

Carolina Casado Parras

In this issue, we caught up with LRG member **Carolina Casado Parras** about her experiences as a translator

Tell us a little bit about your background.

I was born and raised in Spain, but I always wanted to study and live abroad. I came to the UK to work as an *au-pair*, and a bit later again with an Erasmus scheme. When I graduated, I moved to the US to study for an MA and teach Spanish. After four years, I returned to Spain to teach English and that's when I started to work on translation projects too. In 2014, Germany became my home for two years, and then it was time to get back to the UK. London gave me the chance finally to close the door to the classroom and set up as a freelance translator.

When did you first become interested in languages?

That is an easy question: at the age of ten, in my first English lesson. I knew immediately that my future would be written in this language. Then, in secondary school, I started to learn French, which I continued studying at uni together with English. Much later came German, and although it's hard to maintain all four languages – including Spanish, of course – I manage to do it by reading, watching films, travelling, and with conversation classes. I had a brief romance with Japanese, but you know: if you don't use it, you lose it! I'd love to resume my lessons someday.

When did you decide to pursue a career in translation or interpreting?

I wanted to study translation, but due to adverse circumstances I couldn't at the time, so I chose a BA in English. However, I took every translation subject, and although I found out in the US that I actually enjoyed teaching, my heart was set on translation. I taught for over ten years while translating on the side every now and then. My years in the language classroom helped me gain a valuable insight into English and Spanish, which I find useful now. When I moved to London, I realised teaching was burning me out and I decided to pursue my real interest, finally! I couldn't be happier now.



Have you been to any interesting translation events recently?

I attended a lunch with other linguists in late June. After the meal, two researchers gave a talk about child language brokering, a phenomenon I had first become aware of when I was living in the US, where many Latino children interpret for their parents and mediate between both cultures. I found it so interesting that I plan to write a blog post about it once I have time to do some research.

What kind of projects have you been working on recently?

Earlier this year, I participated in an incredibly fun job: the translation of 'A History of Magic', the Harry Potter exhibition hosted by the British Library.

Google Arts & Culture digitised it to make it available online and I worked on some exciting content. I had to dig into alchemy, magical creatures, and plants I had never heard of before!

This summer has been quite busy so far. I've translated the video script for an exhibit about underwater archaeology featuring shipwrecks and lost treasures, I've done some software localisation testing, and I've also been involved in community management tasks, including translation of videogame content and back-translation of fans' comments. No time to get bored!

What are your plans for the future?

I don't like planning too much because I've learned that life has its own way of putting us in the right place, but I certainly see lots of translation work in the forthcoming years.

For now, I've dropped my anchor in the UK, but my curiosity never stops pulling, so we'll have to wait and see what's down the line!

Carolina is a translator working from English/French into Spanish, trading as *VibrantWords Translations*. For more information, visit her website and blog: www.vibrantwordstranslations.com. She's also on [Twitter \(@VibrantWordsT\)](#) and [LinkedIn](#)