

Curriculum Vitae

Personal information

Name / Surname **Karen Elaine Whittle**
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Nationality British - Italian
Date of birth 11 June 1974
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Occupational field Translation Italian>English – language and copyediting (English) – teaching English as a foreign language – translation training
Sole proprietor of the firm Whittling Words – Scolpire parole

Work experience

Dates Since 2000
Occupation Translator Italian>English – language/copy editor (English)
Sectors of specialization *Translations and language/copy editing in the following main sectors:*
academic research, architecture, art, cinema, food, history, journalism, literature, oenology, pedagogy, philosophy, political and social science, tourism, town planning, web sites.
Clients past and present *Work with academics from the following universities:*
Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna; École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris; Universidad de Granada; Università degli Studi della Basilicata; Università degli Studi di Bergamo; Università degli Studi di Cagliari; Università degli Studi di Firenze; Università degli Studi di Milano; Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca; Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza"; Università degli Studi di Salerno; Università degli Studi di Sassari; Università degli Studi di Trieste; Università degli Studi di Udine; Università degli Studi di Verona; Università della Svizzera Italiana; Università di Camerino; Università di Pisa; Università di Torino; Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele; Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona; Université de Fribourg.
Texts published with the following publishers, among others:
Axis Axis; Brill; Cartography; De Gruyter; Editori dell'Acero; Edizioni Blurb/Pamphlet; Edizioni Gli Ori; Edizioni Il Ponte; Edizioni Sabinae; Forma Edizioni; FUP; Fw:Books; Giangiacomo Feltrinelli Editore; Hannibal; Humboldt; Mondadori Electa; Nationhood; Palgrave Macmillan; Polistampa; Routledge; Rowman & Littlefield; Schwabe Verlag; Skirà; Springer; Yard Press.
Other institutional clients:
CNR-IRPPS (National Research Council – Institute of Research on the Population and Social Policies); Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia (Rome); Fondazione Oasis (Milan); Forum per i Problemi della Pace e della Guerra (Florence); IRPET (Regional Institute for Economic Planning of Tuscany, Florence); Istituto di Studi Germanici (Rome).
Art galleries:
All Around Art (Milan); Building (Milan); Fondazione AGO (ex-FMAV, Modena); Galleria il Ponte (Florence).
Other clients:
Ubi Maior s.r.l.; Welfood s.r.l.

Association membership

Dates	February 2013 –
Membership title and involvement	Qualified member of the Italian Association of Translators and Interpreters (AITI), no. 213011, literary translator of non-fiction National chair since 2025; Chair of the AITI Tuscany branch 2021–2025; secretary of AITI Tuscany 2017–2021; member of the AITI Tuscany Continual Training Committee 2014–2017. Second delegate of CEATL (European Council of Literary Translators' Associations) since 2025. Coordinator of CoNTE, the AITI national committee of literary translators 2023–2025; member of CoNTE 2021–2025. AITI exam marker for the Italian>English language pair.

Other work experience

Dates	From 1997
Occupation	Trainer and teacher of translation and English as a foreign language
Main activities and responsibilities	6 March 2024, LEND webinar with Sara Morselli, "Artificial Intelligence, Enemy or Ally? Thoughts and Reflections from Translation to Teaching. AI and Literary Translation". Seminars on writing in English for the academic sector: 28 September 2019, AITI Tuscany, "Academic Texts. How to Tackle the Translation (and the Relations with the Public Administration)". 18 March 2014, School of Architecture, University of Florence, "The Concepts of Town Planning between Italian and English: Problems and Challenges". 11 March 2014, School of Architecture, University of Florence, "The Problem of Language in the International Dissemination of Knowledge". 19 February 2014, Department of History, Archaeology, Geography, Fine and Performing Arts, University of Florence, "Writing in English: How to Face the Challenge", for History PhD students. Teaching and organizing courses of general English to students of all levels from beginners to advanced, adults and children, group courses, individual lessons. Preparation for Cambridge exams from KET to Proficiency. Business English in the pharmaceutical (Gruppo Menarini, Eli Lilly), hotel (Grand Hotel, Florence), finance (Findomestic, Deutsche Bank) and engineering sectors (Nuovo Pignone). Name of employer 2024–2025: Scuolaoltre, C1 online course for secondary-school teachers, Liceo Pigafetta, Vicenza. 2017–2020: Courses for Coop supermarket employees, Montespertoli, Florence. 2016–2018: Consorzio Turistico Terre di Leonardo e Boccaccio e Colline del Chianti s.r.l. at Museo del Vino, Montespertoli, Florence – courses for children. 2009–2015: Immacolata Concezione Nursery School, Montespertoli, Florence. 2006–2016: Coop21 at I Lecci Cultural Centre, Montespertoli, Florence – courses for children. 2004–2005: R. Fucini middle school, Montespertoli, Florence. 2003–2005: TES, Empoli; Consorzio Chianti Classico, Sant'Andrea in Percussina, Florence. 2000–2003: Lexis, Florence. 1999–2000: Live Language Centre, Florence. 1997–1999: Studio Lingua, S. Croce sull'Arno, Pisa.

