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The
American
Library
in Paris

e-Libris

Dispatches from the Library

3 September 2024

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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.

Welcome Back

Dear Readers,

I'm delighted to welcome you back to the American Library in Paris for an exciting season of cultural programming. The *rentrée* this year feels particularly special, as the city is still abuzz with the joy of the Olympics and Paralympics, as well as the spirit of internationalism, cooperation, and excellence, all founding values of the Library. Over a century ago, it was precisely this motivating force—the belief in truly international cooperation in the advancement of access to information—that allowed an American Library to take root and flourish in France. Here we are in 2024, kicking off a new slate of programs, resources, and services for all information appetites. This fall, in Evenings with an Author sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg, we will be exploring the [Paris of Today with Simon Kuper and Pamela Druckerman](#), local history about the iconic Village Voice bookshop, [current events with the Overseas Press Club](#), the power of libraries, and much more.

To learn more about this season's offerings and our future projects, I invite you to become a [Friend of the Library](#) and join us for a special evening on 19 September. I'd love to see you there.

Whether you regularly attend our evening programs, bring your children to Story Hour, use our quiet study spaces for research or writing, or volunteer your time, I want to thank you for participating in the life of the American Library in Paris. As always, we want to hear from you: please email feedback@americanlibraryinparis.org with questions, suggestions, or ideas.

Here's to an exciting season of conversation, reading, and learning ahead!

Your fellow reader,

Audrey Chapuis
Executive Director

September History Tours



The Library's popular expert-led History Tours continue this fall!

Sign up now for our Tours on 6 September, 13 September, 20 September, and 27 September, all Fridays at 11h00. Please don't wait to sign up, as the Tours will fill up quickly.

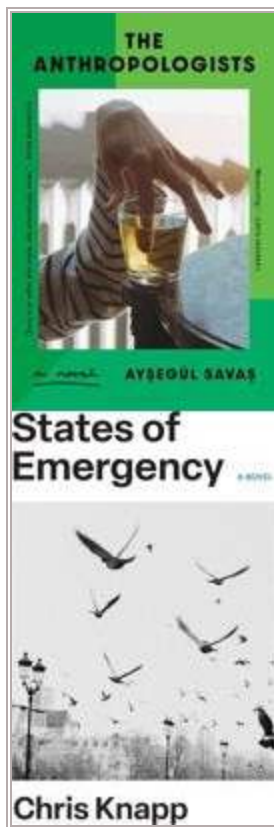
Tours are free and open to the public, and will take you on a deep dive into the Library's fascinating 104-year history. Follow the librarians who distributed books to the Doughboys fighting alongside Allied troops in WWI; learn about the famous writers of the Lost Generation who explored our stacks during their time in Paris; and discover the true stories of the brave staff who kept the Library open during the Occupation of WWII.

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.



[The Couple and the City with Ayşegül Savas and Chris Knapp](#)

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

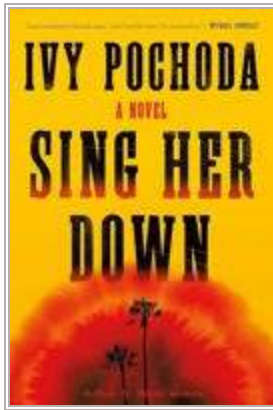
Tuesday 10 September at 19h30 CEST

In their most recent novels, **Ayşegül Savas** and **Chris Knapp** both explore the loves, family dramas, and transnational relationships of young married couples. Savas' *The Anthropologists* follows the couple Asya and Manu in the midst of apartment-hunting in an unnamed city. In Knapp's *States of Emergency*, an American man and his French wife embark on a journey of fertility treatment during a catastrophic Parisian heatwave.

Ayşegül Savas is the author of the acclaimed novels *Walking on the Ceiling* and *White on White*. Her work has been translated into six languages and has appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *Paris Review*, *Granta*, and elsewhere. She lives in Paris.

Chris Knapp's work has appeared in the *Paris Review*, *n+1*, *Granta*, and the *New England Review*, among others. He earned an MFA in fiction at the University of Virginia, and an MA in journalism and international affairs from SciencesPo in Paris. *States of Emergency* is his first novel.

RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom

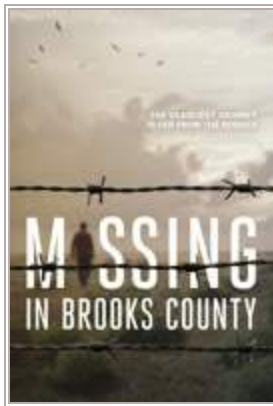


[Can Women Be Ruthless Criminals? with Ivy Pochoda and Katherine Pancol](#)

Hybrid: In-Person at the Library or Live on Zoom
Wednesday 11 September at 19h30 CEST

Ivy Pochoda and Katherine Pancol discuss Pochoda's latest thriller, *Sing Her Down*, a disastrous game of cat-and-mouse between a prisoner and her former cellmate. Is Florence “Florida” Baum a naive victim of circumstance, or a ruthless criminal? While Florida convinces herself she is the unlucky target of manipulation, Diosmary Sandoval knows a truth that Florida refuses to believe: that women are capable of immeasurable cruelty.

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



[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 to attend in person](#)

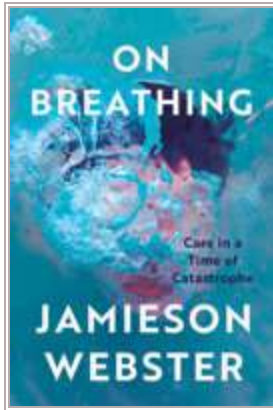


[Populism in 2024](#)

Hybrid: In-Person at the Library or Live on Zoom
Wednesday 18 September at 19h30 CEST

Is populism on the rise or in retreat in the US 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 UK 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 to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



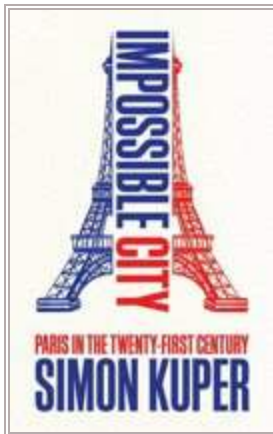
[On Breathing with Jamieson Webster](#)

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 to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



[Impossible City: Paris in the Twenty-First Century](#)

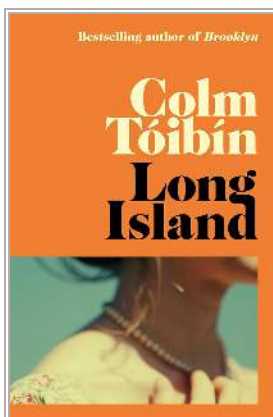
Hybrid: In-Person at the Library or Live on Zoom

Wednesday 25 September at 19h30 CEST

In-Person tickets SOLD OUT

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 as both 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 to attend on Zoom](#)



[Long Island with Colm Tóibín and Guadalupe Nettel](#)

Offsite: In-Person at Reid Hall

Wednesday 25 September at 19h00 CEST

For the first *Entre Nous* event of the *rentrée*, the American Library in Paris and the Institute for Ideas and Imagination will host at Reid Hall a conversation between two of the greatest contemporary literary voices: Colm Tóibín and Guadalupe Nettel, on the occasion of the French publication of Tóibín's latest novel, *Long Island*. The book tells the story of Eilis Lacey—the complex and enigmatic heroine of *Brooklyn*, one of Tóibín's most acclaimed books—twenty years later, in a moving and tense story of secrecy, misunderstanding, and love.

RSVP to attend



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](#)



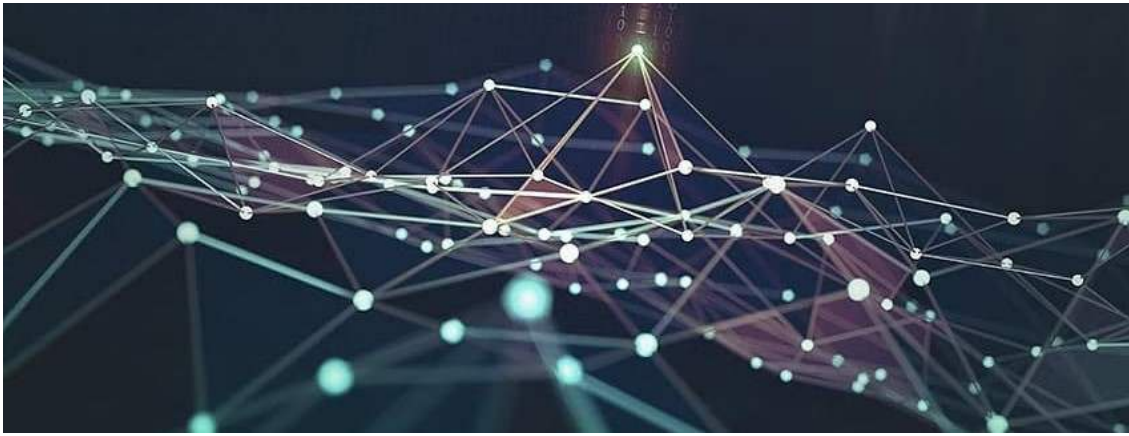
Find recordings of past programs on our [YouTube](#) channel!

