



The
American
Library
in Paris

e-Libris

Dispatches from the Library

17 September 2024

Featured in this edition of e-Libris: Vision 2027, our Toast to Tomorrow donor event, a new season of Critical Conversations, and much more.

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. Please scroll to the bottom of the newsletter if you would like to unsubscribe from e-Libris and all Library communication.

EXPANDING HORIZONS FOR THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS



We are thrilled to unveil *Vision 2027*, a three-year strategic plan that will shape the Library's future and expand our cultural outreach through 2027. This plan has been made possible by a historic gift from the American Center for Art and Culture, whose mission to foster Franco-American cultural exchange has been a cornerstone of the Parisian cultural landscape for decades.

In December 2022, the American Center announced it would be winding down its activities, with the proceeds from the sale of its *hôtel particulier* in Paris to be donated to the American Library. This transformative gift ensures that the Center's legacy of artistic collaboration and cultural dialogue between France and the United States will live on through the Library's expanded programming, creative initiatives, and cultural exchanges.

The key elements of *Vision 2027* are centered around four streams of action: Illuminate, Champion, Empower, and Ignite. Each of these streams is designed to deepen the Library's engagement with local and global cultural communities, foster meaningful cultural exchanges, and broaden access to our diverse resources and services.



ILLUMINATE

Bringing History to Light

The ILLUMINATE stream aims to make history more accessible and engaging through the expansion of the Library's successful History Tours, the introduction of new physical and digital exhibits, such as the history of the Library War Service in WWI, and the digitization of its institutional archives. This stream highlights the intersection of historical research with modern cultural perspectives.



CHAMPION

Fostering Cultural Dialogues

With the CHAMPION initiative, the Library will broaden its cultural programming by growing its Cultural Fellowships, hosting multidisciplinary events, and extending partnerships with leading cultural institutions in France. These programs will encourage creative and intellectual exchanges across literature and the arts. Jill Le Grand, Chair of the Board of Trustees, noted, "A transformative gift from the American Center for Art and Culture will allow us to build upon the Library's legacy as a hub of connection and discovery, enabling us to reach an even wider audience via partnerships with cultural institutions and make an even greater impact with enriching, multidisciplinary events."



EMPOWER

Building Bridges of Knowledge

The EMPOWER stream focuses on increasing access to the Library's resources, building on its program On the Road to reach underserved communities in and out of Paris. A new courier service will ensure that members across Paris can access its resources more easily, extending cross-cultural educational opportunities and fostering knowledge-sharing between diverse communities.



IGNITE

Igniting Curiosity, Fueling Creativity

Through the IGNITE stream, the Library will nurture a culture of lifelong learning and creativity by increasing access to its most popular print and digital titles and by acquiring key digital resources that are important to American history in Paris. Plans also include developing a librarian exchange program to facilitate international collaboration and expanding the Young Authors Fiction Festival to support the next generation of writers.

“As we approach our 105th anniversary, *Vision 2027* is the perfect way to begin a new chapter for the Library,” says Audrey Chapuis, Executive Director of the Library. “We’re excited to broaden our programming, expand access to knowledge, and directly support writers and artists with new fellowships.”

This exciting step forward continues the legacy of the American Center for Art and Culture while paving the way for new cross-cultural initiatives and community impact. Visit the Library’s website to learn more about *Vision 2027* and how you can help shape our future.

Vision 2027

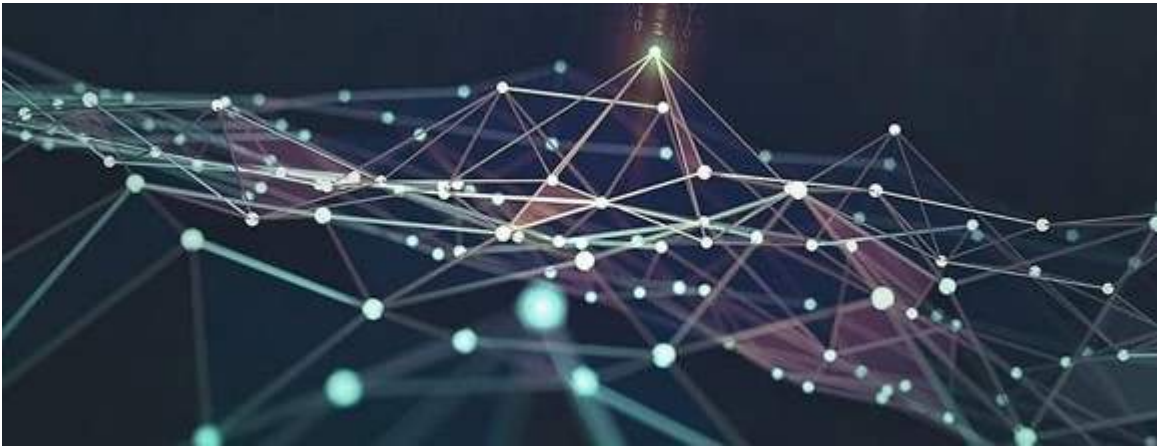
Learn more about Vision 2027 this Thursday 19 September

Join us for **Toast to Tomorrow**, a donor appreciation event designed to honor and thank our dedicated supporters as we embark on an exciting new chapter of the Library. The evening promises excellent food, wine, and celebration.

