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The American Library in Paris

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Book Award 2021 Winner: *Black Spartacus*



Congratulations to **Sudhir Hazareesingh** for ***Black Spartacus: The Epic Life of Toussaint Louverture***, winner of the ninth annual American Library in Paris Book Award. Hazareesingh's biography of the father of Haiti's liberation "merits passionate consideration," declared the jury in its citation for the 2021 prize.

The jury—Dinaw Mengestu, Julian Jackson, Maggie Paxson, and Lauren Collins, the chair—said *Black Spartacus* is “**both an enthralling portrait and a forcefully-argued case for Louverture’s seminal contribution to Black empowerment and to the realization of the professed ideals of the Enlightenment.**”

In accepting the award at a hybrid Library ceremony on 20 January 2022, Hazareesingh logged on from his native Mauritius to accept the prize and speak about the book. He lives most of the year in Britain, where he is a lecturer and fellow in politics at Balliol College, Oxford University. He is the author of *The Legend of Napoleon* and *How the French Think*, among other works. Hazareesingh will join our community in person this spring for a very special *Evenings with an Author* sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg event.

SHORTLIST: *Black Spartacus: The Epic Life of Toussaint Louverture* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux/Allen Lane), was chosen from five finalists. The shortlist also included two novels, *Leonora in the Morning Light*, by Michaela Carter (Avid Reader Press) and *Perestroika in Paris* by Jane Smiley (Alfred A. Knopf/Mantle Books); a groundbreaking work of historiography, *An Infinite History: The Story of a Family in France Over Three Centuries*, by Emma Rothschild (Princeton University Press); and a lyric work of family history, *Letters to Camondo*, by Edmund de Waal (Farrar, Straus & Giroux/Chatto & Windus). The shortlist for the 2021 prize, which carries a cash award of \$5,000, was chosen by a committee of Library screeners from among eighty-three submissions.

COUPS DE CŒUR: The screeners also selected five additional titles as *Coups de Coeur*, books of special merit among the contenders: *French Like Moi: A Midwesterner in Paris*, by Scott Dominic Carpenter (Travelers' Tales); *Göring's Man in Paris: The Story of a Nazi Art Plunderer and His World*, by Jonathan Petropoulos (Yale University Press); *Minerva's French Sisters: Women of Science in Enlightenment France*, by Nina Rattner Gelbart (Yale University Press); *The Paris Library: A Novel*, by Janet Skeslien Charles (Atria/Two Roads); and *Today Sardines Are Not for Sale: A Street Protest in Occupied Paris*, by Paula Schwartz (Oxford University Press).

SUPPORTERS: The Book Award is supported by a generous grant from the Florence Gould Foundation,

which will sustain the Book Award for many years to come. The annual award ceremony itself is underwritten by generous patrons. Our 2021 patrons are Judith Aubry, Mary Duncan, Diane Johnson, Suzanne Justen, and Usha Vishwanathan.

CHARLES TRUEHEART, the prize administrator, former Library Director, and founder of the Book Award, spoke at the ceremony and shared the news that he would be stepping down from that role. Beyond being the prize's shepherd for the last nine years, he has been an inspiring and motivating force for the many people involved in the Award process, including dedicated screeners, volunteers, staff members, and jury members. It was also through his relationship with the Florence Gould Foundation that the Award received the funding that has nourished it these many years. We thank Mr. Trueheart for his remarkable stewardship.

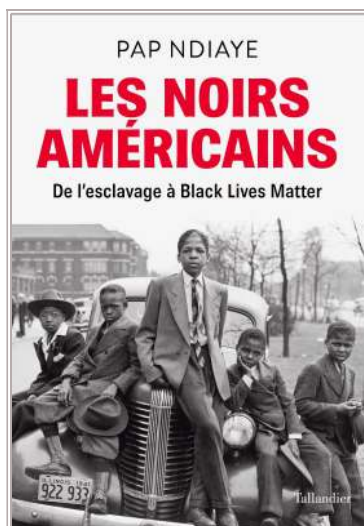
[Submissions are now being accepted](#) for the 2022 Book Award.
[Guidelines](#) for submission and FAQ's are available on our website.

January Programs for Adults

Evenings with an Author events are sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg

Due to the inherent uncertainties of these pandemic times, upcoming programs may be canceled, rescheduled, or may take place virtually. Once you have RSVPed to an event, you will be informed of any changes via email. You must RSVP to attend our *Evenings with an Author* programs, either in person or via Zoom.