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.



A New Season of Critical Conversations



Critical Conversations 2024–25: The Internet Is Not What You Think

What is the internet? How far back in history can we find its precursors, in the form either of mechanical social, or perhaps even biological information networks? In this year's season of Critical Conversations, historian and philosopher Justin Smith-Ruiu will lead us through conversations to understanding the unprecedented technological revolution we are currently living through, as well as its economic, political, cultural, and psychological consequences.

About the series leader:

Justin Smith-Ruiu is a historian and philosopher of science. A professor at the University of Paris, Smith-Ruiu is the author of *Irrationality: A History of the Dark Side of Reason* (2019), *The Philosopher: A History in Six Types* (2016), and *Divine Machines: Leibniz and the Sciences of Life* (2011).

The 2024–2025 series will unfold over eight sessions, on Thursdays from October 2024 to June 2025. Advance registration is required.

[Register for Critical Conversations](#)

Children's and Teens' News



Fall is just around the corner, and as the days become darker and cooler, there's a feeling of change in the air. The *reentrée* is a great time to build new (or improved!) reading habits and make sure reading for fun remains a priority for your kids. The Library offers picture books, early readers, chapter books, fiction, and non-fiction to celebrate the changing seasons as well as opportunities for members to connect over building blocks, bracelet weaving, board games, and puzzles. Members can also register for one of our workshops, readings, or other children's events to join in fun for all ages.

Children's event highlights:

[Story Hour: Library Favorites \(ages 3–5\)](#) Wednesday 4 September at 14h30

[Toddler Time \(ages 1–3\)](#) Thursday 5 September at 11h00

[The Animal Games in Paris with Oliver Gee and Lina Nordin Gee \(ages 3–12\)](#) Saturday 7 September at 11h00

[Story Hour: Building and Construction \(ages 3–5\)](#) Wednesday 11 September at 14h30

[Saturday Series: Hexaflexagons \(ages 6–12\)](#) Saturday 14 September at 11h00

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

[Toddler Time \(ages 1–3\)](#) Thursday 19 September at 11h00

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

Teen event highlights

As you begin the new school year, remember to take time for yourself! Be sure to take regular breaks from studying and homework to give your brain a rest. The Library offers teens a place to connect with other English-speakers and bookworms in the community through workshops and Teen Nights after hours on Fridays. Check out our event calendar or the highlights below. Finding a place to study can help you focus. The Library has plenty of room for quiet studying, and study rooms for group meetings, or individual work.

[Teen Night: American Food Fest](#) (ages 12–18) Friday 6 September at 19h00

[Free Write: A Creative Session](#) (ages 12–18) Sunday 8 September at 16h00

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

Join a Book Group

Find full details on each Book Group, including reading lists and meeting dates, as well as the signup form on the [Library's website](#). Spaces are very limited, so sign up quickly!

Nabokov in America

Tuesdays at 16h30

Led by Morgan Evan Thomas

Explorations at the Limits of our Knowledge

Tuesdays at 17h00

Led by Maurice Lanman and Laurie Calvet

Writer's Book Club: Discussing Our Fictions

Tuesdays at 18h30

Led by Peter Villani

Girls in Cultish Fiction

Tuesdays at 19h00

Led by Victoria Robert

Queer Womanhood: Fiction and Memoir

Wednesdays at 19h30

Led by Madison Haussy

Putin's Russia

Thursdays at 17h00

Led by Beth Wintersteen and Pamela Combastet

Prize-Winning American or British Plays

Saturdays at 10h30

Led by Hilary Kaiser

The Art of Travel Writing: Tangier

Saturdays at 17h00 (On Zoom)

Led by Precious Brown

Contemporary French Fiction

Sundays at 14h00

Led by Helen Stanton

Memoir Book Group

Mondays at 13h45 (waitlist)

Led by Clydette de Groot and Leslie de Galbert

Choose Your Own Adventure

Wednesdays at 19h00 (waitlist)

Led by Amber Haggerty

Strangers in a Strange Land

Thursdays at 15h00 (waitlist)

Led by Mary Harries Magnusson and Gulseren

Kozak-Isik

The Library is Looking for Volunteers



The Library is looking for new volunteers to join our team! Volunteers, ranging in age from teens to seniors, donate their time and talents to support Library operations and programming. Volunteering can be a fun way to build community, gain new skills, and support an institution whose mission you believe in.

Volunteer opportunities are available during the Library's operating hours, including weekdays, evenings, and weekends. If you are interested in volunteering at the Library, please check out our [volunteer page](#) to learn more.

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 logo for The American Library in Paris, featuring the text "The American Library in Paris" in white serif font on a dark red square background.

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