Executive Director Audrey Chapuis will touch on the Library's strategic plans for the future, while Rachel Donadio, our Curator of Cultural Programs, will reveal some of the cultural highlights in store for this season.

To attend, please contact Morgan Wurzburger if you are a Friends of the Library donor or if you would like to make your first donation.

A New Season of Critical Conversations



Sign up for Critical Conversations: The Internet Is Not What You Think

Starting on Thursday 10 October Professor and historian **Justin Smith-Ruiu** will uncover what the internet really is.

During the sixth season of Critical Conversations, we'll be exploring the historical, political, and philosophical forces that shaped early information networks, and how these early visions compare to the internet of today. In this thought-provoking series of conversations, we'll unravel the impact of this unprecedented technological revolution on our economy, politics, culture, and even our psychology. Delve into the minds of the great thinkers who theorized about machine intelligence and the utopian—or dystopian—future of a world driven by machine-aided decision making.

The 2024–2025 series will unfold over eight sessions, from October 2024 to June 2025. Conversations will begin at 19h00 CET and run for ninety minutes, in person at the Library. Professor Smith-Ruiu will begin each meeting with opening remarks, before guiding a group discussion on the topic at hand.

This series is open to both Library members and non-members. Advance payment and registration is required.

Register for Critical Conversations

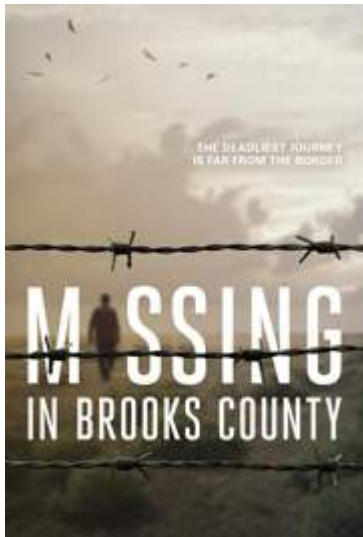
Programs for Adults

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.

We thank the following for their support: the Florence Gould Foundation, The de Groot Foundation, and the American Center for Art & Culture.



Film Screening: Migrant's Death Valley

In-Person at the Library only

Tuesday 17 September at 19h30 CEST

Known as the “migrant’s Death Valley” for its desolate landscape and unforgiving heat, Brooks County, Texas is believed to have the highest death toll for migrants anywhere in America, although the vast majority of bodies are hidden in unmarked graves and never identified. The documentary follows a forensic anthropologist and a team of students as they seek to identify bodies and contact families. Join us for a conversation with documentarian **Lisa Molomot**, **Sara Abbas**, and **Asma Zalim** to see clips from the film.

RSVP for In-Person



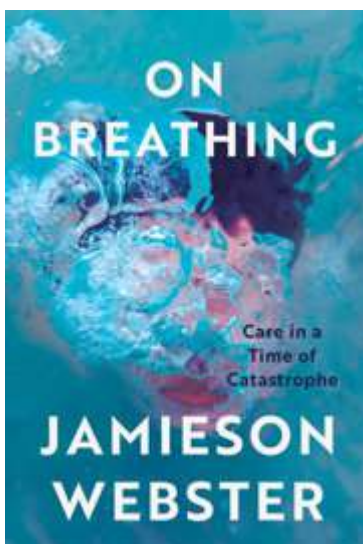
Populism in 2024

Live on Zoom (**In-Person sold out**)

Wednesday 18 September at 19h30 CEST

Is populism on the rise or in retreat in the U.S. and Europe? The 2024 Trump campaign and the success of the National Rally in June’s legislative elections in France show that populism is alive and well, yet the victory of Labour in the U.K. and other election results in Eastern Europe paint another picture. What’s the state of play of populism in 2024, a year in which voters in more than 64 countries will go to the polls? A panel of distinguished journalists and experts organized by the **Overseas Press Club** will discuss.

