

[View this email in your browser](#)



The American Library in Paris

ESTABLISHED 1920

e-Libris 21 March 2023

In this issue

- [Introducing Library History Tours](#)
- [Visiting Fellowship: Kate Kirkpatrick](#)
- [Special Programs for Parents and Caregivers](#)
- [Parsons Paris's Printing Fashion Festival](#)
- [Press Room: *Evenings with An Author Featured in France Today*](#)
- [Programs for Adults](#)
- [Children's and Teens' News](#)
- [How Can You Help the Library?](#)

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

Introducing Library History Tours



We're very happy to announce a brand new initiative starting this April. We will soon be offering guided, in-person presentations of the Library's rich, 103-year history.

We'll delve into our origins, when our Library grew out of a collection of books donated to the Doughboys fighting alongside Allied troupes in WWI; share the ground-breaking innovations brought to France by American librarians in the 1920s through the Paris Library School; and discover the dramatic true stories of the heroic librarians who kept the Library open during WWII. We'll tell you about our recent sleuthing in the archives and beyond, and how we solved archival mysteries surrounding some of our most intriguing past employees.

We'll offer our History Tours on **select Friday mornings at 11am**. History Tours are **free and open to the public**, and last for one hour.

To see the schedule and to sign up for a tour, click below:

Library Tours

Tour leader Mayanne Wright is a writer, developmental editor, and educator. She has collaborated on over 100 French, Spanish, and English language, literature, and culture textbooks, books in a variety of other disciplines, and works of creative nonfiction. Mayanne also gives talks and walking tours on all things French. She has participated as a lecturer in the Library's Embassy-sponsored outreach program, On the Road. has been a Library volunteer since 2017, assisting with evening and donor events, shelving, and notably, conducting research in the Library's institutional archives.



Visiting Fellowship: Kate Kirkpatrick



Spring 2023 Visiting Fellow Kate Kirkpatrick will be headlining two exciting *Evenings* in the coming weeks:

[Simone de Beauvoir: Living Philosophy with Kate Kirkpatrick and Marine Rouch](#)

Tuesday 28 March at 19h30

Simone de Beauvoir's lived experiences were instrumental to the development of her philosophy. Who was the woman behind *The Second Sex*?

[Feminism Today with Kate Kirkpatrick and Manon Garcia](#)

Tuesday 11 April at 19h30

Are we in a fourth wave of feminism? How can the current feminist movement be defined, if definition is possible at all? Given the current terrain, what does the future of feminism look like?

These events are free and open to the public, and you many attend online or in person. Click the links above to find out more, and to sign up.

Apply now to be a Visiting Fellow in 2023–2024:

If you are working on a writing or research project and would like to come to Paris and integrate the intellectual life of the American Library, [apply now](#) to be a Visiting Fellow.

Applications are due on 1 April 2023.

The Visiting Fellowship is generously sponsored by The de Groot Foundation.
Evenings with an Author is supported by GRoW @ Annenberg.

Special Programs for Parents and Caregivers

The Library's Children's and Teens' Services Department doesn't just offer fabulous programs for young readers. We also host educational events for parents and caregivers. Join us for these upcoming events:

[The Stages of Reading with Dr. Allison Peck](#)—Saturday 25 March at 15h00

We'll discuss research-backed strategies to help children strengthen their reading skills, how multilingualism impacts reading development, and red flags to look out for, and research-backed strategies and practices that can be implemented at home. The presentation will be followed by an audience Q&A. **Open to Library members. Advance registration is required.**

[Moving Up to CP, in partnership with AAWE](#)—Thursday 13 April at 19h30

Within the French education system, the transition from *maternelle* (preschool) to *primaire* (primary school) is an exciting step for a young child. The *Cours Préparatoire* (or CP) is the first year of *primaire*, when children begin their formal education and learn to write and develop their reading skills. Our panel discussion with professionals and parents will cover how to choose the best CP option for your child. We'll explore private vs. public schools in Paris and how to apply; developmental insights into this age group; and practical advice for helping your children thrive during this crucial step in their education. The presentation will be followed by an audience Q&A. **Free and open to the public with a 10€ suggested donation. Advance registration is required.**

Parsons Paris's Printing Fashion Festival

The Library is participating in Parsons Paris's fifth annual online Printing Fashion Festival. The Festival investigates the evolution of printed media, featuring key experts in the field. The 2023 theme, Resistance, will be explored through debates, lectures, and conversations.

Join Parsons Paris and our own Assistant Director Abigail Altman online on Thursday 30 March at 15h45. Abigail will give a presentation entitled "**Libraries at War.**"

All events are free and open to the public through Zoom. Click to see the [full schedule](#) of the Printing Fashion Festival. To attend one or more events, please [register](#).



Tonight, Tuesday 21 March, we welcome to the Library fashion scholars Antoine Bucher and Dr. Marco Pecorari, Program Director of the MA in Fashion Studies at Parsons Paris. They'll be discussing how the history of fashion is written.

[Click](#) for more information, and to register to attend in person at the Library or online on Zoom.

Tonight's event is made possible through a generous grant from The Florence Gould Foundation, with support from the American Center for Art and Culture.

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.

