

NOTIS

The Northwest Linguist

ISSUE NO.1 | 2023 | VOLUME 36

A Note from Laura Friend, NOTIS President

Dear friends and colleagues,

2023 has been another successful year for NOTIS as the Society marked its 35th anniversary! Founded in 1988 as a regional chapter of the [American Translators Association](#), NOTIS has evolved and accomplished a great deal in the ensuing years. Membership has grown steadily, reaching almost 900 active members in November 2023 — an increase of more than 100 since this time last year. Our financial position remains strong, enabling us to invest in a wide variety of activities to benefit our members.

[NOTIS leadership](#), headed by the all-volunteer Board of Directors with invaluable support from our dedicated staff and volunteers, works hard to create opportunities for our members' professional development as well as intellectual and personal enrichment, meeting member needs for continuing education, information, representation, networking, and social connection.

The highlight of the year was the [NOTIS Annual Conference](#) in honor of International Translation Day, made possible in part by the meticulous planning of our board members and staff and the generous support of our ten sponsors (*see page 6*). Over 150 people turned out for world-class presentations and lively panels at the spectacular Museum of Flight. Our keynote speaker, Judy Jenner, was, as always, a big draw.

NOTIS programming remains robust. The three programming divisions — Community Interpreting (CID), Legal, and Translation (which includes the [Northwest Literary Translators](#)) — continue to offer affordable workshops and presentations designed to help members earn continuing education credits, learn and hone skills, connect with colleagues, and cope with rapidly changing conditions in their fields.

Our popular new On-Demand Webshop program ([see our event calendar!](#)) en-



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ables members and non-members alike to earn CEUs more easily — on their own schedules and at a lower cost.

Other notable initiatives include a new [Ethics Panel \(send us your questions!\)](#); a re-imagined grants program; and online Member Meetups. Because “Member Care” is one of our top priorities, a committee or subcommittee will be formed in 2024 to oversee aspects of this important activity area. We have also been engaging in advocacy on issues impacting interpreter certification, liability, and compensation.

NOTIS communicates and connects with members and colleagues in adjacent fields through email, quarterly newsletters, social media, and a website full of great resources and tools for T&I practitioners. We encourage member involvement in NOTIS activities through surveys, calls for submissions to our publications, participation in volunteer projects, and opportunities to run for the Board. Speaking of which, while we are sorry to say goodbye to the three extraordinary board members who are stepping down this year (*see box below*), we are happy to welcome four wonderful new ones, two of whom joined mid-year and two who will begin in January. It’s such a joy working with my NOTIS colleagues!

The year would not have been complete without a few fun and relaxing social events. This year we cautiously returned to more in-person gatherings, including our traditional summer picnic and the December holiday party — held in person for the first time since 2019! I look forward to seeing many of you at an upcoming event and to carrying on the good work with you all in 2024.

Sincerely,

Laura C. Friend

Laura Friend



In 2023, the NOTIS Board of Directors included Laura Friend, Maria Lucas (VP), Rosemary Nguyen (Treasurer), Tim Gregory (Secretary), Yoseph Petros, Howard Chou, Yasemin Alptekin, Deirdre Ruth-Murano, and Katerina Warns.

Yasemin, Deirdre, & Katerina (pictured below at the Annual Picnic) will be leaving the Board at year’s end. Incoming members include Kay Heikkinen, Christina M. Woelz, Dubravka Martincic, and Eunyoung Kim.

Stay tuned to the [NW Linguist Blog](#) in early 2024 for our recurring features, “Warm Welcomes” & “Fond Farewells” :)



The Vigilant Linguist: A Cautionary Tale BY KATERINA WARNS

DJ debraJames Tue, 10/17/2023, 10:16am
To: Katerina Warns

I'm contacting you in regard to an English content document worth 11,643 words (44 Pages). I need this document translated into Russian. I would like to know if you are interested and available to get this done for me. Please get back to me as soon as you can. Thank you. Best regards.

KW Katerina Warns Tue, 10/17/2023, 10:24am
To: debraJames

Hello Debra, or James, or whoever you are.
Go get a job. You wouldn't want someone to defraud you, would you? And please do not send this to other people.