RSVP for Zoom



On Breathing with Jamieson Webster

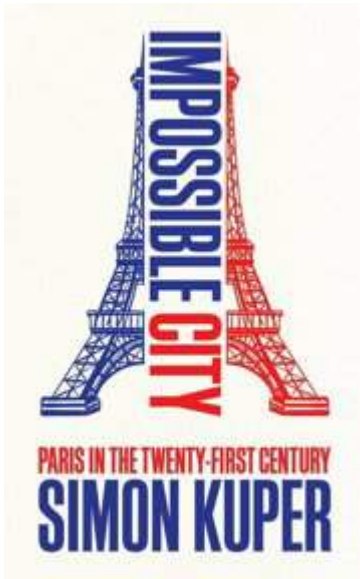
Hybrid: In-Person at the Library or Live on Zoom

Tuesday 24 September at 19h30 CEST

Psychoanalyst **Jamieson Webster** discusses her forthcoming book *On Breathing: Care in a Time of Catastrophe*. The one thing that unites every single moment of our lives is that we are breathing. Although inhaling and exhaling rarely attract attention, these simple actions are increasingly under threat—whether due to climate change, anxiety, or a public health emergency. Webster draws on her professional experience as a palliative care psychoanalyst during the pandemic, as well her personal experiences, to explore this often overlooked subject. The conversation will be moderated by writer, journalist and psychoanalyst **Sinziana Ravini**.

RSVP for In-Person or Zoom

Imperfect Life in a Perfect City: The Paris of Today
Live on Zoom (**In-Person sold out**)
Wednesday 25 September at 19h30 CEST



Journalist **Simon Kuper** discusses his new memoir, *Impossible City: Paris in the Twenty-First Century*, with fellow journalist **Pamela Druckerman**. In more than twenty years living in Paris, Kuper has experienced the city both as a human being and a journalist. He has enjoyed croissants, taken his children to youth soccer in the *banlieues* and has watched Paris — and himself — change through terrorist attacks, heatwaves, protests, the Covid pandemic and the Olympics. His memoir mixes personal observations with reportage on the evolution of one of the world's great cities.

RSVP for Zoom

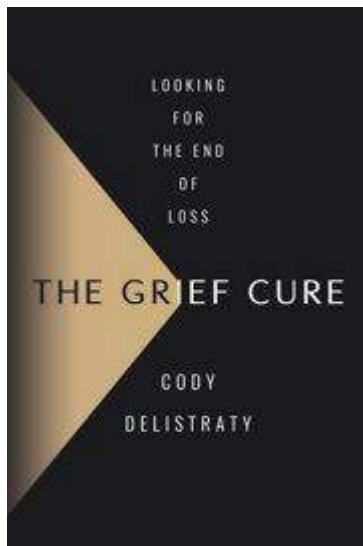


Festival America: Women's Bodies
Offsite: In-Person at Festival America
Thursday 26 September at 16h00 CEST

How are women writers writing about the body today? With the #MeToo movement, women's bodies have been invited into the literary space, challenging a dominant male vision. Join us for an event in partnership with Festival America with **Lauren Groff, Isabela Figueiredo, Szilvia Molnar**, and the American Library in Paris's Curator of Cultural Programs, **Rachel Donadio**.

Purchase tickets

Does Grief Ever End? With Cody Delistraty and Lindsey Tramuta
Hybrid: In-Person at the Library or Live on Zoom
Tuesday 1 October at 19h30 CEST

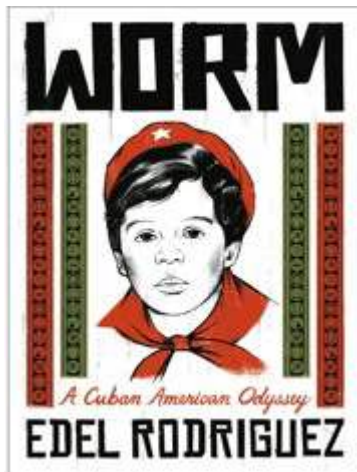


Cody Delistraty lost his mother to cancer when he was in his early 20s. As he explored ways to mediate his grief, the American Psychological Association and World Health Organization announced a diagnosis: Prolonged Grief Disorder. While this diagnosis allowed for novel treatment, Delistraty was left with a question: Should we treat grief medically? Delistraty appears in conversation with Paris-based writer and travel journalist **Lindsey Tramuta**.

