

# BOOKS AND IDEAS PODCAST

*with Ginger Campbell, MD*

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## Episode #10

### **An Interview with Author Kirk McElhearn: An American Living in France**

Aired April 15, 2007

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#### INTRODUCTION

This is [Books and Ideas](#), and I'm your host, Dr. Ginger Campbell. This is the companion podcast for my other podcast, the [Brain Science Podcast](#). On *Books and Ideas* I talk about ideas from the books you wish you had time to read. We talk about science, history, philosophy, science fiction, and everything in between.

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This is Episode 10 of *Books and Ideas: An American Living in France*. Today I have an interview with author, [Kirk McElhearn](#). Kirk is the author of [iPod & iTunes Garage](#), and co-author of [How to do Everything with Mac OS Tiger](#). He also wrote [Podcasting Pocket Guide](#). And he has been a co-author and writer of numerous other books and articles, mostly about Macintosh computers.

Don't worry; I haven't turned this into a Mac podcast. The reason that I'm interviewing Kirk is because, although he's originally from New York, he's been living in France for over 20 years. And I thought that it would be interesting to learn what it's really like to live in a foreign country for a long time.

The way Kirk and I met was that he sent me an email about my other podcast, the [Brain Science Podcast](#). He gave me some feedback about my comments regarding how hard it is to learn a second language. So, this is one of the topics that we're going to talk about in today's podcast.

If you're new to *Books and Ideas* I have to mention that this is not a typical episode. Usually I do a discussion of a specific book, or talk to an author about a specific book. This conversation is a little bit more informal. It turned out that when I did this interview with Kirk we didn't get around to talking about everything I originally had in mind, but I hope you will enjoy the conversation.

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## INTERVIEW

**Ginger:** I want to welcome Kirk McElhearn to *Books and Ideas*. Thank you for being on my podcast, Kirk.

**Kirk:** Thanks for having me, Ginger.

**Ginger:** We have been exchanging emails and realizing we have a lot of common interests. And I was really wanting to have you on the podcast because I'm curious about what it's like to live in Europe for a prolonged period of time. I've never spent more than a week at a time over there. Could you tell me first of all about where you live now and what it's like?

**Kirk:** I live in a small town in the southern Alps in France. It's called [Guillestre](#). It's a town of about 2000 people. We're at about 1000 meters altitude—so that's about 3500 feet. It's a beautiful mountainous area. Anyone who follows the Tour de France will have seen this area, because I live on a road that goes up to one of the mountain passes that they take every couple of years.

It's an interesting area, because there are a couple of small ski resorts about a half-hour from the town, and it's a very nice area in summer. So, while there are no big tourist attractions, there is a fair amount of people who do come through here, both in summer and in winter. Not too many to make it annoying, but enough to keep life interesting.

**Ginger:** How did you originally end up going to France? Was it something you always wanted to do?

**Kirk:** Well, let's see. The short version is simply, I grew up in New York City, and New York City, being the greatest city in the world, is hard to leave. But there was a time about 22 years ago when I just felt like I wanted a change. Now, I was only 25 at the time. I was pretty young.

But I had been working in corporate jobs for several years. And one year I made enough money to be able to take a year off to travel. And I mentioned it to a friend of mine and he, too, wanted to take a year and just hang out some place. And so, we found a house for rent in the south of France, and we came for a year.

After that year I met the woman who I married a little bit later, and my other friend stayed and studied linguistics at a university in Paris. And I just never went back. I mean I've been back for visits, but never went back to live.

**Ginger:** You told me in one of your early emails that you felt it wasn't as challenging, necessarily, to learn a second language as I might have thought. So, what about your experience in learning French? Did you know any French when you went over the first time?

**Kirk:** Yes. That's one of the reasons that I originally emailed you. It was the show where you mentioned language learning being difficult after adolescence. And you mentioned that [Steven Pinker](#) said that. And I pointed out that I'm a case in point, like many other people. I came to France when I was 25. Now, I

did have three years of high school French. This was in the 1970s. It's probably about the same as three years of high school French today—that is, not much.

But I'd always been interested in French literature and cinema, and it so happened that I was working very close to the [French Institute](#) in New York, and decided to sign up for evening classes. So, I took about a year of classes at the French Institute before I made this decision to come spend some time in France. And when I came here I thought I could basically speak French well enough to order from menus and buy train tickets.