Best regards,
Your well-wisher

DJ debraJames Fri, 10/20/2023, 12:48pm
To: Katerina Warns

Thank you for your response
I'm pleased to know you are interested in handling this project. However, I will require your service to translate the attached English document. In the meantime, could you also confirm your charges per page, per source word or for the entire translation? The deadline for this Project is 1 month starting from 22/October/2023. Finally, I'm proposing a cashier's check or bank certified check for the payment. Please do not hesitate to confirm if this is okay with you? I look forward to reading from you soon.
Best Regards.

KW Katerina Warns Fri, 10/20/2023, 1:13pm
To: debraJames

Dear Debra and/or James,

Please feel free to take out a moment and use Google Translate to translate my messages. I would have asked for payment "in kind," but I strongly disapprove of your illegal activities, therefore I have no use for your services, and I am afraid you won't be able to pay me for my labors.
You should really be ashamed of yourselves. However, I appreciate you not asking for my social security number.

Best regards,
Katerina Warns

DJ debraJames Fri, 10/20/2023, 11:26pm
To: Katerina Warns

I quite agree with your price quote and I am willing to pay for your service. This project is a research paper being sponsored for a seminar coming up soon, so I would like to make an advance payment or make the full payment so you know you have my job with you but the payment can only be made by CASHIER'S CHECK CHEQUE Or a MONEY ORDER and is Within the US only, do get back to me with the following payment information:

1. Full Name
2. Full Physical Address:
3. Mobile number

Your payment will be prepared once I have the requested details. Payment will be received before you send the document. Get back to me as soon as possible

KW Katerina Warns Mon, 10/23/2023, 7:52am
To: debraJames

Dear Scammers,

I am reporting you to the authorities. To expedite the process, please provide YOUR full name, YOUR address and YOUR mobile number. By the way, you forgot to tell me how much money you were going to send me.

Best regards,
The Vigilant Linguist

Many linguists have received messages like this (to the left), and I hope they immediately identified them as scams.

The scheme is simple: an offer of a translation job and a request for a quote. When the recipient replies, the scammers accept the rate — whatever it is — and ask for the address to mail the check. The check arrives quickly, and it is for an amount that's much higher than the agreed amount. The scammers explain the reason via email and ask the translator to return the difference. The scammers' bank is located on the opposite coast, so it takes about a week for it to clear, and, by the time the check "bounces" or turns out to be fraudulent, the victim has already sent their own money to the scammers!

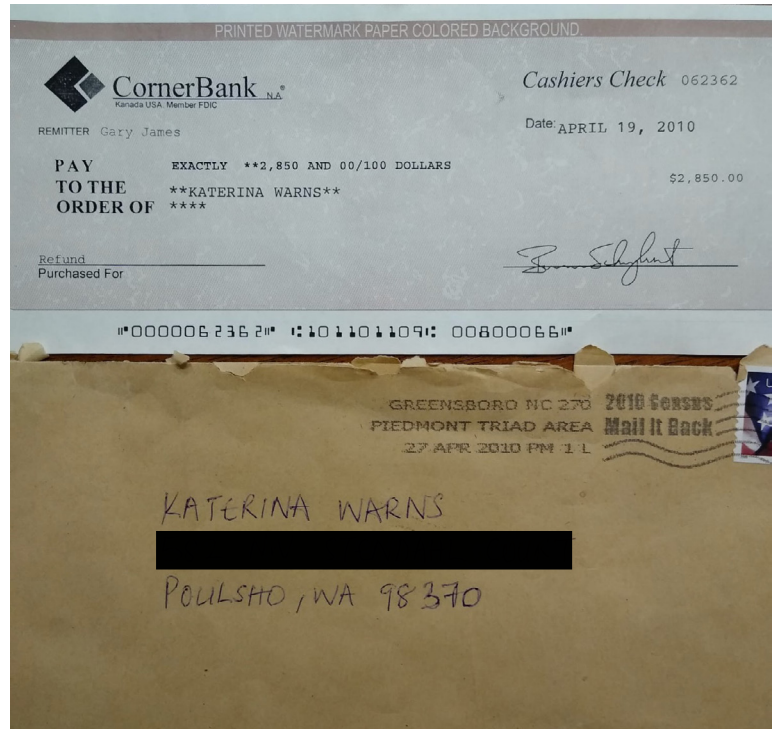
This scheme has been around for a while, but, since it is still in use, there still might be fish getting caught in this net.

