

## Isabel del Rio

Lcda. UCM, FITI, FCiOL, SoA, TA, AITC, ACE, ASETRAD, AETER

### CV - 2024

Website: [www.isabeldelrio.org](http://www.isabeldelrio.org)

#### Overview

Isabel is a British-Spanish writer and linguist. Born in Madrid, she has lived most of her life in London. She has published fiction, poetry and language learning material in both English and Spanish. As a language practitioner, Isabel has extensive experience in many language-related fields: documentary, literary and technical translation; writing and scriptwriting; journalism and broadcasting; lexicography and terminology; tutoring in writing and translation.

#### Qualifications

- Primary and part of secondary education in London; part of secondary and higher education in Madrid
- Foundation Course in Latin, History & Philosophy, Spain
- Licenciatura (EQF, Level 7) from Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM), Facultad de Ciencias de la Información
- PhD in 'Creative Writing' from the University of West London (UWL)
- 'Writers' Foundation Certificate' as awarded by Raindance, UK

#### Professional Memberships

- Fellow of the Institute of Translation & Interpreting (ITI), UK
- Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Linguists (CIoL), UK
- Chartered Linguist, CIoL, UK
- Member of the Translators' Association (TA), UK
- Member of Association internationale des traducteurs de conférence (AITC), Switzerland
- Member of Asociación Española de Traductores, Correctores e Intérpretes (ASETAD), Spain
- Member of Asociación Española de Terminología (AETER), Spain
- Member of Asociación Colegial de Escritores (ACE), Spain
- Member of the Society of Authors, UK
- Member of English PEN, UK
- Member of the National Association of Writers in Education (NAWE), UK
- Member of EQUITY, UK
- International Association of Multilingualism

#### Teaching, training and activities in public affairs

##### *Lectures*

- Mentoring on Translation and Creative Writing for Exiled Writers Ink (EWI) (2020-2021)
- Lecturer on Terminology Skills, Westminster University (2006)
- Lecturer on Editing Skills (including Revision and Précis-writing) for the 'MA in Translation' Course at Westminster University, London (2003)
- Lectures on Translation Skills at Middlesex University (1997)

##### *Activities for the CIoL (1993-1995)*

- Examiner

##### *Activities for the ITI (1986-1996):*

- Founder Member of the ITI
- Member of the Events Committee
- 'Guardian Angel' for young translators
- Founder and Coordinator of the Arts and Tourism Network
- Coordinator for the Spanish Network

- Organiser for the ITI Stand at the London Language Show
- Elected Member of the ITI Council
- Examiner and Moderator for the Examinations Committee

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### **Publications:**

#### *Fiction and poetry:*

- “La autora del fin del mundo”, short story collection (Editorial Equidistancia, 2022)
- “Cuaderno de notas”, poetry collection (Árdora Ediciones, 2021)
- “A Woman Alone: fragments of a memoir”, autobiography (Friends of Alice Publishing, 2021)
- “Dolorem Ipsum”, poetry collection (Friends of Alice Publishing, 2020)
- “Madrid, Madrid, Madrid”, poetry collection (Friends of Alice Publishing, 2019)
- “Ataraxy”, poetry collection (Friends of Alice Publishing, 2019)
- “Punto de fuga”, poetry collection (Friends of Alice Publishing, 2019)
- “Paradise & Hell”, short story collection (Friends of Alice Publishing, 2019)
- “Dissent”, novel (Friends of Alice Publishing, 2018)
- “El tiempo que falta”, novel (Friends of Alice Publishing, 2018)
- “Una muerte incidental”, short story collection (Friends of Alice Publishing, 2018)
- “The moon at the end of my street”, poetry collection (Friends of Alice Publishing, 2015)
- “Zero Negative”, short story collection (Araña Editorial, Spain, 2011)
- “La Duda” (Tusquets, Spain, 1996), short story collection – shortlisted for “Nuevos Narradores” and “Ícaro” literary awards
- “Ciudad del Interior” (CODA, Spain, 1993), poetry collection

#### *Anthologies that include my work:*

- “The Dedalus Book of Spanish Fantasy” (Dedalus, UK, 1999)
- “Los cuentos que cuentan” (Anagrama, Spain, 1998)
- “NomadAsNómadas” (London, 1998)

#### *Spanish courses:*

- “BBC Spanish Master” (BBC Books, 1993)
- “Get by in Spanish” (BBC Books, 1993)

#### *English courses:*

- “That’s English” (BBC Books, 1996)
- “BBC Muzzy Series” (BBC Books, 1990)

#### *Literary Translation (recent):*

- “Equidistant Voices” – an anthology of 16 Latin American poets in the UK (Editorial Equidistancias, 2023) – into English
- “The Secret Garden” de F. Hodgson Burnett (Ediciones Siruela, 2020) – into Spanish

#### *Freelance work for publishers (selection):*

- Scala Publishing (translation of catalogue for “The Spanish Portrait Exhibition”, Prado Museum)
- Oxford University Press (lexicographer/contributor for two bilingual dictionaries) (1992-1994)
- British Tourist Authority (national and regional brochures produced in Spanish) (1989-1994)
- Forward Publishing (translator and sub-editor for IBM Helpware magazine in Spanish) (1992)

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**Writer, Linguist, Publisher, Language Consultant**

*2016 to date*

Isabel founded the imprint 'Friends of Alice Publishing' and published over a dozen books of poetry and fiction, both by other authors and by herself. She also translated a number of literary texts and was involved in translation and creative writing mentoring projects.

