



Bridging Worlds Reaching out to Young Refugees with Books and Stories

IBBY European Regional Conference

Thursday, 6 April 2017

Sala Concerto, 1st Floor, Block D, Centro Servizi
Bologna Children's Book Fair

Discussion group rooms:

Sala Allegretto, 1st Floor, Block C, Centro Servizi
Sala Vivace, 1st Floor, Block D, Centro Servizi
Sala Concerto, 1st Floor, Block D, Centro Servizi

Speakers



Mariella Bertelli

Mariella Bertelli is an international, Toronto-based storyteller. An IBBY Canada and IBBY Italia member, she has been very active in the Lampedusa library project for the local and the refugee children. She has travelled to the island four times and has coordinated the Silent Books Exhibit tour of six Canadian cities in 2015-16, to bring attention to the refugee crisis.

She has been a children's librarian for 22 years with the Toronto Public Library, actively promoting strong literacy programming, training other staff in puppetry and storytelling, and in developing expertise in children's literature. Currently, she is a Mariposa-in-the-schools storyteller and speaker in Toronto.



Hasmig Chahinian

Hasmig Chahinian was born and grew up in Lebanon. She holds a PhD in children's literature from University Paris 13. She's in charge of the Arab Word at the National Centre for Children's Literature, a service of the French National Library. She's also in charge of IBBY France and liaison officer for Europe in the 2016-2018 IBBY Executive Committee. Hasmig collaborates with the Centre's various publications, works on promoting reading and children's literature and holds training sessions in France and abroad.



Cay Corneliuson

Cay graduated from Library school in 1975 and work as a children's librarian till 2000. Then she got a job at The Arts Council in Sweden and started to work with support for reading promotion at national level. During my time The Arts Council established an Ambassador for reading, and started a project called Bookstart. That project means that libraries visit families at home and give them advice for language development and give away books for children. It is still running with support from the government. She has now retired but is proud of being a member of the board for IBBY Sweden, and still carries out small projects such as evaluations.



Wally de Doncker

During the 35th IBBY World Congress in Auckland in 2016, Wally was re-elected to serve as President of IBBY for a second term, for the period 2016-2018.

He previously worked as a special teacher of children's literature. He began writing full-time in 2001 and since then, his books have reached readers in more than fifteen countries in Europe and beyond. His books have received numerous nominations and selections, and several of his works have been adapted as stage plays and musicals, film animations and dance films. He has been a jury member of various Belgian and international awards.



Eva Devos

Eva Devos (°1974, Belgium) studied Comparative Cultural Studies, Communication studies and Library Science. She started working for the National Centre of Children's Literature in 2000 and has worked since 2006 for the Flemish reading association, Iedereen Leest (Everybody Reads). There she is the librarian of a professional library on children's literature and reading promotion, and she coordinates a reading advice website for children and youngsters. In 2002 she joined the Flemish branch of IBBY-Belgium and in 2015 she became president of this IBBY section.



Pam Dix

Pam Dix, présidente de IBBY Royaume-Uni (*International Board of Books for Young People*, « Bureau international du livre pour la jeunesse »), gère l'association Akili Trust, qui met en place des bibliothèques publiques dans les zones rurales du Kenya. En tant que membre du bureau de *Book Aid International*, elle a rédigé de nombreux supports de formation pour l'Afrique subsaharienne. Pam Dix a également travaillé à Londres comme documentaliste et conseillère auprès des bibliothèques et enseigné la littérature jeunesse à la London Metropolitan University.



Julia Eccleshare

Julia Eccleshare is consultant children's books editor of the Guardian, the Director of Hay Children's Festival and a freelance writer, critic and broadcaster. She is the editor of *1001 Children's Books to Read Before you Grow Up*. She has chaired many prizes and is the founder and chair of the Branford Boase first novel prize. She won the Eleanor Farjeon Award 2000 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to children's books. In 2014 she was appointed MBE for service to children's books and was awarded an honorary doctorate for her work by the University of Worcester.



Laurence Faron

After graduating in Law and Political Sciences, Laurence worked in banking for some ten years before changing professional domain rather dramatically when turning 30. She then started in publishing as a junior editor with Belin, a major French school books publisher, spent three years in London where she devised bilingual series for teenagers and, in 2005, decided to create her own publishing company, dedicated to children's books, Talents Hauts. Talents Hauts endeavours to highlight talented new authors and illustrators as well as proudly representing more matured talents. The company publishes striking, strong and funny books that challenge clichés. Renowned for its commitment to non-discrimination in children's books, Talents Hauts quite naturally enrolled in the collective adventure of *Eux, c'est nous*.

Bénédicte Frocaut



Sophie Giraud

Sophie created the publishing company Hélium in 2008. Previously she has worked at Mila Editions, in charge of foreign rights, and then as a children's book editor for Albin Michel Jeunesse from 1993 to 2003. In 2003, she created the books department for the music firm Naïve in Paris.

Hélium publishes around 35 children's books per year: books with a special twist, and inventive and high quality production. We claim very seriously the fantasy of all our creations. From picture books to pop-ups, from YA novels to toddlers' books, these books are just like a mobile, a clever balance between text, picture, production and graphic design. In 2015, Helium extended the list with literature and illustrated books. Hélium is now an associate of the French publisher Actes Sud.