The Library's **Black History Month 2022** programming has been curated in partnership with Patrick Banks of [The Californien Agency](#), a consultancy and strategic adviser to artists and creative enterprises. The Library would especially like to thank [Little Africa Paris](#), our media partner for this series.



TONIGHT

[From Slavery to Black Lives Matter with Pap Ndiaye](#)
In Person at the Library/Streamed Live on Zoom
Tuesday 1 February at 19h30 CET

In March 2021, many news outlets from *Le Monde* to the *New York Times* reported on a historic moment: Pap Ndiaye, a French historian specializing in African American and Afro-French history, had been appointed director of the National Museum of the History of Immigration in Paris. Described as a “quiet revolutionary,” Ndiaye’s appointment followed an immensely successful transatlantic academic career. An authority on questions of race and post-colonialism, Ndiaye frequently consults on cultural projects, from the Musée d’Orsay’s exhibit “Black Models” to the Opéra Garnier’s diversity report. The author of many books, including *La Condition noire* and *Les Noirs américains: En marche pour l’égalité*, Ndiaye has also written for *Le Monde* and *Libération*. Join Ndiaye as he discusses his career and his future projects with Paris-based author and professor of creative writing **Jake Lamar**.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

[RSVP to attend at the Library or on Zoom](#)



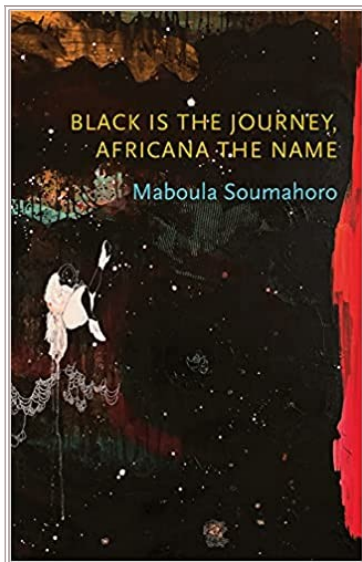
TOMORROW

[Change Without Crisis: Albenaz Azmanova on Fighting Precarity](#)
In Person at the Library/Streamed Live on Zoom
Wednesday 2 February at 19h30 CET

A daring and unapologetic intervention in post-2008 financial crisis leftism, Albenaz Azmanova’s *Capitalism on the Edge* offers a radical alternative to traditional anti-capitalist narratives. Azmanova claims that the central contradiction of the modern age is the emergence of “precarity capitalism”: on the one hand, ceaseless pursuit of profit on a corporate level; on the other, a labor force living in constant financial insecurity. It is this perennial state of anxiety which fosters social and political division. Both polemical and analytic, Azmanova rejects tropes of capitalism in crisis, as well as calls for revolution. What we need, she instead proposes, is to abandon the rhetoric of utopia, and to embrace reform beyond ideological boundaries. Azmanova will be in conversation with economist **Lucas Chancel**.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

[RSVP to attend at the Library or on Zoom](#)



Entre Nous: Black is the Journey, Africana the Name

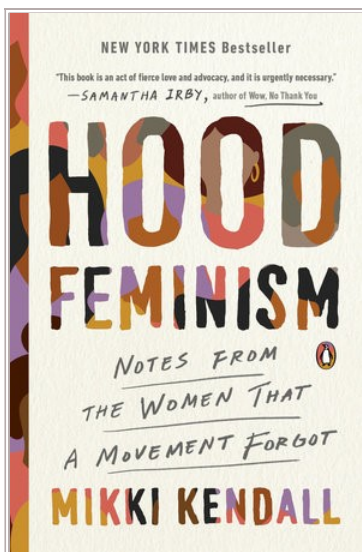
Streamed Live on Zoom

Friday 4 February at 19h30 CET

As part of the Entre Nous series in partnership with Columbia Global Centers | Paris and the Institute for Ideas and Imagination, join professor **Maboula Soumahoro** for a discussion about her recent book, *Black is the Journey, Africana the Name*.

Soumahoro explores the cultural and political vastness of the Black Atlantic, where Africa, Europe, and the Americas were tied together by the brutality of the slave trade and colonialism. Soumahoro uses personal narrative and historical research to highlight the persistence of structural racism in France today. She shows that freedom will be found in the journey and movement between the sites of the Atlantic triangle; Africana is the name of that freedom. Soumahoro will be in conversation with professor **Kaiaama L. Glover**.