I have to confess that I almost fell for it once myself. It happened back in 2010. Believe it or not, there was a volcano eruption in Iceland in the spring of 2010, and my scammer pretended to be at some sort of business event in Iceland. I felt sorry for her getting stuck there and being unable to return to the US, and compassion weakened my defenses. Of course, when I received the check for double the amount we had agreed on, I immediately realized it was a scam and kept the check as souvenir (*see below*). My city is misspelled on the envelope, and there is no return address. On the check, I did not find any water marks. And there is no "Corner

Bank” in “Kanada, USA.”

I showed this 13-year-old check to my bank last week, and the bank said that if I ever receive a check that I am not sure about, they could put a hold on it for a week. If I don't do that and the check doesn't clear, I would be responsible for the fees—not to mention losing money if I were to send the perpetrator “the difference.”

Since then, I have occasionally responded to these lucrative offers, just to have a laugh, but this was the first time I managed to establish a dialogue. It may have been the trigger words I used in my replies. You can see that their responses are unrelated to my messages. Do you think these emails are generated by a computer or by people with very limited command of English who simply follow a script? I wonder why they frequently forget to capitalize their names and use such erratic spacing and punctuation.



Unfortunately, trying to report scams like this is a waste of time. At least I never had any luck when I tried. And in order to get work, we do need to have our names and email addresses in the public domain. Therefore, if you are new to the business or just unsure about an offer you receive, always use your common sense: If it seems too good to be true, be vigilant! If in doubt, consult a colleague. In the meantime, happy translating!
—KATERINA

EPILOGUE: Today I received the following email. Can you count the similarities between this message, from “Cassie jeff,” and the previous thread, from “debraJames”?



Cassie jeff

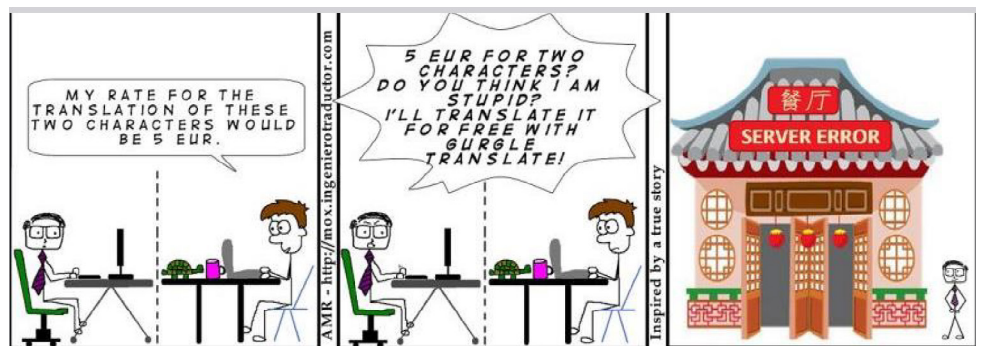
To: Katerina Warns

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I'm contacting you in regard to an English content document worth 11,643 words (44 Pages). I need this document translated into Russian. I would like to know if you are interested and available to get this done for me. Please get back to me as soon as you can. Thankyou.

KATERINA WARNS, a native of Novosibirsk, Russia, is a Russian translator and interpreter. She moved to the U.S. in 1992, and she currently resides on the Kitsap Peninsula. Her passions include volunteering, theater, zumba, and hiking.

For more information on the latest **SCAMS** targeting freelance language professionals and how to protect yourself, [click here & check out our recent post on The Northwest Linguist Blog.](#)





Attendees shuffle in, greeted by board members and volunteers as they collect their conference materials. Can you spot former NOTIS President Larissa Kulinich? Hint: big smile :) Photos by [Jim Meyers](#).



Above: Attendees meet and mingle over coffee, tea, and pastries at the start of the conference. Pictured prominently is Maria Moscoso. Left: NOTIS President Laura Friend gives opening remarks and introduces our 2023 Keynote Speaker, Judy Jenner.



