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# The American Library in Paris

ESTABLISHED 1920

**e-Libris 30 November 2021**

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In the event that this *e-Libris* is cut short by your email service, please click the link at the bottom of the email to see the newsletter in its entirety.



## **Year-end Giving**



The Library relies on donations from you, our community, to provide the books and programs you love. **Membership fees cover only 19% of our operating costs**, so gifts from our members and supporters are essential to maintaining the vitality of the Library.

Donations of any size can make a big difference:

10€ supports *Evenings with an Author* events

25€ buys a new book

50€ buys a magazine subscription

100€ buys protective covers for 100 books

500€ buys a subscription to the international print edition of the *New York Times*.

Whether you're joining us from down the road, or from the other side of the world, consider a gift this December and help the Library continue to foster intellectual curiosity, spark creativity, and welcome readers into our growing community.

[Donate Today](#)

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## Critical Conversations Reading List

“[The Library] provides an amazing array of services and resources, but one of the most impactful—surely—must be the Critical Conversations series. The opportunities to be involved in engrossing discussions led by dynamic facilitators has certainly challenged my assumptions and expanded my perspectives!”

—Michael, Critical Conversations participant

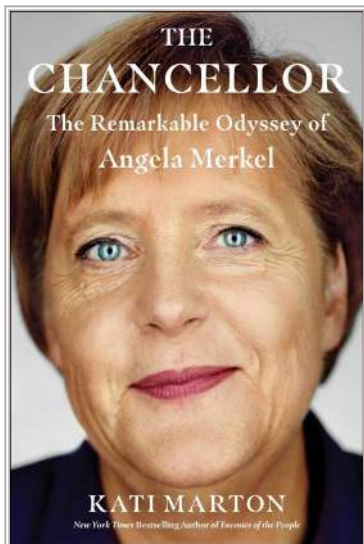
This fall, we were delighted to host the second season of [Critical Conversations](#), an expert-led discussion series that allows Library members to delve deeper into pressing topics. Over the course of three meetings in October and November, a group of Library members met with Jennifer Wenzel, Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature and of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies at Columbia University, to discuss the urgent issue of the **environmental crisis**.

If you missed this fall's series, we're sharing the syllabus, below, so that the entire Library community can engage with the material and join the conversation. We believe open debate is vital to a healthy democracy, and the aim of the Critical Conversations series is to foster a sense of community while also promoting civic discourse. For more information about the Critical Conversations series in general, please email Programs Manager Alice McCrum at [mccrum@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:mccrum@americanlibraryinparis.org).

### Fall 2021 Critical Conversations Syllabus

## Programs for Adults

*Evenings with an Author* events are sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg



**TONIGHT!**

[The Remarkable Odyssey of Angela Merkel](#)

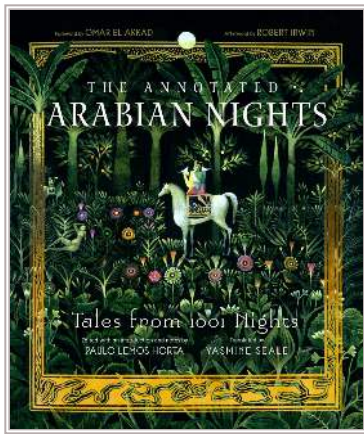
**In Person at the Library/Streamed Live on Zoom  
Tuesday 30 November at 19h30**

This fall, Chancellor Merkel, a pillar of the international stage, is expected to step down after a remarkable sixteen years in office. This is sure to be a consequential change for Germany, Europe, and the world at large, and whoever takes her place will have very large (modest, practical) shoes to fill. With this event on the horizon, best-selling author, award-winning journalist, and connected political insider **Kati Marton**'s biography couldn't be better timed. Marton will be in conversation with journalist **Thomas Chatterton Williams**.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

[RSVP to attend on Zoom](#)

[RSVP to attend in person](#)



### [Translating The Nights with Yasmine Seale](#)

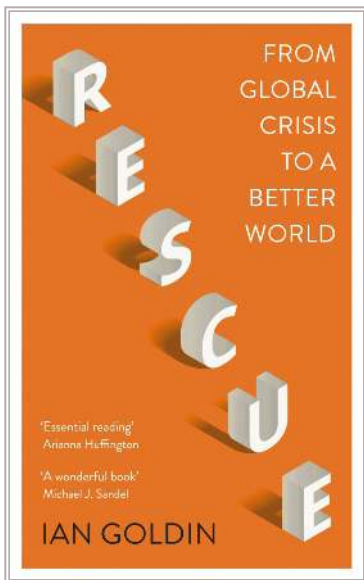
**In Person at the Library/Streamed Live on Zoom  
Wednesday 1 December at 19h30**

A cornerstone of world literature and a monument to the power of storytelling, *The Arabian Nights* has inspired countless authors, from Charles Dickens and Edgar Allan Poe to Naguib Mahfouz, Clarice Lispector, and Angela Carter. **Translator Yasmine Seale** joins us to discuss this lavishly designed and illustrated edition of *The Annotated Arabian Nights*, which presents **a new selection of tales from *The Nights***, alongside treasured original stories such as “Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp” and “Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves.”