[RSVP to attend on Zoom](#)



Reconsidering Feminism with Mikki Kendall

Streamed Live on Zoom

Monday 7 February at 20h00 CET

(please note the special start time for this event.)

In *Hood Feminism: Notes from the Women That a Movement Forgot*, author and cultural critic Mikki Kendall takes aim at the blindness of feminist movements toward the material needs of women. Proposing that food security, medical care, education, and access to safe housing are feminist issues, Kendall calls for a reconsideration of the intersections of race and class in contemporary feminism. Equal parts pointed critique, personal narrative, and call to action, the work refuses to exculpate the women who use the feminist mantle to oppress others. In doing so, she charts a path for true women's liberation. Kendall will be in conversation with doctoral student **Kiersten Kaushal-Carter**.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

[RSVP to attend on Zoom](#)



Speech and Silence with Cassandra Lane

In Person at the Library/Streamed Live on Zoom

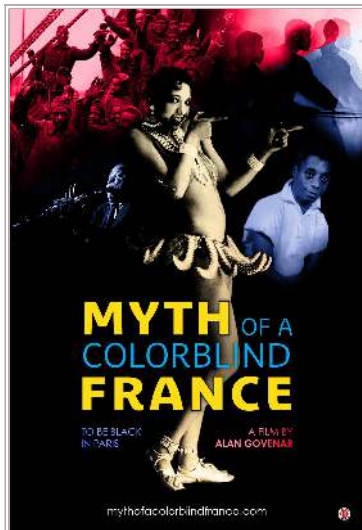
Tuesday 8 February at 19h30 CET

In 1904, Cassandra Lane's great-grandfather was lynched by white men in a small town in Louisiana. Over one hundred years later, Lane, pregnant with her first child, begins to reflect upon what it means to inherit and transmit a family's history. *We Are Bridges: A Memoir*, journalist and educator Lane's debut work of creative nonfiction, is the product of such reflection: a book which blends past and present with the thread of shared pain and love, and which navigates both documented and imagined history. Lane's affective language and evocative questions guide the reader through a personal epic of intergenerational trauma, collective memory, creation stories, speech, silence, and the enduring marks of racial violence. Lane will be in conversation with artist **Malika Ali Harding**.

Copies of *We Are Bridges* will be for sale after the event, thanks to [Little Africa Paris](#).

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

[RSVP to attend at the Library or on Zoom](#)



The Myth of a Colorblind France

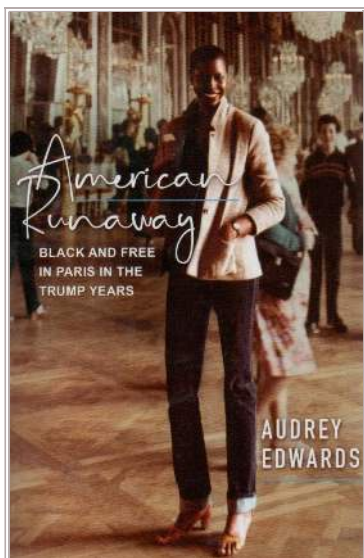
In Person at the Library/Streamed Live on Zoom

Wednesday 9 February at 19h30 CET

Historically, France has been celebrated for its colorblindness, which favors equality over difference. However, recent discussions have highlighted the ways the colorblind approach ignores socio-political structures and undervalues the particularities of the Black experience. Detailing both historical African American artists, who saw France as a place of refuge from American racism, and the experiences of immigrants and people of color in present-day France, **Alan Govenar's** film documentary, *Myth of a Colorblind France*, offers a rich and vivid picture of Black history in France. Join him in this discussion on the history and feasibility of 'colorblindness' in France. Govenar will be in conversation with entrepreneur **Monique Wells** and **Jacqueline Ngo Mpii**, founder and CEO of Little Africa Paris.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

[RSVP to attend at the Library or on Zoom](#)