I was very surprised, because I ended up in the south of France. Now, people who don't speak the language and have been here won't notice, but people in southern France speak with what can be a very strong accent. It's similar to the difference between northern, New England U.S. English and southern U.S. English.

So, I remember the first day getting off the train down there and trying to find how to get to the house I had rented. And people started talking to me, and I just didn't understand a single thing they were saying. I finally found some people who were understanding, and immediately recognized that I was a foreigner, and spoke more slowly and more clearly.

But once you're immersed in a culture and a language, learning the language is not at all the same as when you're taking classes an hour or two a week, or whatever method you use to learn on your own. You simply have no choice. It's a question of survival. You learn. You don't have a choice; you just learn.

**Ginger:** So, immersion is really the key. Which I guess isn't all that different from what happens to you when you're a baby first learning how to talk.

**Kirk:** Well, it's very similar. And both first language acquisition and second language acquisition look at those things. The main difference, I would say, is

that when you're a baby you're learning things progressively as your brain is progressing. As you learn to see, as you learn to feel and touch things, you're learning what they're called. And you have plenty of time to do it. And there are absolutely no demands on you.

When you're an adult you're in a very fragile psychological position. I mean I was 25 years old, an adult, able to express myself intelligently on a number of subjects, and yet when I spoke French I talked about as well as a second-grader. So, psychologically it can be very, very difficult and frustrating, to want to say so many things but to not be able to say them.

**Ginger:** When you first got there did you have any trouble actually just getting yourself to talk? Because every time I've ever been someplace, my biggest obstacle is I can't even get the first word out.

**Kirk:** Well, there are two things. One is that some people can't get the first word out just because they're so worried about making mistakes. And the other is that they just don't have enough to say. Since I had taken these classes at the French Institute, there was a lot of conversation. And the teachers that I had were good in that they would let people speak without interrupting them and correcting every tiny little mistake. So, no, I had no problem. And, you know, when you're hungry, you just have to speak.

**Ginger:** Good point!

**Kirk:** I remember learning some words—for instance I had to go see a dentist—well, you just have to learn how to express yourself, and to say what hurts and how it hurts and where it hurts. Again, you just don't have a choice. You're confronted with a number of situations, which may be, I don't know, bureaucracy—you have to go get papers, or something—so you have to explain things.

At the time, finding French people who spoke English well enough wasn't that easy. It's much easier now. There's been a major shift in the way today's generation of French people views foreign languages. But back then—and particularly, I was in the country in a little village—it was pretty hard to find anyone who could speak English. So, the onus was on me entirely. I really didn't have a choice.

**Ginger:** Is it true that if you get outside of Paris the French are really nice? Even though I guess the people in Paris aren't really any different from the people in New York but, to Americans, just like New Yorkers –

**Kirk:** Well, I have to disagree. I think New Yorkers are among the politest Americans that you'll ever meet. And I don't say that just because I'm a New Yorker. But, it's what other people have always told me—that they've been so astounded that New Yorkers are so friendly.

I don't want to insult anyone, but the French are not among the world's friendliest, most outgoing people. It's true that Parisians are probably more so than others, but I've been in small towns and cities in France where people are just as unfriendly. And I've met some extremely friendly people in Paris.

Again, there's a generational shift. Young people today are learning foreign languages in school. You see, the previous generation was regretting the lack of France's colonial powers that had waned, and was regretting the fact that French was no longer an internationally important language. And partly because of that, they didn't want to learn any languages—especially not English.

Now I have a 16-year-old son. With his generation, everyone does English in high school, and they learn enough to get by, and then they go to university and they learn more. And they're all interested. They see movies and TV shows in English

—maybe with subtitles, but still, they’ll hear the language. It’s a vastly different landscape than when I came here.

**Ginger:** I guess maybe Americans might be sort of going through a little bit of that phase now. You know we have a huge influx of Spanish-speaking people, and there’s a certain subset of people who are resistant to the idea of learning Spanish. They’re like, ‘They should learn how to speak English!’ And I’m thinking I wish could learn how to speak Spanish. I’d rather be able to communicate with them.

**Kirk:** Yes. It’s always a tough question. Because America has a history of immigrants assimilating relatively quickly and learning English. And this new wave has reached critical mass to the point that they don’t necessarily have to. They’ve got social structures that will let them speak Spanish, they’ve got stores where they can speak Spanish, they’ve got TV shows, newspapers, and radio in Spanish.