Left: Conference attendees gather in the main theatre for opening remarks and the Keynote Speech — “The Future of T&I” — by Judy Jenner. Right: With President Friend looking on, NOTIS Treasurer Rosemary Nguyen strikes a powerful pose as she introduces the day’s schedule and explains the ‘where’ and the ‘when’ of things.



Thank you to our 2023 Sponsors & Exhibitor*!

[Washington Courts](#), [NAJIT](#), [AMN Healthcare](#), [Academy of Languages](#), [CyraCom](#), [Dynamic Language](#), [Adam's Interpreting](#), & [NW Literary Translators*](#). Not pictured: [Universal Language Service](#), [Seattle Neighborhoods](#), [Washington ILAC](#), & [Greenleaf Psychology](#) 🙏





Hear ye! Hear ye!

Updates from NOTIS's Legal, Translation,
& Community Interpreting Divisions

COMMUNITY INTERPRETERS DIVISION (CID)

Thank you to the NOTIS community for making 2023 the most robust in the history of the Community Interpreting Division (CID)!

To date this year, we've had 30 live online trainings covering 19 different topics. Some topics saw such great demand that we brought them back for multiple encore presentations, including: Ethics Jeopardy!, Interpreting for Post-Partum Care, Interpreting for Psychosocial Evaluations, and Diabetes for Medical Interpreters. While primarily medically focused, the CID also hosted a webshop called Interpreting for IEPs and Beyond: The Role of Social Service Interpreters in Schools. Additionally, we increased our on-demand offerings, now with five topics available for immediate watch-and-learn!



In the coming year, the CID is looking to provide trainings on subjects that we haven't yet covered and offer even more classes in the on-demand format. If you would like to participate in planning or provide training, please get in touch with our committee!

LEGAL DIVISION

Hard to believe that we will be welcoming 2024 in just a few weeks! It has been a wonderful 2023, hectic but, again, so fulfilling. We got to see many of our colleagues, and we all continued adjusting to the new hybrid mode. Little by little!



Our Annual ITD Conference was a big success thanks to all the awesome presenters and attendees. Special shout-out to retired King County Judge Mark Chow for his stellar presentation on working with court interpreters.

On a different note, the launch of our 101 Series was triumphant with two sessions so far (and more to come): DUI 101 and Dependency 101, both available now for on-demand viewing. The 101 Sessions are webinars presented by experts on very specific topics in the field aimed at providing interpreters with a deeper understanding of these subjects. The goal is to give interpreters the tools to find the best options to translate specialized legal terminology and expressions, especially when an equivalent term is not available in the target language. Stay tuned for our new 2024 continuing education calendar. Lots of interesting workshops coming up!

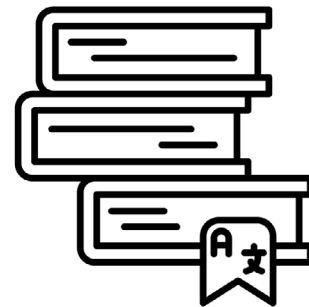
TRANSLATION DIVISION

Throughout 2023, the Translation Division organized remote workshops on productivity and subtitling and held in-person presentations for translators at the annual conference. Those covered terminology research, CAT tools, translation working environments (digital), ergonomics and health, and human translation in the age of MT and GPT.

Several events are already on the calendar for 2024 on topics ranging from editing and medical terminology to Biblical references in translation. We will also explore “how to be a translator or interpreter and not go broke.” 🤔 Other events in the works include a presentation on scholarly translation, an ASTM standards update, and a how-to session on publishing book translations in all subject areas.

[The Northwest Literary Translators](#), a subsection of the Translation Division, met online or in person every month during 2023 for workshops, discussions, and celebrations focused on the business and art of literary translation. Members sold copies of books they’d translated, spoke on panels at NOTIS’s International Translation Day conference, and represented the Pacific Northwest at two important national events: the AWP Book Fair in March in Seattle, and the [ALTA](#) conference in Tucson in November — where we were proud to be one of the largest organized groups from a particular geographical area in attendance! In 2024, NWLitTrans will continue a renewed focus on members’ published work by promoting their books on [our Bookshop.org page](#) and by advertising and supporting visiting author events in Seattle.