Martin Gries

Martin is Head of Pedagogic Activities of Buecherpiraten e. V. (Book Pirates). He studied Educational Science with a focus on Early Childhood Education and Communications' Psychology. He wrote books for NPOs and also is a children's book author. In 2002 he co-founded the Book Pirates – a NPO to give children and youngsters "time for stories": from literature festivals organized by 16-year olds to author's prizes given by 9-year olds, to a group of 15-year old novelists and many more.

He also developed the concept for "1001 languages on www.bilingual-picturebooks.org". The Book Pirates run Germany's only Children's Literature House and won several prizes as the best cultural youth-projects in Germany.



Neli Kodrič Filipić

Neli was born in Vipavska valley in the western part of Slovenia. She has been very fond of writing and reading from a young age. She studied graphic design at Ljubljana University, but decided to become a professional writer after winning the Levstikova award for her first teen fiction novel. She has since published seven novels, six picture books and a graphic novel. Her work with children in Ljubljana's asylum for refugees during 2008 inspired her to write the picture book *The Fire (Požar)* and graphic novel *A Sport Shoe (Superga)*.



Laila Koubaa

Diversity is my identity. I have a Tunisian father and a Belgian mother. During the Jasmine revolution I wrote my first book, *Azizi and the little blue bird*, translated into French, English and Danish. Since 2016 I have been the first school writer in Belgium, a project developed by the Flemish Fund of Literature and the Ministry of Culture and Education.

My latest work for refugees, *Outside the lines*, is a pocket dictionary colouring book in five languages about the story of my husband, Bart Koubaa, and myself and with illustrations by Mattias de Leeuw, Eva Mouton, Wide Vercnocke and Laura Janssens. Thanks to a subsidy from DeAuteurs I will be in Bologna to promote *Outside the lines* and my other work: *I don't want to go Morocco, Higher than the mountains and deeper than the sea*.



Helen Limon

Helen is a Teaching Fellow, writer and researcher at Newcastle University (UK). Helen has published fiction for adults and children in a variety of forms: her first novel for children, won the Frances Lincoln Diverse Voices award in 2012. She is a member of the International COST network for literacy, funded by the European Union. She works closely with Seven Stories the National Centre for Children's Books. She has a research interest in the role of creative writing in the experience of identity (re)creation and is working on a collection of illustrated short stories, *Start a Hare*, for young adults, based on her work with women military veterans and young migrants.



Joseph Nhan O'Reilly

Joseph is Head of Education Policy & Advocacy for Save the Children. He works with a global team of specialists, advocates and campaigners to ensure that every last child has access to quality education. A big focus of his work is supporting Save the Children's efforts aimed at getting every last refugee child into school, including working with Pearson and the UN refugee agency on the Promising Practices in Refugee Education initiative. He's been working in the Middle East and spent three years in Asia including leading educational work with refugees from Burma. He's passionate about children's literacy and the importance of children's access to quality books. He is the founder of First Read and the creator of the International Children's Book Initiative. He was recently appointed the Chair of the Global Book Alliance, a new multi-agency initiative, working to transform book development, procurement and distribution to ensure that no child is without books.



Muy-Cheng Peich

Muy-Cheng is Director of Education, Contents and Training, Libraries Without Borders. She graduated from the Ecole normale supérieure and undertook a PhD in cognitive psychology. Passionate about the mechanisms underlying learning and creativity, as well as education issues, she is thoroughly convinced that education and access to information can and should play a role in the reduction of social inequalities. She joined Libraries Without Borders in 2014, after working with the organization on the adaptation of Khan Academy for French-speaking countries. Libraries Without Borders is one of the leading NGOs supporting access to information and education in the world. Muy-Cheng is leading the Education, Contents and Training Department. Her team and she are promoting empowerment and agency through innovative education methodologies and tools, carefully curated contents and the experimentation of activities that encourage creativity, analytical and critical thinking, and learning by doing.



Marloes Robijn

Marloes studied Scandinavian (children's) literature and clinical linguistics and has worked for several reading promotion projects in the Netherlands, among others as a reader and volunteer co-ordinator at the VoorleesExpress ('Reading Aloud Express'). She is currently starting up a project similar to the VoorleesExpress in Reykjavik, Iceland.



Deborah Soria

After studying children's book illustration, literature for children and history of illustration at the European Institute of Design in Rome, Deborah earned a diploma in Bookstore Management and from 1999 worked at a mega bookshop for children in Rome. In 2006 she set up her own bookstore [Ottimomassimo](#), which is a traveling bookshop that takes books to children in remote areas where they have no access to books.

She has been a member of IBBY Italia since the section re-joined IBBY in 2003, and then joined the board of 2010 and has served as the Vice President from 2012. In 2012 she initiated an IBBY project called Silent Books: Final Destination Lampedusa, which promotes books for young people as a tool for integration. The project has collected the best books without words with the help of the IBBY members – Silent Books – and donated them to Lampedusa in the Mediterranean, which is the first port of call for those arriving from across the sea on their way to starting a new life.



Jochen Weber

Jochen graduated with a Magister Artium in German Literature, Spanish Literature, and Political Science. He is the Head of the Language Sections at the International Youth Library in Munich, is responsible for the IYL's Iberian and Ibero-American Section, and is the editor of the library's annual international children's book recommendation list, the "White Ravens". From 2006 to 2012, he was vice president of the Arbeitskreis für Jugendliteratur (IBBY Germany). He has served as a jury member for various children's literature awards, e.g. Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis and Premio Iberoamericano SM de Literatura Infantil y Juvenil.

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