

## Meet the Team: Germán and Constanza of *El ojo de la luna*

[Reposted from [Ivan Obolensky's blog](#).]

The process of translating *Eye of the Moon* into Latin American Spanish (*El ojo de la luna*) involved the work of several people. In this post I am delighted to introduce you to the translator and editor through an interview by Smith-Obolensky Media.

(Esta entrevista también está [en español](#).)

Germán González Correa, Translator

### **Tell us about your experience when you read *Eye of the Moon*.**

After translating Ivan's monthly articles for several years, which covered different and often unexpected subjects, reading his novel was astounding. In the articles, I saw his ability to connect scientific, historical, linguistic, and economic elements with his own imaginative ideas, so in reading his fictional work I discovered yet another facet of the author that surprised me: the depth of the narrative quality that I saw reflected in *Eye of the Moon*.

### **Can you share with us your approach to translating *Eye of the Moon*?**

After addressing the work, first as a reader unfamiliar with the story and then as a translator, I knew I had to undertake the task with a different approach than I had with Ivan's articles. With the novel, I entered a completely new atmosphere, inhabited by people with their own voices, and whose stories and circumstances interact in very special ways. I approached the translation feeling like a guest in that world, letting myself be taken by the author to a universe that he knows and describes very well.

### **What was similar between Ivan's nonfiction and fiction?**

Ivan's attention to research and detail, which I was familiar with in his articles, is also present in the novel and gives it consistency and a solid structure. In other words, the magic, the intrigues, and the supernatural elements that populate the work have a grounding in reality that also served as a compass in my process.

### **Had you translated fiction before?**

Ivan's novel was my first literary translation project. I usually translate technical and historical projects, so this was an extremely rewarding task. I learned a lot in the process, and this experience allowed me to broaden the range of my work.

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Constanza Padilla, Editor

**Tell us about your experience editing Germán's translation of *Eye of the Moon*.**

It was a treat because we were able to team up again. We had worked together on several Spanish editing projects and even did a job translating an art catalog. However, the experience with *Eye of the Moon* was very different. It was Germán's first translation of an entire novel, so we had to work with a methodology that would allow me as an editor to respect Ivan's voice and Germán's. My presence was subtle and with great respect for Germán's translation.

**What made editing *El ojo de la luna* different to your other literary projects?**

This experience as an editor enriched me. I usually work in literary editing from texts written in Spanish, so this project was a double challenge in that I had the author's vision in English and the nuances in the reading of it from the translator. I think the result was exceptionally good, as I felt that Germán was able to imprint both the depth and the tremendous sensitivity of the author to immerse us in a universe rich in plot and character development.

**Is there anything else you would like to share about your work or experience on this literary translation?**

I really enjoyed this project. I learned and navigated several approaches that led me to understand more thoroughly the complexity of language in Latin America. From the hand of Mary Jo Smith-Obolensky I saw the care that allowed the nuances of the translation to be presented for acceptance in several Spanish-speaking countries, beyond just Colombia, where the novel was first distributed in Spanish.

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PS: Germán and Constanza teamed up to translate and edit Book 2, *A la sombra del hijo*.