Together, we aim to offer programming that covers a broad array of fields and specializations within translation. If you have an idea for a workshop, reading, presentation, or panel, we would love to hear from you!



Read about NOTIS’s Committees & Divisions (and how to get in touch): notisnet.org/Committees-and-Divisions

Check out our Events Calendar: notisnet.org/NOTIS-events

Want to propose an event or volunteer to join a NOTIS division or committee? Email info@notisnet.org

NOTIS EVENTS ON DEMAND

Watch the recordings at a discount & earn continuing education credits!

INTERPRETING PEDIATRIC VACCINES – PAST AND PRESENT

presented by Sara Greenlee, MA, CT

INTERPRETING FOR INFANT & PREGNANCY LOSS

presented by Marisa Rueda

SUBTITLING 101 – THE ART AND SCIENCE OF GOOD SUBTITLES

presented by Tiina Kinnunen

A SEAT AT THE TABLE: EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT TUBE FEEDING

presented by Sara Greenlee, MA, CT, and Megan Greenlee, RD, CDN

INTERPRETING FOR WELL VISITS

presented by Eliana Lobo

WHAT YOU NEED TO SUCCEED AS A VIDEO REMOTE INTERPRETER

presented by Eliana Lobo

DUI 101 (PART OF THE LEGAL DIVISION’S “101 SERIES”)

presented by Raymond Ejarque, Attorney at Law

NOTIS began recording select webshops and offering them on demand in December of 2022. From the comfort of your own home, and on your own schedule, you can watch these valuable webshops at a reduced price and earn continuing education credits just the same! Course details [HERE](#), on our Events Calendar.

I Want To Go Back To A Long Time Ago...

Original poetry by A Hua / 阿华

Translated into English

by Kathy Z. Fan & Xuelan Su



I Want To Go Back To A Time Long Ago

I want to go back to a time long ago. Houses of mud.
Neighbors like family.
Storing cabbages in the fall. Getting snowed-in in winter.

I want to go back to a time long ago. A time of kindness.
New frost on old tiles.
Magpies* lead the way. Twilight invites people to the water's edge.

I want to go back to a time long ago. With a crescent moon
hovering over the backcountry
its shadow kissing the compound walls,
good feelings and good-will flourish once again.

In a cloud of mist we stop to rest, two people helping each other
find their way.

* In Chinese culture, magpies symbolize joy and good luck.

我想回到多年以前

我想回到多年以前，房子由泥土建造
邻居与邻居亲如家人
秋天存储白菜，冬天大雪封门

我想回到多年以前，岁月仁慈
瓦旧霜新

喜鹊负责引路，暮色把人们带到码头

我想回到多年以前，月亮半弯
等在旷野

影子吻过墙体，又长出茂盛的心事

我们雾中歇马，是两个彼此问路的人

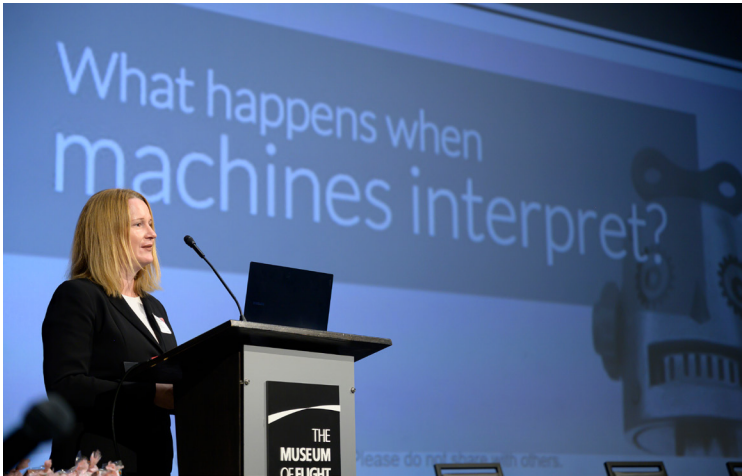
About the poet: A HUA, born Wang Xiaohua, is a female poet from Weihai, in Shandong province (northern China). Her poetry has appeared in such publications as The People's Literature, Poetry Magazine, Mountain Flowers, Flying Apsaras, and October. Her poems have been included in various anthologies, and she has published several collections of poetry, including *Cattails* (2016) and *What Makes My Heart Swell* (2021) through Shandong Publishing House. A Hua participated in Poetry Magazine's 25th Youth Poetry Conference. She is a student of the 31st Advanced Research Class of the Lun Xun Academy and a contract writer for the Shandong Writers' Association.

