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14 November 2023

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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.

Editor: Carolyn Dubol

Book Award: Looking forward to 2024



(l-r) Assistant Director Abigail Altman; Book Award Coordinator Claire Hargreaves; 2023 winner Katherine J. Chen; Executive Director Audrey Chapuis. Photo © Krystal Kenney.

Last Thursday, **Katherine J. Chen won the 2023 American Library in Paris Book Award for *Joan***. The prize's jury praised the novel as "a fierce fictional retelling of the life of Joan of Arc. Deeply researched and fully imagined, *Joan* manages to subvert the old, dusty narratives about the ardent virgin warrior from Domrémy in Eastern France, and creates a flawed, complicated, and compelling heroine for our age."

The American Library in Paris Book Award honors a title that best realizes new and intellectually significant ideas about France, the French people, or encounters with French culture. Qualities considered in submitted works include literary merit, depth of insight, and originality. The Book Award accepts submissions of works in all genres, published originally in English.

Authors, publishers, literary agents, and others are invited to submit books for the 2024 Book Award, now through 1 May 2024. Eligible books must be published between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024. Visit our website to find out more about the [submissions process](#).

The annual Book Award ceremony is the Library's **most important donor-appreciation event of the year**. Library supporters who give a gift of 250€ or more during the year will receive an invitation to the event. If you're not currently a donor and would like to attend the 2024 Book Award ceremony, please make your online contribution today.

[Make a Gift](#)

Critical Conversations begins this Thursday

Critical Conversations: Redesigning Democracy begins this **Thursday 16 November at 19h00**. During this eight-part discussion series, we'll explore how we can save democracy, drawing on history, systems mapping, and the emerging science of collective intelligence.

Critical Conversations, now in its fifth season, encourages both disagreement and agreement through thinking, talking, reading, and actively participating in community. Since the series' inception in 2020, we have tackled race in America, the climate crisis, migration, and being offline in the modern world. Across

seasons, participants have challenged themselves, their peers, and the world in which we live.

Conversations run for ninety minutes, in person at the Library. Both Library members and non-members are welcome to sign up. Click below for dates, pricing, and to register.



[Register for Critical Conversations](#)

Kirstin Chen and Grace Ly on 22 November



On Wednesday 22 November, the Library will welcome Kirstin Chen, author of best-selling novel *Counterfeit*, in conversation with Paris-based writer and podcaster Grace Ly.

Ly joined us last season, with writers Lindsey Tramuta and Rokhaya Diallo, for a fascinating conversation on diversity, representation, the mythology of the Parisienne, and the lived experience of women in France. To watch the recording of this and other past events, visit the [Library's YouTube channel](#).

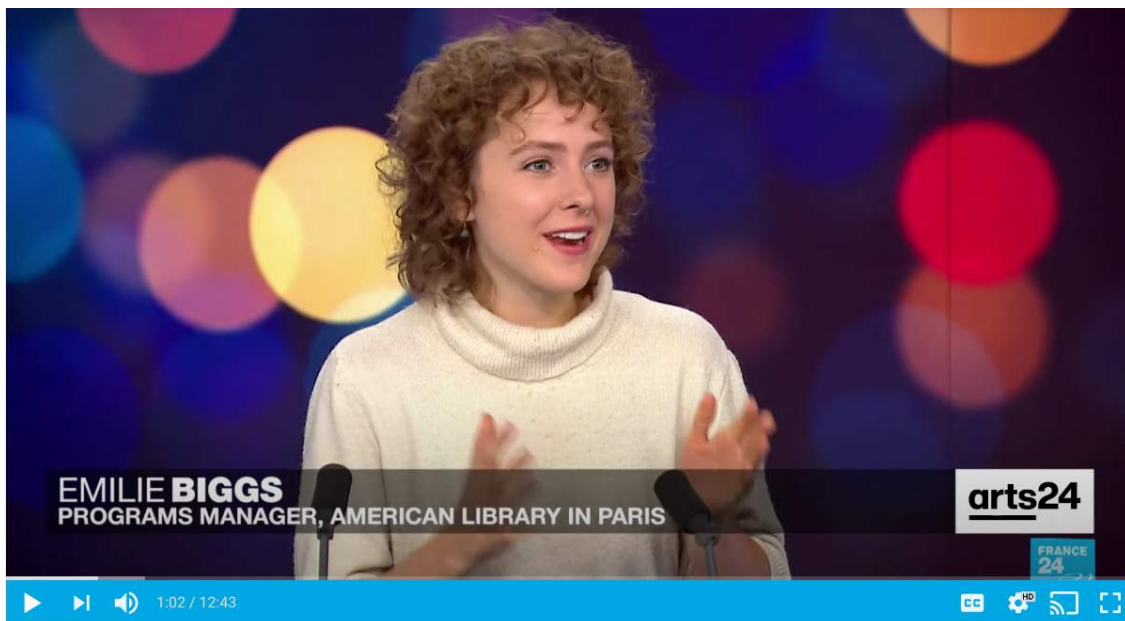
(Hybrid) Scamming the American Dream with Kirstin Chen and Grace Ly

**In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 22 November at 19h30 CET**

Join us at the Library for a conversation with Kirstin Chen, author of the bestselling novel *Counterfeit*, and writer and podcaster Grace Ly.



