCB (Language and Culture of Bangladesh) on the origins of International Mother Language Day.

Our hosts will then be discussing the approaches to writing bilingual poetry with Jennifer Lee Tsai.

14.50: Community Arts North West Young Artists film: *Would You Take My Hand?* Follow CAN Young Artists on a short filmed journey inspired by the strength, power and beauty we found in Manchester Museum and Manchester.

## Connectedness Through Comics.

A discussion with comic artist Ian Bobb on this exciting project engaging young people in Manchester and Nanjing in sharing stories of lockdown and responding to our new world. You can even download the comic strip and write your own story as part of the day.

## A short film from Nottingham City of Literature: World Jam.

World Jam poetry collective celebrates the many languages spoken in Nottingham and the East Midlands area. The writers draw from diverse experiences: students, asylum seekers, refugees. The group has so far accommodated speakers of more than 17 languages.

15.50: *The Mother Tongue is Hungry*: three short films by Abas El-Janabi, Farjana Kabir and Louison Kangombe. The Mother Tongue makes us hungry for home, for distant memories, for a time that no longer exists. This is a special preview of a longer piece that will be created at Manchester Museum this summer, with Community Arts North West.

## Community film: The Sebene Project.

Sebene is the name given to a traditional Congolese music. It's also the name of a project by Golda Bolonda to support and inspire young people of Congolese heritage.

Golda is joined by some of the volunteers and participants to talk about The Sebene Project and its impact in Manchester.

Tartu City of Literature showcase their history of languages in a short film, *next*. First documented in 1030, the city of Tartu has been a crossroad of cultures and languages. This newly commissioned film will share insights into the history of language and culture in Tartu alongside readings, with translation, of texts in different languages against a backdrop of culturally significant places. A great way to see the city, at a time when we cannot travel.

The *Made In Manchester* multilingual poem will be aired alongside a discussion with poet Zahid Hussain who worked with young people and residents of Manchester to create this moving poem in 64 languages.

Our Hosts with the team at Manchester Metropolitan University will officially launch the *Mother Tongue Other Tongue* multilingual poetry competition for 8-18 year olds, endorsed by Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai.

Community film: *Polish Saturday School*. Marta Niblett, Director of the Polish Saturday School is joined by volunteers and pupils to talk about the importance of multilingualism in Manchester, Polish heritage and literature.

17.30: Ends



## Sunday 21st February

---

### **Resistance is my Mother Tongue** Young Identity

Sunday 21st February, 19.00

What emotions are unique to our mother languages, that cannot be expressed in English?

In this one-off, pre-recorded event, Young Identity poets will perform bilingual poetry, featuring young performers hailing from Asian, African and South American communities and those who speak in Gaelic languages in the UK.

## Monday 22nd February

---

### **Mandarin language taster with** **Confucius Institute**

Monday 22nd February, 12.30

See page 6 for more information.

## Tuesday 23rd February

---

### **Decolonising Mother Tongues** Creative Manchester UOM, Centre for New Writing and Humanitarian, Conflict Response Institute

Tuesday 23rd February, 19.00

Hear from a panel on decolonising translation, chaired by Dr. Kavita Bhanot, who writes on mother-tongue shame, translating across generations, and decolonising translation.

Kavita will be joined by acclaimed British Asian playwright Amber Lone, who will discuss her writing and the creative writing workshops she has conducted with women from Safety4Sisters. These workshops encourage participants to reflect on the process and challenges of translation. Members of Safety4sisters who have participated in the workshops will form part of the panel discussion.

## Wednesday 24th February

---

### **Instituto Cervantes Bilingual** **Poetry readings** Cervantes Institute

Wednesday 24th February, 18.00

A poetry reading that aims to show the diversity of the Panhispanic world and the different forms of poetic expression from countries such as Spain, Argentina, Uruguay and Cuba. All countries with Spanish language as their common ground.

Mariana Casale, specialist in Ibero American Literature, will read the poems in Spanish and lead the session. Followed by poetry translator Terence Dooley, who will read the English version. A free event to enjoy the best poetry in Spanish.

## Thursday 25th February

---

### **Manchester's DNA School's** **workshop** Creative Manchester

Thursday 25th February, 14.00

A virtual, pre-recorded session to engage pupils from Manchester schools to explore the identity, language and ethnicity that makes Manchester so richly diverse. A toolkit of resources will be supplied to encourage pupils from participating schools to explore their own oral histories.



## Friday 26th February

### Manchester's DNA Poet in Residence workshop

Creative Manchester

Friday 26th February, 14.00

Poetry can provide an insight into the richly diverse and dynamic communities that make up Greater Manchester. Newly appointed, award-winning 'Poet in Residence', Zaffar Kunial will lead a multilingual poetry workshop, exploring the craft of writing poems in different languages and how language can be used creatively.



## Sunday 28th February

### Multilingual Museum - Meet the teams

Multilingual Manchester,  
Manchester Museum,  
Manchester Libraries

Sunday 28th February, 15.00

Join us for an interactive event that brings together Multilingual Manchester, Manchester Museum and Manchester libraries to celebrate Manchester's language diversity on the occasion of UNESCO International Mother Language Day.

The event will launch the online Multilingual Museum – an exciting new multilingual platform as part of the Manchester Museum's online engagement activities.

Find out how you can engage with the museum's collections online through 'storied translation' – a novel approach to the translation of content that showcases linguistic diversity in the city, regional language variation and responses to objects that mean different things to different cultures.

We will also look back on earlier celebrations of language diversity and collaborations among civic partners in the city.

Passcode to join Zoom: Museum

## Saturday 27th February

### Bohdan Piasecki introducing the co-curated MPL Polish collection

Manchester Poetry Library, MMU

Saturday 27th February, 19.00

Join us and celebrate the launch of the Polish Language poetry collection at Manchester Poetry Library.

This event follows on from the highly successful Radość Pisania: Manchester Polish Poetry Festival 2018.

Hosted by Manchester Metropolitan University and introduced by Bohdan Piasecki, poets from the UK and Poland will discuss and respond to work in the brand new collection.



# The Multilingual Museum





MANCHESTER  
CITY COUNCIL



Manchester  
Metropolitan  
University



The University of Manchester

#MCRIMLD21

16-28th February 2021

[manchestercityofliterature.com](http://manchestercityofliterature.com)