About the translators: PRISCILLA SCHULZ (pen name: Su Xuelan) is a lifelong lover of poetry and student of the Chinese language. During the pandemic, reading A Hua in virtual meetings with friends was a source of connection and inspiration. While A Hua is an award-winning poet, widely published in China, she is almost unknown beyond its borders. The depth, beauty, and relevance of her poetry inspired Xuelan to work towards sharing it, by way of translation, with the Chinese diaspora and the English-speaking poetry world.

KATHY Z. FAN (Fan Ziying) is a 2019 Princeton University graduate. There, she focused on 19th Century French literature but also worked with classical and contemporary Chinese texts. Kathy has translated brochures and educational materials between English and Chinese for nonprofit organizations in Vancouver, BC, and she currently works as a software engineer for Google. She joined Xuelan as co-translator in 2021, and they have been working together on A Hua's poetry — of which they're both in awe — ever since.

MORE SNAPSHOTS FROM #NOTIS2023

The NW Literary Translators discuss publishing translations. Panelists: Shelley Fairweather-Vega, Takami Nieda, Lola Rogers, & Zakiya Hanafi.



Above left: Judy Jenner delivers her keynote presentation. Above right: Attendees (L-R) Richard Watts, Kenneth Barger, Natalia Rivera, Maria Moscoso, and Trinidad Valenzuela (panelist). Below left: NOTIS Board Members (L-R) Yoseph Petros, Laura Friend, Deirdre Ruth-Murano, Yasemin Alptekin, Rosemary Nguyen, Yvonne Simpson, Kay Heikkinen, Katerina Warns, and Howard Chou strike a pose in the Museum of Flight beneath the hovering planes.



Attendees listen intently to the morning's presentations. In focus above are past NOTIS President Caitilin Walsh, Arwen Dewey, and Milena Calderari-Waldron. Below, all smiles, sits Kay Heikkinen.



Left: Lindsay Bentsen and Mary McKee (presenter) applaud at the close of the keynote speech.

All photos of the 2023 NOTIS Conference were taken by professional Seattle photographer Jim Meyers. Find him online at vertizonphoto.com.





The NW Literary Translators take on ALTA! Left: Katie, Zakiya, Kay, Shelley, Mia, Arwen, Lola, & Radhika. Right: A panel on Scholarly Translation with Shelley Fairweather-Vega, Alta Price, Lisa Dillman, & Zakiya Hanafi

OTHER NOTIS EVENTS IN 2023



Above: Caitilin Walsh, Laura Friend, Yasemin Alptekin, Pinar Mertan, Tim Gregory, and Howard Chou at the NOTIS Annual Picnic. Right: Translator Allison A. DeFreese poses with Carolina Esses, the author of her latest translation ([Entre Ríos Books](#)). Below: German literary translators Melody Winkle, Jost Zetzsche (host), Aaron Carpenter, and Mandy Olson face off in NOTIS's Fourth Annual Translation Slam; Translator Lola Rogers joins author Juhani Karila to discuss the recently released *Fishing for the Little Pike*; In a traditional Russian costume, Katerina Warns performs a dance set to a Russian folk song.



Left & first right: NWLitTrans at the AWP Book Fair! Zakiya, Lola, & Dominique Hoffman "woman" the table (L) while Katie King (R) shows off her ALTA raffle winnings — two hands-full of translated books! Right: Mari Wilson performs a Kabuki dance at the Annual Holiday Party.