Programs Manager Emilie Biggs on France 24

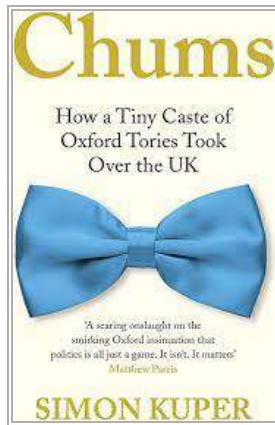


The Library's Programs Manager, Emilie Biggs, recently appeared on the France24 television channel's Arts24 program to discuss the winner of this year's Prix Goncourt French literary prize, *Veiller sur elle* ("Watch over her") by Jean-Baptiste Andrea. Watch Emilie's appearance by clicking the image above and learn about title and the award.

Programs for Adults

Evenings with an Author, sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg

Evenings with an Author and other evening programs are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted. You must RSVP to attend our programs, whether you join us in person or via Zoom.

**TONIGHT**

From Cliques to Politics
with Simon Kuper and Ian Leslie

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Tuesday 14 November at 19h30 CET

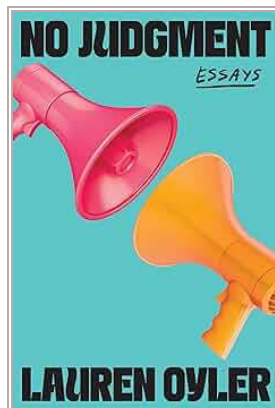
In his book *Chums: How a Tiny Caste of Oxford Tories Took Over the UK*, journalist Simon Kuper traces some of the biggest names in the British Conservative Party—including Boris Johnson, David Cameron, and Jacob Rees-Mogg—to their formative years at Oxford.

Kuper pulls back the curtain on the debating tactics and cultivated affectations, the friendships and the rivalries, that swept through Oxford in the second half of the twentieth century, and that continue to exert a powerful grip on British politics. The authors will appear in conversation with journalist and 2018–2019 American Library in Paris Visiting Fellow Ian Leslie.

The Visiting Fellowship is generously sponsored by The de Groot Foundation.

The event will be followed by a reception; a book sale and signing will be offered thanks to [Smith&Son](#).

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)

**TOMORROW**

How to Criticize: A Workshop
with Scholar of Note Lauren Oyler

In Person spots are full; Join us on Zoom
Wednesday 15 November at 19h00 CET

Please note the start time of this event.

Hailed as “the pre-eminent and most widely read critic of her generation” by the *Times*, and author of the forthcoming (2024) essay collection *No Judgment*, Lauren Oyler is celebrated for her irreverence, wit, and willingness to dissent from popular opinion. An American Library in Paris Scholar of Note, Oyler will lead a ninety-minute workshop devoted to criticism.

We'll discuss how to respond critically and creatively to others' work, and learn reading techniques that will help us become more attentive and imaginative readers and writers.

The [American Library in Paris Scholar of Note](#) program is generously sponsored by The de Groot Foundation.

Book sale and signing after the event, thanks to [Smith&Son](#).

[RSVP to attend on Zoom](#)



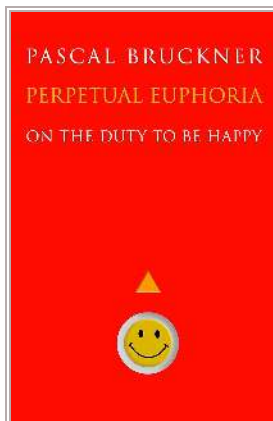
Critical Conversations Meeting 1:
Collective Intelligence—The Human Superpower
In Person at the Library
Thursday 16 November at 19h00

Human beings are not the largest, fastest, or strongest species on the planet. Our superpower is collaboration, at a scale and level of sophistication that make us unique among all living things. How did we evolve this special ability? Why does it so often seem to fail (groupthink, social media, etc.)? What is science telling us about how to design smarter teams and organizations, and what could this mean for democracy's future?

Led by professors Lex Paulson and Mark Klein over eight sessions, this cycle of our Critical Conversations discussion series will focus on how we can save democracy, drawing on history, systems mapping, and the emerging science of collective intelligence.

