

Christina Schöffner

Christina Schöffner (born 29 July 1950 in Schlotheim) is a German scholar of Translation Studies. She taught at Aston University in Birmingham for many years and she is now Professor Emeritus.

Life

Christina Schöffner grew up in Thuringia, Germany where she attended secondary school in Mühlhausen. In 1969, she started studying Russian and English as a teacher for Adult Education in the department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics (German: Theoretische und Angewandte Sprachwissenschaft TAS) at the Karl-Marx University in Leipzig and received her diploma in 1973. She then completed her doctorate degree under the supervision of Rosamarie Gläser in technical language research in the field of politics. Meanwhile, she developed an interest in Translation Studies and visited lectures of [Otto Kade](#) and [Albrecht Neubert](#), among others.

After receiving her doctorate in 1977, she worked in the field of English Translation Studies at TAS at the University of Leipzig, teaching English language, translation, and interpreting. From 1982 to 1992, Christina Schöffner led a working group at the Saxon Academy of Sciences (German: [Sächsischen Akademie der Wissenschaften](#) SAW) in Leipzig that conducted research on political vocabulary, text linguistics, and translation studies.

During this time, Schöffner participated in the 1984 AILA Congress in Brussels, among other events and held lectures at Translation Studies conferences. From January till May of 1989, she was given the opportunity to teach Translation Studies at Kent State University in Ohio. When she returned from Kent, the German Democratic Republic (GDR) was going through a fundamental change and the future of her research group at SAW was unclear. At that time, a position in the German department at Aston University in Birmingham became available which Schöffner then took. Between 1992 and 2015, she taught undergraduate and

graduate students at Aston University in the fields of Translation Studies, Interpreting and Text Analysis.

Alongside this, Schäffner continues her research on political text analysis and metaphor research, publishing numerous articles. She has also organized conferences and workshops and helped to establish a functional approach to translation rather than its traditional practice at Aston University. Based on this, new degree programs in translation were developed. Schäffner has also organized seminars as part of the *Current Issues in Language and Society (CILS)* series.

For several years, she has been regularly teaching doctoral students in Translation Studies as part of the CETRA summer courses at KU Leuven and was CETRA Chair Professor in 2011. She was also responsible for one of the four projects of the Marie Curie Initial Training Network TIME, launched together with the European Commission. She was head of the organizing committee of the 6th International Critical Link Conference, held at Aston University from July 26th to the 30th, 2010.

Christina Schäffner is also a member of the *European Society for Translation Studies (EST)*, a representative on the *National Network for Translation* at Aston University and a member of the steering committee of OPTIMALE, an *Erasmus* network for better professional translator education in Europe. From 2007 to 2009, she was also a member of the *EMT Expert Group*, established by the European Commission with the aim of improving the quality of European Master's programs in the field of translation.