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

[RSVP to attend on Zoom](#)

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### [Entre Nous: Ian Goldin on a Better World](#)

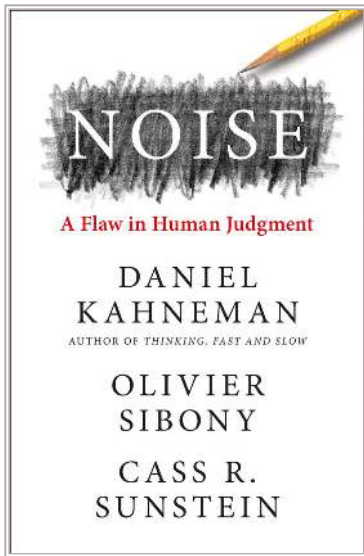
**Online: Streamed Live on Zoom  
Monday 6 December at 19h30**

In his new book, *Rescue: From Global Crisis to a Better World*, University of Oxford professor **Ian Goldin** argues that we are at a crossroads: COVID-19 has destroyed global norms, and many think (wrongly) that after the devastation there will be a bounce back. But it is business as usual, Goldin writes, that led to the pandemic; and it is business as usual that will lead to a dystopian future. Goldin tackles the challenges and opportunities posed by the pandemic, ranging from globalisation to the future of jobs, income inequality and geopolitics, the climate crisis and the future of cities. Ultimately, he provides **an urgently-needed roadmap that reveals how the pandemic could lead to a better world.**

This online program is part of the Library's Entre Nous series, presented in partnership with Columbia Global Centers | Paris and the Institute for Ideas and Imagination.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

[RSVP to attend on Zoom](#)



### [Too Much Noise with Olivier Sibony](#)

**In Person at the Library/Streamed Live on Zoom  
Tuesday 7 December at 19h30**

Imagine that a doctor gives different diagnoses to identical patients, depending on whether it is morning or afternoon, or Monday rather than Wednesday, or whether or not the doctor has had lunch. This is an example of "noise": variability in a judgement that should be identical. Noise produces errors in many fields, including medicine, law, public health, and child protection, and individuals and organizations commonly ignore its impact, at great cost. Join the book's co-author **Olivier Sibony** and Professor of Strategy at HEC **Laurence Lehmann-Ortega** to discuss how and **why humans are so susceptible to noise and bias in decision-making.**

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

[RSVP to attend on Zoom](#)

[RSVP to attend in person](#)



### [Are the US and Europe Drifting Apart?](#)

**In Person at the Library/  
Streamed Live on Zoom  
Wednesday 8 December at 19h30**

With Germany and France both in political churn, one issue hangs over the EU: Will its unquestioned alliance with the US survive? Each country is cutting its own path on everything from nuclear submarines, to Big Tech, to climate, to China. Can this marriage be saved? *Evenings with an Author* and The Overseas Press Club of America present journalists **Liz Alderman, Ulysse Gosset, Michaela Wiegel, Vivienne Walt, Stanley Pignal**, and moderator **David A. Andelman.**

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

[RSVP to attend on Zoom](#)

[RSVP to attend in person](#)






Our panel on Wednesday 8 December will be the final *Evenings with an Author* of 2021. We look forward to welcoming you back on Wednesday 12 January, when Ayşegül Savaş will discuss her new novel, *White on White*. Information on January 2022 programming will be available in the next issue of *e-Libris*.



**GROW**<sup>@</sup>  
**ANNENBERG**

*Evenings with an Author* and other weeknight programs at the Library are free and open to the public (with a 10€ suggested donation) thanks to support from GRoW @ Annenberg, our members, and those who attend programs.

-  Past programs are on YouTube, including a Parisian commute with Lauren Elkin & Lauren Collins; a panel of Parisiennes featuring Lindsey Tramuta; a conversation with Nathalie Léger and Eula Biss; Dina Nayeri on Truth; and Lauren Oyler discussing her debut novel.
-  Listen to our podcast, *Evenings with an Author*, available wherever you get your podcasts.
-  Visit our Facebook page for information about upcoming virtual events and *Evenings with an Author* sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg.

