

Translation Talk

Interviews conducted by students in the M.A. in Global Communication & Applied Translation program.
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Katy Derbyshire

Katy Derbyshire is a British, Berlin-based translator of literary fiction, and recently the head of V&Q books, an imprint of the German publishing house Voland & Quist Verlag. Derbyshire has decades of experience translating German authors, from Christa Wolf and Clemens Meyer to Olga Grjasnowa and Heike Geissler. Her other projects, such as the blog “love german books” and the “Dead Ladies Show” podcast and live show point to her broad range of talents in addition to translation. Derbyshire has won numerous awards, among them the 2018 Stralener Übersetzerpreis for her translation of Clemens Meyer’s *Im Stein* (Bricks and Mortar). She has also written articles on the role of women in translation and literature and helped start the Warwick Prize for Women in Translation in 2017. The interview below was conducted over email.



I think that depends on the setting the translator will be working in. In Germany, for instance, many clients expect translators to have a relevant qualification, which I did obtain once I decided to move into translating (the Institute of Linguists’ Diploma of Translation, via the University of London, which is a one-off examination that I sat at a testing center in Berlin). Certified translators of official documents require a masters-level degree in translation. In the literary field, however, formal qualifications are less relevant. However, in order to be contracted in the first place, translators need to build up experience of working with different types of text. They need contacts to clients, in the publishing world and elsewhere, which are difficult to build from scratch. So, perhaps comparable to the situation for writers, journalists, artists, there are some subtle barriers to entry.

Übersetzung

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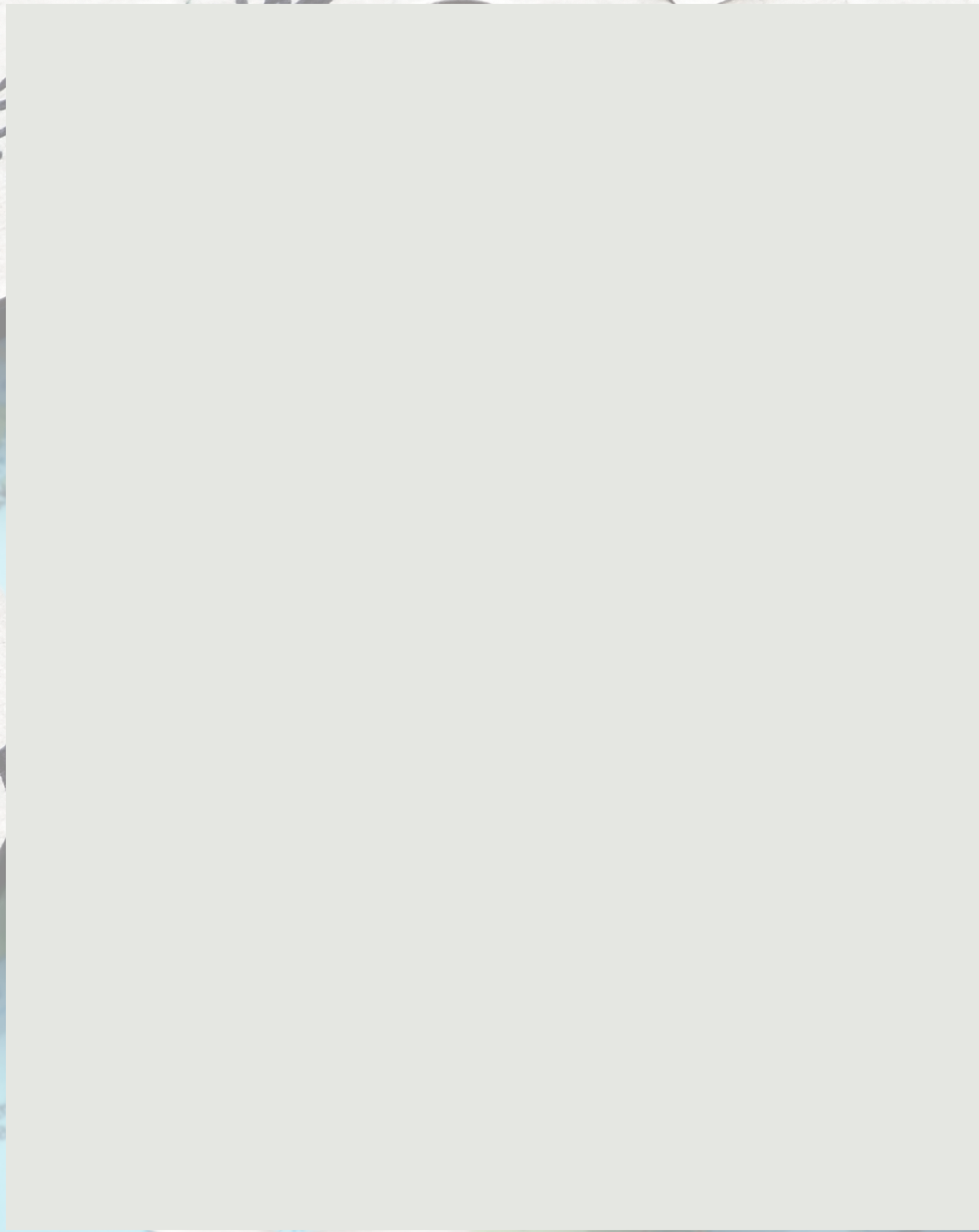
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Übersetzung

This interview was conducted by Wilson Ekern.