Open to members and non-members. Pre-registration and payment is required to attend. Click for information and to sign up.

[Sign up for Critical Conversations](#)

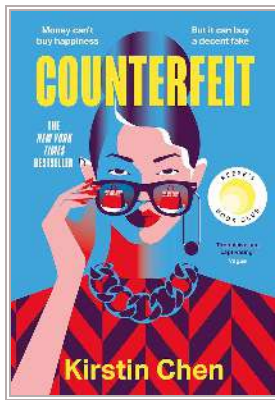


An Evening with Pascal Bruckner
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Tuesday 21 November at 19h30 CET

Pascal Bruckner is a prolific philosopher, a critic of contemporary French culture, a political commentator, and an accomplished novelist. For nearly half a century, his polemical philosophies have generated conversation and sparked debate. Topics of his writing have ranged from critiques of Western "guilt" to a meditation on the failures of modern marriage.

This program has been produced in partnership with [Le Conversazioni](#), an international festival that hosts exchanges between writers, philosophers, artists, and other distinguished guests. Bruckner will appear in conversation with Antonio Monda, founder of the festival.

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



[Scamming the American Dream with Kirstin Chen and Grace Ly](#)

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 22 November at 19h30 CET**

Kirstin Chen's best-selling novel *Counterfeit* tells the story of Ava Wong, a Chinese American lawyer and mother whose life is upended when she is pulled into an international scam to sell counterfeit luxury purses. The *New York Times* critic Camille Perri writes, "*Counterfeit* is an entertaining, luxurious read—but beneath its glitz and flash, it is also a shrewd deconstruction of the American dream and the myth of the model minority."

Chen joins us to discuss the core themes of her work, including Asian American identity, cultural belonging, and feminism. Along the way, we'll learn about how the author uses plot twists, humor, and other narrative techniques to achieve her incisive cultural commentary. This conversation will be moderated by writer and podcaster Grace Ly.

Book sale and signing after the event, thanks to [Smith&Son](#).

RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom



[Writing Politics with Giuliano da Empoli](#)

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Monday 27 November at 19h30 CET**

Giuliano da Empoli is an accomplished political essayist and social commentator. His recent debut novel, *Le Mage du Kremlin* (*The Wizard of the Kremlin*) quickly garnered international attention, becoming a popular hit in France, Italy, and beyond. The novel centers on a fictionalized version of a real person: Vladislav Surkov, a former adviser to Vladimir Putin.

Join us to learn more about da Empoli's novel, his political research, and his thoughts on the relationship between fact and fiction.

This program has been produced in partnership with [Le Conversazioni](#), an international festival that hosts stimulating talks with writers, philosophers, artists, and other distinguished guests. The author will appear in conversation with Antonio Monda, founder of the festival.

RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom



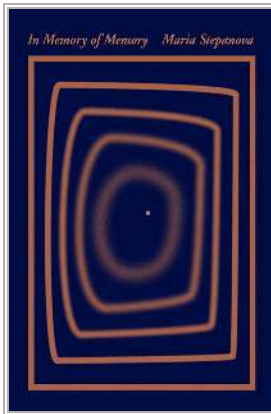
An Evening with Binkady-Emmanuel Hié
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Tuesday 28 November at 19h30 CET

In 2020, following the BLM movement and during the global pandemic, Binkady-Emmanuel Hié, along with five dancers of the Paris Opera where he had been working as a fundraiser, co-wrote a manifesto titled “De la question raciale à l’Opéra de Paris,” which called for effective anti-discrimination policies at the Opera.

Since then, Hié launched the NORME agency, which provides consulting services on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) practices and management services. Hié will take a look at the past, present, and future of equity in the arts, in conversation with Après Josephine’s Lyneka Little.

This event is in partnership with [Après Josephine](#).

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



Possible Lives with Maria Stepanova
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 29 November at 19h30 CET

With the death of her aunt, poet and writer Maria Stepanova is left to sift through an apartment full of faded photographs, old postcards, letters, diaries, and heaps of souvenirs: a withered repository of a century of life in Russia. In her family history *In Memory of Memory*, Stepanova uses these momentos to tell the story of how a seemingly ordinary Jewish family managed to survive the myriad persecutions and repressions of the last century.

In Memory of Memory will serve as the point of departure for a broader conversation between Stepanova and professor Daniel Medin about writing autobiographically, drawing on the author’s readings of Charlotte Salomon, Fleur Jaeggy, Gertrude Stein, and others.

This event is co-sponsored by Columbia Global Centers | Paris and the Institute for Ideas & Imagination as part of our Entre Nous series, and is produced in collaboration with AUP’s Center for Writers and Translators.

Book sale and signing after the event, thanks to [Smith&Son](#).