## Kids and Teens



Oliver Gee and Lina Nordin Gee, authors of *Roger the Liger in Paris*.

### Selected Weekend Events for Children

- This Saturday 4 December, we welcome back Oliver Gee and Lina Nordin Gee, author and illustrator of *Roger the Liger in Paris*, for a [reading and an illustration workshop](#) (ages 3–9). Books will be available for purchase after the event.
- Join us on Saturday 11 December, when Kyra Hauck and Lauren Hlubny of Danse Theatre Surreality will host a [workshop on storyboarding and narration](#) (ages 9–12).
- On Saturday 18 December, James Elliot of Music Together will host [a sing-along session for children](#) (ages 0–5) and their families.
- Also on Saturday 18 December, we'll host the workshop [Sneaky Plants and Animals](#), to learn about the ways living organisms manage to survive, thrive, and dress in disguise (ages 6–12).

All programs for children are open to Library members, and are free of charge. Registration is required in advance, and events fill up quickly. To find out about all our December programs, including Story Hour, Toddler Time, and our weekend workshops, see our [web calendar](#).

Our Story Hour on Wednesday 22 December will be the final 2021 event for children. We look forward to welcoming you back in January. Our 2022 calendar kicks off with a Story Hour for ages 3–5 on Wednesday 5 January. Information on January programming will be available in the next issue of *e-Libris*.

### Upcoming Events for Teens

- Roll up your sleeves, and join us for a [Hot Drink Mix-Off](#) (ages 12–18) on Friday 3 December. We'll have marshmallows, hot chocolate, peppermint syrup, and everything else you need to create your own original warm drink.
- The [Fantasy Book Club](#) (ages 12–adult) will meet on Saturday 4 December to discuss *Daughter of Smoke and Bone*, the epic fantasy novel by Laini Taylor. Open to new members.
- So you think you know how to research? Participate in our [research challenge](#) (ages 12–18) on Saturday 18 December and win a Library tote to hold all of your winter reads!



Clubs for teens continue with December meetings for the [Master Shot Film Club](#), the [Teen Writing Group](#), the [Teen Advisory Group](#), and the [Youth Leadership Program](#). These clubs are currently full. Stay tuned for information about the 2022–2023 cycle.

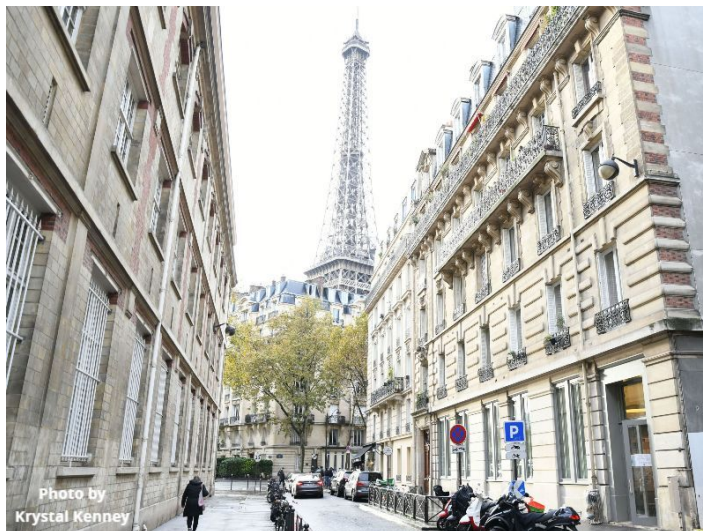
## A Warm Farewell to Gabrielle McFarland

It's with sadness, and not a small amount of pride, that we say goodbye to Gabrielle McFarland, the Library's Member Development Coordinator. Gabrielle began her Library career as an intern in September 2020, and immediately made her mark, helping to produce the 2020 Gala, supporting fundraising, communications, and programming, and becoming an important part of the Member Services team. She is committing herself full-time to finishing her Master's thesis at Sciences Po, for which we commend her. We will miss her tremendously, both personally and professionally.



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## How Can You Help the American Library?



As an independent, non-profit institution, we rely on the support and generosity of our community. How can you help the American Library in Paris throughout the year? Renew your Library membership, make a donation online, become a volunteer, and tell your friends about the Library.

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The American Library in Paris is an independent, non-profit institution that receives no regular government funding. Your generosity is essential in keeping the Library vibrant and creative.

All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.



## BECOME A LIBRARY MEMBER

[www.americanlibraryinparis.org](http://www.americanlibraryinparis.org)

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