Latin America Is Not a Monolith

BY ROMINA ESPINOSA, EDITED BY GLENDA CARELHUE

In interpreting, as in any other field, it is important to bear in mind that no racial or ethnic group is a monolith. Each country and region contain distinct and nuanced complexities, just as every patient is a fresh and unique case deserving of specifically tailored understanding and care. One should take ample precaution not to over-generalize or pigeonhole any group. As a cornerstone of identity, details of cultural heritage should play a key role in any conversation about healthcare access and patient care.

I grew up in Peru, a conservative, predominantly Catholic country. Racism, corruption, and poverty are harsh realities of life

in Peru, alongside disparities in education and healthcare access. Nevertheless, my childhood was sweet. My parents, maternal grandmother, and I loved our family time and driving to destinations outside of Lima in my dad's classic Volkswagen Beetle. When



it came to other Spanish accents, I was most often exposed to those from the Southern Cone countries: Chile and Argentina. I watched Chilean and Argentinian television channels, such as TV Chile and Telefe. I would also occasionally tune into TV Globo, a Brazilian network. I did not understand much Portuguese, but I was curious about it. Peruvians are quite influenced by the music of Brazil, and my mother would often play Brazilian music at home.

My parents' decision to move my mother and me — a young girl at the time — to a new country would change my life forever. My father waited many years to emigrate, so I was alone with my mother for a time. I felt a sense of duty to both my parents: I had to focus on doing well in school. Being a good student and a good daughter was the least I could do to help my hard-working mother; I could not waste time messing around. I had dreams to accomplish, even though it wasn't clear what they were at the time. Immigrating to the United States at a young age made me resilient. I was an uprooted tree that had been transplanted abruptly to a new land. I had to learn English and

devise a path to college, all the while navigating the many intricacies of that process in a country completely foreign to me.

In the United States, my ear gradually adapted to different accents from other Spanish-speaking countries. One wonderful aspect about life in the United States is that it exposes you to a level of diversity not readily found elsewhere. I was fascinated by Spanish usages — from regionalisms to accents — that varied depending on the speaker's country of origin. When my mother and I lived in Florida, I fine-tuned my ear to the Spanish of Cuba and Puerto Rico. When we later moved to California, my ear became accustomed to the Spanish of my Mexican classmates in public school. They did not always understand my Peruvian Spanish, so I became adept at learning the words and expressions they used to communicate their thoughts and ideas.

My childhood memories resurface now, years later, as the need for the interpreter to be well-versed in swear words, both for accuracy and competency, becomes apparent. I never quite got the hang of my classmates' slang or profanity, since it was not something I heard in my home environment, but its relevance to my vocation is increasingly felt. For example, I recently found myself in a situation in which I had to interpret: *¡Cuántas pinches preguntas!* (So many f-ing questions!), when a patient became frustrated about being asked multiple medical history questions by a nurse gathering information for his palliative care. Perhaps this calls for a course on interpreting profanity from all over Latin America!

Not long ago, I interpreted for a patient at a new hospital in Southern California. After arriving on the main floor, I checked in as the interpreter. I did not yet know the name of the patient I would be interpreting for that day. After a good twenty minutes, a patient arrived and proceeded to check in. When I heard him speak (in Spanish), I knew immediately that he was from Peru. I thought to myself, "Peruvian! I hardly get to hear this Spanish accent!" To my delight, it turned out he was the patient who would need my interpreting services that day.

I introduced myself as the interpreter, conducted the pre-session, and joined a neurologist in the next room. The neurologist asked the patient questions about his diet and discussed the importance of eating healthy foods to control his diabetes, mentioning that *sopes* and *tortillas* were fine to eat and that a Mediterranean diet is always a healthy

choice. The patient responded that he did not eat tortillas and wanted to know what sopes were. (I was also at a loss, but a quick internet search revealed it to be a dish consisting of a fried masa base with savory toppings, traditional in Mexico but as foreign to the Peruvian palate as *borscht*.)

Latin American food is as diverse as its people or its spectrum of Spanish expression, all three influenced by the various indigenous cultures that lived in the Americas for millennia prior to European conquest. Growing up as an immigrant in the United States, maintaining my sense of identity—my “Peruvianness”—meant not only speaking Peruvian Spanish in my intimate private sphere, with my mother, but also eating traditional Peruvian recipes such as *lomo saltado*, *ají de gallina*, and *papa a la huancaína*. The



food I ate and the language I spoke were intricately and inextricably linked with how I moved through and negotiated the world, and I can't imagine anyone having a full picture of me without this recognition.