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**Head, Terminology & Reference Section, Terminology & Reference Section, Translation Services, Conference Division, International Maritime Organization (IMO)**

*2005 – 2016*

In February 2005 I was commissioned with the creation of the Terminology & Reference Section (TRS) at the IMO Conference Division and was appointed Head of the Section. I established new work methodology and procedures that were adequate to the type of translation work carried out at IMO and to our particular field of work (i.e. a specialized UN agency dealing with maritime safety and the prevention of marine pollution). I set up TRS as an administrative unit and as fully-fledged language support section within the IMO Translation Services, dealing with the management and provision of terminology and references for translators, interpreters and other users.

As Head of the Section, I ensured that full and adequate support was provided to staff translators, external translators, interpreters and any other internal or external users of TRS services, as well as UN and international agencies. I also managed the work-flow and the distribution of documents to be referenced, re-arranging new tasks as requirements arise, and keeping up-to-date with the broad range of subjects dealt with by IMO translators, as well as with developments at IMO, the UN and other UN agencies. I was the overall manager of MultiTrans, the CATT tool in use at IMO.

Regarding terminology, I performed the following duties:

- I had full responsibility for the content and management of IMO's terminology database, IMOTerm, with over 30,000 terms, in the six languages of the Organization (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).
- I advised on the proper use of terms, conducted terminological research in the fields of activity of IMO, identified changes and developments in UN, maritime, scientific and technical vocabularies, and monitored terminology developments with other UN organizations with the aim of promoting the use of correct and uniform terminology.
- I prepared specialized glossaries and in-house dictionaries in English, French and Spanish on subjects related to IMO activities, ranging from technical and scientific terminology (for example, GHG and HNS) to administrative vocabularies (such as IPSAS and SAP).
- I standardized terminology for use in the Translation Services and throughout IMO, advising translators and interpreters on terminology-related matters.
- I set standards for usage and presentation of data in our terminology database, IMOTerm, and prepared monthly terminology lists on new or updated terminology records.

Regarding references, I performed the following duties:

- I carried out and supervised the referencing of documents using the translation memory in use (IMO Textbases) and other resources, for the purposes of translation.
- I monitored IMO and UN documents and instruments for references that could be useful for the Translation Services.
- I exchanged information and references with other UN agencies.
- I created and maintained an extensive e-library of references relating both to IMO and to other UN and international agencies.

One of my duties was to represent IMO at the yearly International Annual Meeting on Computer-Assisted Translation and Terminology (JIAMCATT) conference, with participation of major UN and international organizations. I was also a member of the JIAMCATT Liaison Committee.

I retired from IMO in 2016.

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**Senior Translator/Reviser, Translation Services, International Maritime Organization (IMO)**  
*1994 – 2005*

As a Senior Translator/Reviser for the Spanish Translation Section, I translated (from English and French into Spanish) documents, reports, texts for publications, and official and diplomatic correspondence. The subjects ranged from highly technical reports to specialized legal, economic, administrative and scientific documents. I was specifically in charge of the translation and revision of documents relating to the meetings of the Maritime Environment Protection Committee and the Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Equipment. I also carried out terminological and linguistic research and prepared terminological entries for the Spanish Translation Section's terminology database at the time. My work included revising documents translated by both permanent and supernumerary translators. I was also team leader during night-shifts during meeting-weeks, which required coordination of all translation work and compilation of reports and other documents with the utmost urgency, working under great pressure and with extremely tight deadlines.

The chronology of my career as a translator and reviser at the Spanish Translation Section is as follows:

- January 1988 to February 1994 - Temporary/Supernumerary Translator with regular contracts
- March 1994 to July 2002 - Staff Translator (P.3)
- August 2002 to January 2005 - Staff Senior Translator/Reviser (P.4) until my appointment as Head, Terminology and Reference Section.

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**Freelance Translator, Writer and Journalist**

*1983 - 1994*

- I was a temporary translator for the Spanish Translation Section at IMO with short-term contracts. My duties involved all of the above (excluding night-shifts and revision work).
- During that time, I also worked as a freelance translator, reviser, journalist and/or editor for various agencies and companies, including: UN Information Service (UNIS) in London, UNHCR, International Coffee Organization, International Sugar Council, British Tourist Authority, Oxford University Press, Forward Publishing, Interlingua TTI and BBC Books.

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**Producer and Broadcaster, BBC Spanish Section, BBC World Service**  
*1978 – 1982*

- As a full-time producer and presenter for the BBC Spanish Section, part of the BBC World Service in Bush House, I was involved in programme production and broadcasting, with both live and pre-recorded presentation.
- I was responsible for translating and adapting current affairs programmes from centrally produced material, and I also wrote and produced programmes on politics, economic issues, social matters, and science and technology.

- I was the editor and presenter for the weekly Arts programme ("Artes y Letras"), reporting on major cultural events in the United Kingdom, and for the English language teaching courses ("English by Radio").
- The BBC Spanish Section was closed by the British Government in 1982, as a result of cuts to the BBC World Service.

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**Prior to 1978** (combining remunerated work with university studies)

- *Financial Times* (1977 – 1978)

As assistant to the Financial Times Madrid correspondent (Robert Graham) I was responsible for running the FT office in Spain. More specifically my duties involved carrying out preliminary research for the correspondent and assisting him with filing dispatches, as well as translating material into English, writing correspondence, preparing background information and keeping up-to-date files on Spanish current affairs, as well as performing various administrative tasks.

- *Revista Ciudadano* (1975 – 1976)

I was a sub-editor for "Ciudadano DOSSIER", a monthly magazine for women. I was involved in commissioning outside contributors on subjects relating to women's health, education and development. My position also required editing the magazine and writing articles and reports on women's issues.

- *Radio Popular* (1975)

I worked as a freelance journalist and interviewer for a weekly programme commemorating 1975 as "International Women's Year", reporting mainly on women's issues.

- *Dirección General de Estadística* (1973)

I was employed as a freelance researcher and interviewer for a Spanish Government statistics project relating to road transport in Spain.