RSVP for In-Person or Zoom

Illustrating Exile with Edel Rodriguez

Hybrid: In-Person at the Library or Live on Zoom
Wednesday 2 October at 19h30 CEST



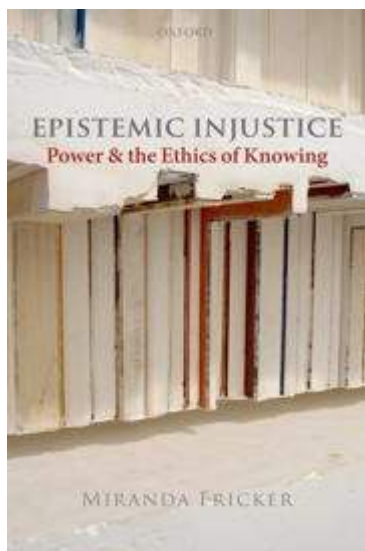
Hailed for his iconic art on the cover of Time and dubbed "America's illustrator-in-chief" (Fast Company), **Edel Rodriguez** is among the most prominent political artists of our age. When Rodriguez was nine, Fidel Castro announced his surprising decision to let 125,000 traitors of the revolution, or "worms," leave Cuba. Before they could leave, his family was imprisoned and then marched to a flotilla that miraculously deposited them, overnight, in Florida. *Worm* recounts the coming-of-age of an artist and activist, who, witnessing America's turn from democracy to extremism, struggles to differentiate his adoptive country from the dictatorship he fled. This conversation will be moderated by artist, designer, and educator, **Maria Krasinski**.

RSVP for In-Person or Zoom

The Ethics of Blame With Miranda Fricker and Amanda Dennis

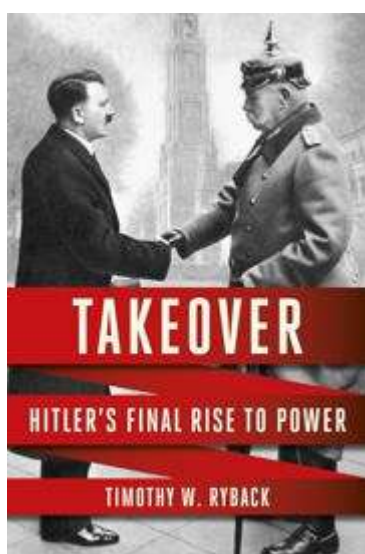
Hybrid: In-Person at the Library or Live on Zoom
Tuesday 8 October at 19h30 CEST

What are we doing when we blame and forgive? What is 'epistemic injustice' and how does it affect these practices? How is it being used in processes of truth and reconciliation in South America and in supporting women survivors to come forward and tell their stories? How does unequal access to conceptual language enable some people to tell their stories, while others suffer without knowing how to put names to their experiences? **Miranda Fricker**, a professor of philosophy at New York University, will discuss these questions with novelist **Amanda Dennis**.



This event is produced in collaboration with the American University of Paris.

RSVP for In-Person or Zoom



How Hitler Came To Power, with Timothy W. Ryback and Jim Bitterman

Hybrid: In-Person at the Library or Live on Zoom

Wednesday 9 October at 19h30 CEST

The year 1932 would shape decades to come. *Takeover: Hitler's Final Rise to Power* is a dramatic recounting of the six critical months before Adolf Hitler seized power, when the Nazi leader teetered between triumph and ruin. **Timothy W. Ryback** details the remarkable story of Hitler's dismantling of democracy through democratic process and shares insights into Hitler's personal and professional lives, recounting backroom deals, unlikely alliances, stunning betrayals, an ill-timed tax audit, as well as a fateful weekend that changed our world forever.

RSVP for In-Person or Zoom



Find recordings of past programs on our **YouTube** channel!

Children's and Teens' News

We have so many things to celebrate this fall, from reuniting with old friends and making new friends at school, to a new season of programs for children and teens at the Library!

Library programs for children are designed to support early literacy and to develop a lifelong love of learning and reading. All programs for children and teens include time



for interaction with other Library members and bookworms.

The programs listed below are free for Library members and **advance registration** is required.

Children's event highlights

Story Hour: Tricky Tricksters (ages 3–5) Wednesday 18 September at 14h30

Toddler Time (ages 1-3) Thursday 19 September at 11h00

Little People, Big Dreams Day (ages 3–12) Saturday 21 September at 11h00

Story Hour: Firefighters (ages 3–5) Wednesday 25 September at 14h30

Dog Man Party (ages 6–12) Saturday 28 September at 11h00

Music Together with Stacey Pavesi Debré (ages 0–5) Saturday 28 September at 16h00

Teen's event highlights (for ages 12–18)

Teen Night: Action Movies (ages 12–18) Friday 20 September at 19h00

Teen Night: Capture the Flag (ages 12–18) Friday 27 September at 19h00

ACOTAR Fan Club: A Book Group (ages 12+) Saturday 28 September at 14h00

Writing a College Admission Essay with Cathy Altman Noquet (ages 14–18) Sunday 29 September at 15h00

Teen Night: Scary Movies (ages 12–18) Friday 4 October at 19h00

Teen Night: Halloween Decorating Party (ages 12–18) Friday 11 October at 19h00

Free Write: A Creative Session (ages 12–18) Saturday 12 October at 15h00



Donate

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.

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