When I was growing up in New York I had some friends from Central America, Mexico, Columbia, places like that. I guess they were first-generation Americans—their parents came from those countries, and they spoke Spanish at home. And there were maybe a handful of stores where one could speak Spanish. I think there had already been a daily newspaper, *El Diario*, in New York that was in Spanish. But there was no TV. I mean this was pre cable TV. There was no Spanish radio or anything. Now it’s true that there are more opportunities for Spanish people to not speak English.

However, personally I think that’s a shame, because they’ll never fully become citizens in a political manner if they stick to their native language. I’m all in favor of multiculturalism, and I’m certainly not saying that people should give up their native language—quite the contrary. But it’s true that in any culture, even if there’s not an official language (no more than there is an official language in any

European country that I know of) you still need to speak the language of the country in order to be able to function.

**Ginger:** It just is one of those things where people tend to want to think choices have to be ‘either/or’ instead of ‘and’. I mean there’s no reason that we can’t have Spanish and English.

**Kirk:** Exactly! And people are all the richer for having more than one culture in their brains. You know one of the sort of commonplaces is that children shouldn’t be raised bilingually because they won’t learn as quickly, etc. The people who say that obviously don’t know anything about the issue.

Having a bilingual child, and having studied linguistics, this is something I looked into when he was born. And it’s quite the contrary. Children not only are able to learn two, three, even four languages at a time when they’re children, but they tend to have more mental agility when they’re bilingual, trilingual, etc., than monolingual people.

**Ginger:** Last year I had the opportunity to go to Spain. And when we were in the airport in Atlanta waiting for a flight we met a couple that was an American man and a Swedish lady. They had two small children. And the little girl, I think was about five.

They had just spent two weeks or so in South Carolina. And the father was talking about how his little girl was finally getting to where she could actually really communicate in English. But he told us this funny story. You’re a guy, so I don’t know if you remember Pippi Longstocking.

**Kirk:** Sure.

**Ginger:** OK. So, I think Pippi Longstocking was originally written in Swedish.



**Kirk:** Yes, it was.

**Ginger:** Pippi Longstocking was one of this little girl's favorite characters. And so, he said one night he was playing with her, and he was going to do Pippi Longstocking's voice. And she said, 'Daddy, Pippi Longstocking doesn't speak English.'

**Kirk:** Yes! You know raising a child bilingually is actually relatively simple. I remember at the time, I read a whole bunch of books about it—because, again, studying linguistics you tend to think about these things—and it's actually relatively simple. Each parent sticks to their own language. And that's all. And the child sorts it out.

And the child makes a distinction between certain books, or TV shows, or characters like in your situation, and how they're related to one parent or the other. So, if one parent is always telling a story about a particular character, the child might not want the other parent to do so in the other language.

**Ginger:** Yes. I wonder what that says about how our brains work. Well, we see our brains do that all the time.

**Kirk:** Well, you know it's interesting; it says a lot of things about how our brains work. After I got a Master's in applied linguistics I considered staying in academia and doing a PhD in second language acquisition. Because I had a child who was bilingual, and I was seeing how he was acquiring language. And I myself am more or less fully bilingual, and I've learned other languages as well.

And it's extremely interesting how the brain seems to have two separate spaces, almost, for language. I'll notice this, that if I'm talking or thinking in one language, the way I think can actually be different from the other language. In other words, the underlying thought processes seem to be different.

Now, I know that's a sort of high-falutin' statement in a certain way. And as far as I know there hasn't been a lot of research into this. But it really seems that whatever part of our brain is controlling language is separating the two languages distinctly—both in terms of producing and recognizing the two languages.

**Ginger:** Yes, I know exactly what you're talking about. I had a couple of years of Spanish in high school—which I remember none of—but when I was deep into it I remember actually getting to that stage where I could think in Spanish and going, hey, now this is different—I'm thinking differently.

And I think maybe that's one of the biggest obstacles for those of us who try to learn a language in little clumps. Most of the time what we find ourselves doing is, instead of thinking in that second language, we're just trying to translate it into English. I mean I went to Greece and I was trying to translate the alphabet and then back into English. I was so far behind I could never get caught up.

**Kirk:** Yes, but you don't have a choice. And again, this is from my experience both as a learner and as a teacher. I taught English as a foreign language for about seven years. It seems to me that this sort of second thinking comes about very slowly. It's kind of like learning to ride a bicycle. You get to a point where all of a sudden you can take the training wheels off and the thinking goes on its own.