I could see the surprise in the eyes of the neurologist — the patient was genuinely unfamiliar with the word — but she made no reference to her assumption that the patient was Mexican. This assumption, while seemingly minor, served to erase an entire aspect of the patient's identity and box him into the doctor's limited understanding of Latin America and its complex reality.

Latin America represents a broad and rich tapestry of cultural heritage, with individuals and customs as diverse as the geographies from which they hail. Understanding variations in the customs and traditions of such a land mass can be a lifelong endeavor. I am a Peruvian interpreter who has been practicing the profession since 2017. Still today, in the autumn of 2023, I am constantly learning new things with each new assignment that challenges me to extract value from what I read, observe, and put into practice.

While I cannot fault the doctor for not being more informed about the diversity of Latin American culture, people, and languages, the experience highlighted for me the necessity for better cultural sensitivity training and greater inclusivity in the American workplace, in addition to the pitfalls of making assumptions. While a minor incident, it is indicative of the way that underrepresented populations can be overlooked and fall through the cracks of an under-

staffed, overstrained healthcare system that is forced to treat patients in an impersonal and streamlined manner. In intimate decisions, such as those about health, culture and language can become a barrier to access, or, when decoded, an interface that can facilitate good and compassionate care. I look forward to the day when conversations about geography and culture are just as valued in healthcare settings as conversations about medical history.



Photo captions, in descending order:

- *An instant photo print of Romina in front of Lima's cathedral in the nineties, taken & sold as a souvenir by a street photographer.*
- *Lomo saltado, prepared by Romina's father. A favorite family dish!*
- *Christmas time in the USA. Romina (top left) and family at the local neighborhood library.*

Romina Espinosa (Lima, Peru) is a Spanish<>English interpreter, translator, and creative writer. She received a BA in International Studies from UC San Diego and an MA in Gender & Diversity Studies from the University of Oviedo in Spain. Ms. Espinosa has been offering her language services to direct clients and boutique language agencies since 2017. She also works as an in-house certified medical interpreter at UC San Diego Health. In her spare time, Romina (a five-time marathoner) enjoys nature runs, selecting fresh produce for a new recipe, and painting with acrylics.

Glenda Carelhue is a freelance editor based in New York City. She received a BA in Literature & Creative Writing from UC San Diego, an MA in Education from USC, and spent four years teaching mathematics in San Francisco and London. Ms. Carelhue offers editorial services through her independent business, Brass Falon Editing. She is also a top-rated editor on the freelancing platform, Upwork, and completes medical review for the online editing service, Proofed. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, writing, studying medicinal herbalism, and watching old movies.



Happy
Holidays,



NW Linguists!

A joyful capture from the ugly sweater competition at our Annual Holiday Party! Pictured participants include, from left to right: Yvonne Simpson, Yuliya Speroff, Katerina Warns, Zakiya Hanafi, Cristina Bravo de Rueda, and Kay Heikkinen. And the winner — donning a truly cat-tastic jumpsuit — was 🐱🐱 Zakiya Hanafi!

Engage with NOTIS on Social Media

LINKEDIN

[NW Translators &
Interpreters Society](#)

INSTAGRAM

[@nw_translators
interpreters](#)

TWITTER (“X”)

[@notis_net](#)

FACEBOOK

[@NOTISnet](#)

VOLUNTEER WITH NOTIS

How, you ask?! You can propose — and/or offer to host — an in-person event or webinar, join a committee, and even put your colloquial hat in the ring for the NOTIS Board of Directors. Send any and all inquiries to Naomi Uchida, our devoted Office Manager, at info@notisnet.org.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Want to share your work in a NOTIS publication? An article, an anecdote, an industry update, a comic, a translation? We accept submissions all year round! Check out [this blog post](#) to learn more about what we’re looking for and contact Brianna Salinas with any questions at social@notisnet.org.

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THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF OUR COMMUNITY!