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



[Behind the Lens with Frederick Wiseman](#)

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Thursday 30 November at 19h30 CET

Frederick Wiseman has directed and produced more than forty films over the course of his illustrious career. His films offer profound insights into American institutions, reveling in the human stories that make up our social systems.

The titles of his films introduce their subjects with deceptive simplicity: they include *High School* (1968), *Welfare* (1975), *Public Housing* (1997), *Ex Libris: The New York Public Library* (2017); and *City Hall* (2020). In his latest film, *Menus-Plaisirs—Les Troisgros* (2023), Wiseman brings his penetrating gaze to a three-star Michelin restaurant in rural France.

Join us at the Library to hear this cinematic giant reflect upon his work and method.

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



[Covering Crisis: Journalism in the Middle East](#)

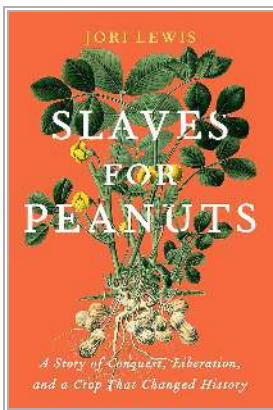
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Tuesday 5 December at 19h30 CET

Oct 7th reignited the long-standing conflict between Israel and Palestine. Journalists have been on the ground reporting, attempting to capture the realities, complexities, and human toll of this ongoing crisis, often risking their lives in the process.

Join us for a panel discussion on the role of journalism during war.

This event is presented in partnership with the Overseas Press Club.

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



[Slaves for Peanuts](#)

[with Jori Lewis and Robin Allison Davis](#)

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 6 December at 19h30 CET

In her book *Slaves for Peanuts: A Story of Conquest, Liberation, and a Crop That Changed History* (2022), Jori Lewis exposes the pernicious connections between the demand for peanut oil in Europe and the persistence of slavery in Africa. Lewis shows how France continued to rely on slave labor in West Africa for the production of peanuts, even long after slavery had been officially abolished in French territories. Her work animates the complex lives of historical people, weaving them together through studies of agriculture and trade. The result is, in the words of renowned scholar Imani Perry, “a revelation” that “promises to transform our understanding of slavery and colonialism.”

The author will appear in conversation with Emmy Award-winning television journalist Robin Allison Davis.

Book sale and signing after the event, thanks to [Smith&Son](#).

RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom



[The Future of Consent with Manon Garcia](#)

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Thursday 7 December at 19h30 CET**

Manon Garcia is a leading voice in conversations about consent, autonomy, and feminist philosophy. In her latest book, *La Conversation des Sexes* (*The Joy of Consent* in its English translation), Garcia delves into the philosophical traditions that gave rise to “consent” as a legal framework. What does it mean to “consent” to sex? How can consent serve as a guiding principle for personal and intimate relations?

Garcia offers a nuanced revision of consent-based ethics, imagining new paths forward for feminism. As scholar Nancy Bauer writes: “This book is no less than a blueprint for a new feminist revolution.”

RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom



Find recordings of past programs on our [YouTube](#) channel:

- Translating Words and Worlds with Daniel Levin Becker
- Reforming the Female Form with Lauren Elkin and Alice Blackhurst
- Diaspora Unfurled with Fiona Sze-Lorrain and Biswamit Dwibedy
- New History of American Literature in France with Laurence Cossu-Beaumont

**GROW@
ANNENBERG**

Evenings with an Author 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.



Children's and Teens' News

Unless otherwise noted, all Children's events are for Library members only. Teen events are free for Library members, and 15€ per teen for non-members. Advance registration is required for all events for children and teens.

Children's Event Highlights

Story Hour: The Moon and Stars (ages 3–5) Wednesday 15 November at 14h30

Toddler Time: Thanksgiving (ages 1–3) Thursday 16 November at 11h00

Story Hour: Thanksgiving (ages 3–5) Wednesday 22 November at 14h30

Board Game Bonanza (ages 3–12) Saturday 25 November at 11h00

Saturday Series: DIY Bracelets (ages 6–12) Saturday 25 November at 14h00

Story Hour: Brave Women (ages 3–5) Wednesday 29 November at 14h30

Teen Event Highlights

U.S. College Admissions Process (ages 14–adult) Sunday 19 November at 14h00

Teen Night: Story Sprints with Noah Weisz (ages 12–18) Friday 24 November at 19h00

Exploring Watercolor (ages 12–18) Saturday 25 November at 16h30

Teen Night: Music Trivia Madness with Rock U. (ages 12–18) Friday 1 December at 19h00

How Can You Help the 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? [Become a member](#) or [renew](#) your Library membership, make an online [donation](#), become a [volunteer](#), and tell your friends about the Library.



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.



The American Library in Paris
10 rue du Général Camou
Paris, France 75007
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