But before you get there you have to do it like little LEGO bricks and put things together. Because your brain simply hasn't organized itself to accept the differences in syntax. Once it happens, not only are you more fluent—in the sense of speaking fluidly, speaking full sentences—but you'll find that you're thinking less about trying to translate, unless you're searching for a concept. There's something deep that happens at a certain time.

And it's probably like enlightenment. You know, it happens a little bit and then it disappears, and then it happens a little, and then all of a sudden it happens for good and it will never go away. I think that someone who has learned a foreign language at that level will always be able to come back and speak that language. Just like someone will never lose their mother tongue; even if they haven't spoken it for a long time.

**Ginger:** Or, forget how to ride a bike; or how to play tennis, if you know how to play tennis. Although language seems a little more complicated.

**Kirk:** Language is a little more complicated. And, again, there are all these psychological questions that enter into it. And the simply lexical questions. I mean, vocabulary—the sheer amount of vocabulary you need to function well in a language—most people estimate that you need about 10,000 words to have intelligent conversations. It takes a while to learn 10,000 words.

**Ginger:** The people who are saying that our language skills are somewhat hard wired claim that vocabulary is the part that's the easiest to add.

**Kirk:** The easiest to add?

**Ginger:** We can keep learning new words easier than we can learn a whole new different way of grammar.

**Kirk:** Well, I have to disagree. I'm not really sure exactly. Because you never learn a different way of grammar for the same language. The number of rules for any given language is relatively limited in terms of syntax.

**Ginger:** Right. I was talking about learning the syntax of the second language.

**Kirk:** Learning the syntax is, again, relatively easy. There's something interesting. I learned French relatively quickly. And a few years after I came to

France I had an opportunity to go to Norway for a year. Now, my wife is French. She speaks fluent English, but both of us wanted to learn Norwegian.

So, a company she worked for sent her there, and so she had classes. And I took a few classes that they had for immigrants. And both of us learned Norwegian in the 10, 11 months we were there, relatively well. We're pretty able to communicate. And the reason for this is that once you have learned a second language the rest of them are a piece of cake.

It seems that there's some sort of conceptual thing that your brain needs to accept to sort of allow itself to use rules that it doesn't know—in other words, a new system of syntax—and that's the second language. But once your brain says, well, hey, it can be different, the adjective can come after the noun in this language, then the other languages are easy, because you don't have this mental resistance of trying to force the syntax of the language you're learning into the existing structures you have. You're just more than willing to allow the syntax to be different.

**Ginger:** That makes sense. I really have it on my list of dreams to some day actually learn a second language. But I think that the immersion would be the way to go. I would love to have the opportunity to do that.

**Kirk:** It's the best way. The only risk is that you get to a place where there are still people who can speak English.

**Ginger:** Yes.

**Kirk:** The first year I was in France I was in a small town of about 400 people. Now, I was close enough to a big city, and there happened to be a very nice Irish bar there, so I did have interaction with other English speakers. And I was with a friend of mine who is a New Yorker. But once I got out on the road, I didn't have a car, so I just hitchhiked everywhere. And, believe me, that's a great way to learn

a language—to hitchhike—because you’re stuck in a car with someone and you’ve got to talk.

**Ginger:** Yes. And these days it’s getting harder and harder to be able to get in a situation where there are not people that speak English, and so you don’t really get the chance to talk.

So, you’ve travelled to other places in Europe besides Norway?

**Kirk:** I’ve been to pretty much every country in Western Europe. The only place I’ve been in in Eastern Europe was Yugoslavia when it was still Yugoslavia.

**Ginger:** Is there a lot of difference in terms of attitudes toward Americans in the various countries? Do you notice differences? Or is it more uniform?

**Kirk:** Well, Europe is a conglomerate of different cultures. And even though you could say that Europe is roughly the same size as the U.S.—in population at least, not in actual size—just in the European Union you’ve got 27 countries with a wide variety of cultures. And until the past few decades, all these cultures were blocked within borders that were very impermeable.

I’ve been here 22 years. It’s only in the past 15 years or so that the borders have been open—that you don’t need a passport to go from one country to another in different European countries. And so, there’s a lot more mixing that’s going on now. But nevertheless, it remains that French people have French attitudes, and Spanish people have Spanish attitudes, and Italian people have Italian attitudes.