Black and Free in Paris with Audrey Edwards

In Person at the Library/Streamed Live on Zoom

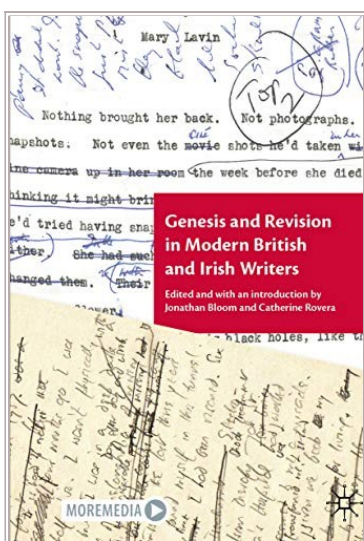
Tuesday 15 February at 19h30 CET

Following the 2016 U.S. presidential election, and inspired by a long history of Black Americans who left the US for France, journalist Audrey Edwards chose to move to Paris both to protest the Trump presidency and to protect her own well-being as a Black woman. Her new book, *American Runaway: Black and Free in Paris in the Trump Years*, chronicles the life she made for herself abroad. A witty, captivating, and moving work, Edwards puts her sharp voice and dry humor to work in recounting fabulous soirées, kooky characters, complicated friendships, and messy cultural exchanges. Ultimately, she offers a story of self-liberation. Edwards will be in conversation with researcher and granddaughter of Richard Wright, **Ellen Hervé-Wright**.

Copies of *American Runaway* will be for sale after the event, thanks to [Little Africa Paris](#).

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

RSVP to attend at the Library or on Zoom



The Creative Process Revealed with Jonathan Bloom

In Person at the Library

Wednesday 16 February at 19h30 CET

How does a text become a text? What separates revision from writing? How have artists historically revised, and what tools do we have at our disposal to study this? Join Jonathan Bloom, University of Paris-Dauphine Senior Lecturer and editor of recent essay collection *Genesis and Revision in Modern British and Irish Writers*, for a discussion on paper, manuscripts, and the creative process. Looking behind the scenes at the craft of writing, Bloom will bring us into the minds of Woolf, Joyce, Yeats, and more.

Copies of *Genesis and Revision* will be for sale after the event for just 20€ (retail price 70€–100€) thanks to [Bill & Rosa's Book Room](#).

Free and open to the public. Registration required.




RSVP to attend at the Library

Podcast Celebrating 100 Years of James Joyce's *Ulysses*



Tomorrow, 2 February 2022, is the 100th anniversary of the publication of *Ulysses*, James Joyce's notoriously challenging modernist novel. In honor of this important moment in literary history, we invite you to discover *Bloomcast*, a new 10-episode podcast about this radical and often misunderstood work. The podcast is presented by the Library's Programs Manager, Alice McCrum; Dr. Lex Paulson, professor at Sciences Po and Executive Director of the School of Collective Intelligence at Université Mohammed VI Polytechnique in Morocco; and Adam Biles, author and Literary Director at Shakespeare and Company.

Discover Bloomcast

-  Past programs are on YouTube, including Wake with Dr. Rebecca Hall; The Subversive Simone Weil with Robert Zaretsky; Elizabeth Kolbert on Under A White Sky; The Netanyahus with Joshua Cohen and Daniel Medin; A Dream Life with Claire Messud & Chris Beha; and creating and inventing with Ayşegül Savaş.
-  Listen to our podcast, Evenings with an Author, available wherever you get your podcasts.
-  Visit our Facebook page for information about upcoming events and Evenings with an Author sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg.



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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.

Kids' and Teens' News

Events for children and teens continue in person, in very small groups, or as hybrid events. Registration is required to attend any program, and you must be a Library member to attend children's events. To find out what's coming up next, be sure to check our [calendar](#), and register early!

This Saturday

Race Relations: The Struggle for Equality in America with Barbara Diggs

ages 9–12

In Person at the Library

Saturday 5 February at 11h00

We'll follow the evolution of race relations in America from the country's beginnings until the present day, guided by author Barbara Diggs.

[Registration](#) and Library membership required to attend.



Last week the **American Library Association** presented the **2022 Youth Media Awards**. The winners of these prestigious prizes include:

The Newbery Medal: Donna Barba Higuera for *The Last Cuentista*, for the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.

The Caldecott Medal: Jason Chin (illustrator) and Andrea Wang for *Watercress*, for the most distinguished American picture book for children.

The Printz Award: Angeline Boulley for *Firekeeper's Daughter*, for the book which best exemplifies literary excellence in young adult (teen) literature.

The Coretta Scott King Awards: Carole Boston Weatherford and Floyd Cooper (illustrator) for *Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre*, winner in both the Author and Illustrator categories. These awards are given to "outstanding African American authors and illustrators of books for children and young adults that demonstrate an appreciation of African American culture and universal human values." The author and illustrator of *Unspeakable* also received Caldecott and Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor mentions.

View the full list of winners and honor titles on the [American Library Association's website](#).

The Newbery, Caldecott, and Printz Award winners form the core of the Library's collections for children and teens. If the title you're looking for is currently checked out, you can reserve it through the [online catalog](#).



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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