Education and training Continuing professional development courses	<p>2025: AITI Translating Europe Workshop, Turin, on AI and translation in a profession at a crossroads; AITI webinar: Reinventing your translation business in a changing world.</p> <p>2024: FIT Europe conference, Budapest: FIT for Market – Thriving in the Age of AI Perspectives from Professional Associations, Universities and the Industry; CEATL, Strasbourg: European Conference on Literary Translation; AITI Saint Jerome's Day event on language and freedom and the restrictions of grammar; AITI seminar on translating contemporary art; AITI webinars on UX writing; generative artificial intelligence and LLMs; Excel.</p> <p>2023: AITI Saint Jerome's Day event on translating poetry; AITI webinars on post-editing strategies for NMT; shortcuts and other work optimization strategies; literary translators' negotiating techniques; the European copyright directive; sport neologisms.</p> <p>2022: AITI seminar on translating non-fiction; AITI webinar time management.</p> <p>2021: AITI webinars on LinkedIn for language professionals; GDPR; inclusive language; SEO; subtitles; Wordpress.</p> <p>2020: AITI series of IT webinars; InDesign.</p> <p>2019: AITI seminars on neologisms; pensions.</p> <p>2018: AITI seminar on tax for translators.</p> <p>2017: AITI seminar on translation of tourism texts.</p> <p>2015: Proz.com webinar on international law terminology; series of Proz.com webinars on finance sector translation; AITI seminar on translating the news.</p> <p>2014: La Giornata del Traduttore, day-long event for translators, Pisa.</p> <p>2013: AITI seminars on literary translation; marketing for translators.</p>
	<p>2012: STL Formazione seminar on literary translation.</p> <p>2011: Proz.com beginners and advanced webinars on Wordfast; Proz.com conference in Rome.</p> <p>2002: AITI seminar on localization; Spanish language course.</p> <p>2000: German language course, Vienna.</p> <p>1999: Trados CAT tool.</p>
Vocational training	<p>1997: CELTA certificate for teaching English as a foreign language, grade B, Hammersmith and West London College, London.</p>
Higher education	<p>1992–1996: BA Hons in Italian and English, grade 2.i, Exeter University, UK.</p> <p>Main course contents: culture, history, linguistics, literature, machine translation, philology, translation.</p>
Secondary school	<p>1992: A Level French (A), Maths (Statistics) (A), General Studies (B), German (B). AS Level Business Studies (B).</p> <p>1990: GCSE English Literature (A), French (A), German (A), History (A), Physics (A), Art (B), English Language (B), Music (B).</p> <p>1989: GCSE Maths (A).</p> <p>Kirkham Grammar School, UK.</p>
Personal skills and competences	
Mother tongue	English
Other languages	Italian C2; German C1; French B2; Spanish A2
Social skills	In association management roles, ability to listen and show openness to other people's opinions while balancing kindness and rigour, as well as ability to arouse enthusiasm and create the conditions for constructive dialogue. Creating excellent customer relations and dialogue in order to supply the best possible product in terms of understanding of the source text and quality of the target text. Interaction with authors and openness to suggestions and observations. Experience as cultural intermediary accompanying Iraqi professors on behalf of the Department of Education and Psychology, University of Florence, Nov/Dec 2015.
Organizational skills	Working in teams to deal with the everyday running of AITI, association with 1,200 members divided into 12 regional branches. Ability to delegate. Organizing online and in-person meetings, training sessions, events to promote the association and networking events. Supervising and guiding groups of people in the capacity of teacher and team leader. Efficient organization of workload and time management to achieve good work-life balance. Ability to deal with tight deadlines.
Computer skills	Adobe Acrobat, Chrome, DeepL, Excel, Gmail, PowerPoint, Slack, Thunderbird, Windows, Word, Wordfast, Zoom.

Other skills	Research skills in specific fields of translation, in particular in the academic sector, using the Internet and book resources to look for quotations and further investigate the context. Top attention to contents and language details, also drawing on past teaching experience. Accustomed to following different editorial guidelines. Experience in building a book index. Ability to stimulate interest in learning English by creating captivating activities and teaching methods.
Driving licence	Category B
Additional information	<p><i>Other work experience:</i> bank clerk at Barclays and Abbey National banks, UK, 1996–1997; au pair/English teacher, Austria, 1995; Sunday school teacher, 1987–1990; cricket scorer, 1988–1990.</p> <p><i>Volunteering:</i> AITI; parents' class representative R. Fucini middle school, Montespertoli, Florence, 2017–2019; E. Fermi secondary school, Empoli, Florence, 2020–2023.</p> <p><i>Hobby:</i> playing the piano.</p>
Annexes	<u>List of works</u>

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