

Dr Jessica Wood

Freelance Translator: German/Italian > English

jess.wood87@gmail.com / +44 7818 488 387

23 Dimbles Hill, Lichfield, WS13 7NH United Kingdom

Die Übersetzung verwandelt alles, um nichts zu ändern / Translation transforms everything in order to change nothing.

Günter Grass

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

January 2016 – present: Freelance translator (GER/IT>ENG)

I have been a freelance translator since January 2016, translating from both German and Italian into English and gaining extensive experience in the translation of academic, commercial, and literary texts. As an academic translator, my expertise lies mainly in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. My academic translations are informed by my own experiences of researching and publishing, as well as my wide-reaching personal interests. In the commercial sector, I specialise in the fields of tourism, e-commerce, marketing, pedagogy, culture, and fashion – although I am always keen to immerse myself in new fields. My most recent clients have included an Italian publisher specialising in educational books and games for children, and the Ernst Reuter Archives Foundation, located in Berlin. In 2019 I received an award for literary translation and was also invited to take part in a workshop for emerging academic translators (please see below).

June 2016 – April 2017: Writer

In June 2016 I was awarded the Peter Lang Early Career Researcher Prize in German Studies for a manuscript based on my doctoral thesis. The prize consisted of a publishing deal with Peter Lang Oxford, and I spent the next few months reworking my thesis for publication as a monograph. I simultaneously worked as a part-time Executive Researcher at Henley Research International and a freelance translator. My book was published in June 2017.

May 2016 – January 2017: Multilingual Executive Researcher, Henley Research International, Birmingham

After completing my PhD at the University of Birmingham I took up a temporary, part-time position as an executive researcher with Henley Research International, an international executive recruitment company. I worked on UK and international recruitment assignments in various markets and cultures. I delivered regular status updates for ongoing projects, tailored my approach to identifying and sourcing candidates to fit client specifications, and acted as a point of contact between clients and potential candidates throughout the process. The role often required high levels of confidentiality and diplomacy, and always demanded excellent organisation and communication skills, frequently in German and Italian.

May 2016 – September 2016: Research Assistant, University of Birmingham

For several months I worked as a Research Assistant for Dr Joanne Sayner on the AHRC-funded project, 'Voices of War and Peace'. I worked on a section of the project that examined the responses of members of the public to installation art commemorating the First World War.

September 2015 – May 2016: Tutor, University of Birmingham and Freelance Translator

Towards the end of my PhD I began working as a tutor for the university's Academic Writing Advisory Service, which entailed designing and delivering workshops as well as offering students guidance in one-to-one tutorials. During this time I also discovered a passion for translation, and began to supplement my income by accepting translation assignments (both academic and commercial) on a freelance basis.

September 2012 – January 2016: PhD Candidate, University of Birmingham

While working towards my PhD (which was funded by the AHRC), I also gained extensive teaching experience at the University of Birmingham and played a key role in the organisation of two conferences held at the university. I presented my work at several conferences, and completed two articles which have since been published in peer-reviewed journals, as well as two articles that were published in postgraduate journals (details of which can be found below). My thesis was delivered within three years and passed without corrections. In 2016 I was awarded the Pascal Prize for my thesis.

May 2011 – September 2011: Administrative Assistant, Henley Research International, Birmingham

In between the completion of my BA(Hons) and the commencement of my MPhil(B), I worked as an administrative assistant at an international executive recruitment company.

EDUCATION

September 2012 – January 2016: PhD German and Italian Studies, University of Birmingham

Thesis title: 'Portraits of the Artist: Dionysian Creativity in Selected Works by Gabriele d'Annunzio and Thomas Mann.'

September 2011 – May 2012: MPhil(B) Modern European Cultures, University of Birmingham

Modules included Nations and their Neighbours and Ideas of Europe. My MPhil(B) thesis, out of which the idea for my PhD arose, was entitled 'Eros and the Creative Process in Thomas Mann's *Der Tod in Venedig* and Gabriele d'Annunzio's *Il fuoco*', and explored the relationship between sexual desire and creativity in the named texts.

August 2010: Summer School, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin

I completed a month-long intensive language course, participating in the C2 class. I obtained the highest marks possible at the end of the course.

September 2009 – May 2010: Università degli Studi di Ferrara, Ferrara, Italy

As part of my BA(Hons) at the University of Birmingham, I had the opportunity to study for two semesters at the Università degli Studi di Ferrara. I selected courses including German literature and Roman history. During my time here, I completed a substantial translation project for Professor Livio Zerbini, who required a native English speaker to translate an archaeological report pertaining to recent excavations in which he had been involved.

September 2007 – June 2011: BA(Hons) German and Italian Studies, University of Birmingham

I followed modules focusing on translation studies (theory and practice), German and Italian language, German literature and culture (with specific modules on Friedrich Nietzsche and medieval literature) and philology. I received a distinction for my spoken Italian.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- *Portraits of the Artist: The Artist and the Dionysian in Selected Works by Thomas Mann and Gabriele D'Annunzio* (Peter Lang Oxford: Oxford, 2017). (Monograph)
- 'The art of dying in *Il trionfo della morte*', *Forum Italicum*, 51:2 (2017), 469-87. (Article)
- 'Sublimation in the Novels of Gabriele D'Annunzio', *Studi medievali e moderni*, 21:1 (2017), 117-39. (Article)
- Several articles published in postgraduate journals during the course of my PhD

PRIZES

- 2019: I was awarded first prize in the John Dryden Translation Competition for my translation of an extract from Stefano Benni's *Il bar sotto il mare (The Bar Under the Sea)*
- 2019: I was awarded a place at the GINT Translab workshop for academic translators, organised by Geisteswissenschaften International and held at the German Historical Institute.
- 2016: As winner of the 2016 Early Career Researcher Prize in German Studies, I was awarded a publishing deal with Peter Lang Oxford to publish my PhD thesis as a monograph.
- 2016: I was awarded the Pascal Prize by the University of Birmingham for my PhD thesis.

LANGUAGES

English (native speaker); German (fluent); Italian (fluent); Spanish (basic).

