Lucy Fricke’s *Töchter*: A Translation Road Trip

von *Isabelle Liber* , *María Tellechea* & *Sinéad Crowe*

HOW TO READ THIS JOURNAL

Published to critical acclaim in Germany in 2018, Lucy Fricke’s bestselling novel *Töchter* (Daughters) tells the story of Betty and Martha, best friends staring down the barrel of middle age. Betty’s and Martha’s relationships with their parents are … well, let’s just say it’s complicated. When Martha’s terminally ill father, Kurt, persuades her to take him to a Swiss euthanasia clinic, our three protagonists embark on a darkly funny journey across Europe in Kurt’s battered Golf, a journey where nothing ever goes quite according to plan …

We – Sinéad Crowe, Isabelle Liber and María Tellechea– had the privilege of translating Lucy’s novel (into French, Spanish and English respectively) at roughly the same time and have collaborated on this multilingual issue of the TOLEDO-Journal. As we reflected on our experiences of translating this novel, it struck us that like Lucy’s protagonists, we had undertaken a journey of sorts, albeit one that unfolded mostly behind our PC screens.

In the map below, the rough outline of the route followed by Lucy’s characters symbolizes our “road trip” as translators. We invite you to come along for the ride, clicking on the pins to read about some of the translation breakthroughs and breakdowns we experienced along the way.

Ready? As Kurt says: “Right, let’s go!”

HOW TO READ THIS JOURNAL

Clicking on each pin in the map above will open an article in a new tab. Underneath each article, you'll find the words "Drive on". Clicking on this will bring you to the next "pit stop" in our road trip. But our articles don't have to be read in any particular order; feel free to zoom in and out and move around however

you like!

STOPS ALONG THE WAY

1. THE JOURNEY BEGINS
2. A ROADMAP TO A TRANSLATION
3. AND SHE LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER AND DID LOTS AND LOTS OF TRANSLATIONS ...
4. MUSICA! OUR *DAUGHTERS* PLAYLIST
5. A MEETING TO FIND THE RIGHT PET NAME: MINUTES
6. THE MARZAHN PROBLEM
7. THE FIRST-PERSON NARRATOR
8. SNACKS FOR THE JOURNEY
9. A FIELD TRIP TO THE OASE
10. TRANSLATORS ON THE ROAD
11. THIS IS NOT A DONKEY
12. TRANSLATING HUMOUR
13. TRANSLATING *TUSSI*
14. WHEN WE'RE *TUSSIS*
15. TRANSLATING DURING A PANDEMIC
16. LISTEN CAREFULLY
17. THE DISAPPEARING ACT
18. LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!
19. FAMILY STRIFE
20. JOURNEY'S END
21. THE MAKING OF THIS *TOLEDO* ISSUE

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#Roadtrip

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https://www.toledo-programm.de/journale/3965/lucy-fricke-s-toechter-a-translation-road-trip
Stand: 29.03.2024
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