So, just the overall culture of Europe can never really be reduced to a single thought. I mean the British are much closer to the Americans than the French or the Germans ever will be. Partly because of the language and shared history, but also just because that’s the way they are. Now, as to attitudes toward America, that’s a pretty tough question.

**Ginger:** The reason I ask is that I've been to Italy and Spain since 9/11, and I find myself feeling very self-conscious about being American. I'm not afraid of terrorists. I consider that about like being hit by lightning. I mean it's just a matter of chance. But I feel embarrassed by our foreign policy. And it's sort of like going into a black neighborhood and worrying about being hated just because you're white. Does that make any sense?

**Kirk:** That's an interesting comparison. Yes. I can talk more about France than the rest of Europe. So, let me try and give you a little bit of background—a sort of two-minute history lesson. The French suffered severely in World War II, and suffered psychologically probably more than other European countries. Partly because in May, 1940, the Germans just walked into France and quickly invaded the country with very limited resistance, and partly because it required the Americans to set them free.

And there was a great deal of anti-American sentiment in France before World War II, but there was a great deal afterwards, partly probably a form of guilt of having to have had the Americans come and help resolve the war. Add to this de Gaulle, who was relatively anti-American, who kicked the Americans out of France—the ones that had NATO bases in France who withdrew from NATO. And you've got a country where the relationship with America is rocky at best.

Now, you've got radically different political systems. France, while not a socialist country, is probably more of a social democratic country like the Scandinavian countries are, which is quite different from the United States. And 9/11 was an interesting watershed moment. *Le Monde*, which is sort of the newspaper of record in France, had a big headline, "We are All Americans," on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

The honeymoon didn't last long, because once Bush started strutting and invading and all that, everything changed. And, not only the French, but many Europeans are strongly against what happened in Iraq. And whether you agree

or disagree, it's true that it's been a mess, and that Bush's going it alone was a diplomatic disaster as far as other countries are concerned. I think most of these people are intelligent enough, however, to make the distinction between Americans and the American government's foreign policy.

**Ginger:** I went to Italy in April of 2003. My sister is in the Air Force. In fact, she's in Kyrgyzstan right now. She's a doctor in the Air Force. But she was stationed at Aviano, and I went to visit her right when the United States was invading Iraq—the week of the invasion. And on my way home I went through Paris. I flew home on Air France.

I was sitting next to a Frenchman, and he said to me, 'I want you to know that we don't hate Americans, we just hate President Bush.' And I said to him, 'Well, I want you to know that not all Americans agree with his decision.' One thing is most Americans never even got the news that Europe got that was really making it clear that the whole 'weapons of mass destruction' thing was bogus. I know it was in the *International Herald Tribune*.

**Kirk:** Well, that news was everywhere.

**Ginger:** It was everywhere except on Fox—which a lot of Americans for some reason actually watch. And so, Americans—not me, but I'm saying the rank and file person—were wondering, well why won't France and these other countries support us?

I don't think the average American thought that we should go it alone. But I do think that some people didn't understand why we weren't getting support, because they really weren't up to date on the news. And it's kind of ironic since we have this self image that we're the ones with freedom of press.

**Kirk:** Well, you do have freedom of press. But the whole French-American thing at that time was kind of interesting. And this is why I mentioned the sort of

short history lesson about Franco-American relations in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These two countries have always been at odds with each other.

The Americans didn't focus on the Germans not supporting Bush. They didn't focus on the Portuguese or the Irish not supporting Bush. They focused on the French. And the French were very vocal: In particular the French ambassador at the time, who is now the Prime Minister, in the speech he made at the UN Security Council.

Personally I have to say at the time my thought was, OK, all these guys—and Colin Powell is someone I respect, in spite of what he ended up doing—are coming up here and they're saying that there's this evidence. And I'm going to believe that they have evidence that they can't show us. And I'm just going to assume that they're not totally lying. And of course it's been disproven since then.

The problem is that the French just assumed from the beginning that America was exercising its imperialism—that it's all about oil. And frankly, the Michael Moore's of America all said it's all about oil. And it's not about oil, because it's quite simple that America just can't occupy Iraq and take its oil. It hasn't happened yet, and it's not going to happen.

Part of the problem though, it gets a little bit more complicated, because remember, the French were the ones running the [Oil for Food](#) program in Iraq, and making a great deal of money out of it. Several French people have been investigated for bribery. The French have had very close ties with Saddam over the years, even providing a nuclear reactor at one point, I think in the 1980s.

So, diplomacy is never without self-interest. I don't think the French were acting a hundred percent out of some absolute desire to express their beliefs. While American imperialism of the Iraqi sort may be extremely egregious, the French



do it all the time with their former colonies in Africa. So, no one's perfect in this story.

**Ginger:** Well, you've given me a lot of information about France that I really didn't appreciate. I mean I didn't even realize France was running the Food for Oil.

**Kirk:** Sure. I think it was the BNP—which is the Banque Nationale de Paris—making literally hundreds of millions a year to run this program, with the commissions and transfer fees and all that. Several people have been investigated. I don't know if they're ever going to actually go to trial. But some people who apparently got gifts from Saddam—French people, and English people, and I think maybe some Germans.

It's interesting, the French, and the Germans, and the Russians happen to be the three countries that opposed the American invasion, but also happened to be the three countries with the strongest ties to Iraq in terms of selling, not necessarily weapons (though the French and, I think, the Russians were selling weapons to Iraq) but also other things—again, nuclear reactors and other technology things. So, they were making money off of Iraq, and they're not making money now.

**Ginger:** It's almost like the kettle calling the pot black there, then. Right?

**Kirk:** Yes. You know I'm somewhat interested in history; enough to read about it. Especially American history—probably because I'm not there anymore. I've been reading a lot about the Civil War recently. And on an absolute level you can sum it up in a single sentence: It was a war about slavery.

But the deeper you look into it, the more you see that it's really not as simple as all that. While that was the main reason for the Civil War, the reasons that actually led to secession were far more complex, and they had started decades earlier.

**Ginger:** I like history, too. I haven't read a lot about the Civil War, but have you ever read the historical novel, [Killer Angels](#)?

**Kirk:** No, but I actually have a copy of that coming from [BookMooch](#). I don't know if you've talked about BookMooch on the show yet. But that's a book that I have in the mail some place.

**Ginger:** Well, you'll enjoy it. Although probably if you've been reading about the Civil War, it won't be as surprising. This is ironic—I didn't even realize that the Confederacy was almost winning until Gettysburg. And it's ironic that I didn't know that, because I actually had like a great-great grandfather that was probably wounded at Gettysburg. My parents were from New Jersey, originally, but I live in Alabama now.

**Kirk:** Right.

**Ginger:** I think we're probably going to need to stop soon, even though I've still got stuff I'd love to talk to you about. I'm trying to hone to that idea that most people don't want to listen to podcasts that are over 30 minutes long. So, maybe I'll just have to interview you again sometime.

But before we close would you like to tell us anything about your writing? I was wondering, since you write a lot about the Mac, are you going to be having anything coming out when Leopard comes out?

**Kirk:** If Leopard comes out, you mean? You saw yesterday that Apple announced that it's being delayed till October?

**Ginger:** No.

**Kirk:** It was originally going to come out in June and they announced that they're going to delay it until October. I have a couple of things that I'm going to

be doing for Leopard; but everything is up in the air right now. Yes, I make a living as a freelance writer, mostly about Macs, digital music, audiobooks, things like that.

Listeners can check out my website: [www.mcelhearn.com](http://www.mcelhearn.com). I write about Macs, and iTunes, and the iPod. And I also write about books and music that interest me. I've shifted careers many times in my life, but I've been working as a full-time freelance writer now for about five years.

**Ginger:** Well, I have listeners all over the world, so it's going to be interesting to see what kind of feedback I get on this episode. And I really appreciate your taking the time to talk to me.

**Kirk:** It's been a pleasure.

**Ginger:** Maybe we can talk again sometime soon.

**Kirk:** Sure.

**Ginger:** Thanks.

**Kirk:** Thanks very much.

[music]

That's about it for this episode of *Books and Ideas*. I hope you enjoyed the interview. I know that I still haven't mastered how to get sound good when I'm doing [Skype](#), but I'll keep working on that. Please send me feedback by leaving comments at [booksandideas.com](http://booksandideas.com) or writing to me at [docartemis@gmail.com](mailto:docartemis@gmail.com).

I am having to decrease the frequency of *Books and Ideas* because keeping up with the [Brain Science Podcast](#) and making sure that it comes out twice a month

is almost a full-time job in and of itself. But I want to keep this podcast going, so I'm going to try to put it out at least once a month.

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I'll talk to you soon.

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