Press Room: Read Barbara Gerber's article on the Library's *Evenings with an Author* speaker series in [France Today](#).

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME REMINDER: Clocks moved forward in the US on 12 March, but **do not move forward in France until 26 March:** If you are attending a virtual or hybrid program from a US time zone, the time difference will be one hour less between 12 March and 26 March, and will return to normal on 26 March.



TONIGHT

[A Dispatch from the Fashion Archives with Marco Pecorari and Antoine Bucher](#)

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Tuesday 21 March at 19h30 CET**

Fashion captures the historical moment, giving it shape and fixing it in fabric. Yet how is fashion itself recorded for posterity? What tools do we have to document the design, production, and use of fashion? When writing the history of fashion, what is worthy of the archive, what is cast aside, and why? How do we document ephemera such as invitations, press releases, and catalogs that reveal the development of modern fashion within the contemporary marketplace? Fashion historians Marco Pecorari and Antoine Bucher join us to discuss.

This talk is supported by the Florence Gould Foundation and the American Center for Art & Culture.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



TOMORROW

[Macron's Second Term, Analyzed](#)

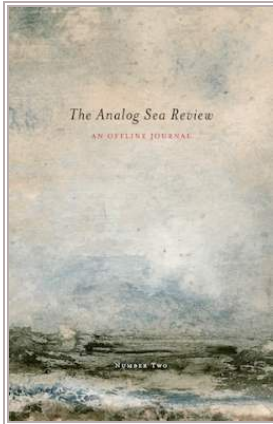
**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 22 March at 19h30 CET**

Emmanuel Macron's win in the 2022 French presidential election arrived at a moment of intense political polarization across France. The divided state of French politics has continued to limit the centrist Macron's success. How should we evaluate the first six months of his second term, with his 34% approval rating and strong resistance to his plans for retirement reform? What conclusions can we draw about centrism in Europe today? Join a panel of experts to analyze the current state of French politics, and what this means for the future.

This event has been organized in partnership with the Overseas Press Club of American (OPC).

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom



Critical Conversations Meeting Five:
A Life of Reading and Writing

In Person at the Library

Thursday 23 March at 19h00 CET

Please note the special start time.

Given the pressure of constant connectivity today, forging a life of reading and writing may feel like a solitary or revolutionary pursuit. But how might such a life benefit the individual and society at large? What exactly does a life of reading and writing demand of, and offer to, the individual? Do reading and writing complement or disrupt a digital lifestyle, and are words on the screen the same as words on the page? The *Analog Sea Review's* Jonathan Simons and the Library invite you to join the conversation.

Registration required.

RSVP to attend in person

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME REMINDER: Clocks moved forward in the US on 12 March, but **do not move forward in France until 26 March:** If you are attending a virtual or hybrid program from a US time zone, the time difference will be one hour less between 12 March and 26 March, and will return to normal on 26 March.



Simone de Beauvoir: Living Philosophy
with Kate Kirkpatrick and Marine Rouch

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom

Tuesday 28 March at 19h30 CEST

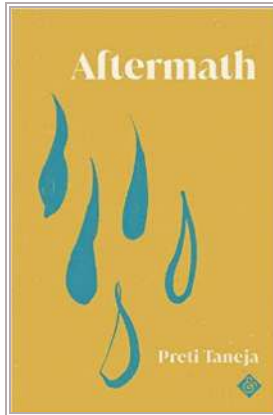
Nearly seventy-five years ago, Simone de Beauvoir published the monumental *The Second Sex*. An invaluable contribution to existential philosophy, the work laid the foundations for contemporary feminist thought. It also led to the development of new disciplines, from gender studies to queer theory, all motivated by its central claim: one is not born a woman, but rather becomes one. Who was the woman behind the text? How did her life feed into her philosophy, and in what ways were the two in contradiction? How did Simone de Beauvoir become herself? Join [American Library in Paris Visiting Fellow](#), philosopher, and author of *Becoming Beauvoir* Kate Kirkpatrick and de Beauvoir expert Marine

Rough to discuss the biography of the woman who changed philosophy.

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

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



[Preti Taneja on the Aftermath of Disaster](#)

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 29 March at 19h30 CEST

Novelist Preti Taneja's second work, *Aftermath*, is a fragmented, aching, yet ultimately hopeful account of the immediate consequences of catastrophe. The book is a reaction to a fatal attack at a prison writing program in London which left a colleague and a student of Taneja's dead. The author details the intimate experience of loss and the public reckoning of a fractured social structure, considers the culture of trauma narratives, and challenges the limits of language in contending with disaster.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



[Ecologues Meeting Three: The Energy Question](#)

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Thursday 30 March at 19h00 CEST

Please note the special start time.

With volatile gas and electricity prices and accelerating energy diversification, the question of energy (and of the energy transition from fossil-based to zero-carbon by the second half of this century) is central to contemporary discussions about the environment. Join experts Andreas Rüdinger and Tom Burke to discuss.

Ecologues, our series of interactive webinars on the environmental crisis, takes place both in person at the American Library in Paris and online. Organized in partnership with [News Decoder](#) and the [Climate Academy at the European School of Brussels](#), the series is supported by the Florence Gould Foundation and the American Center for Arts and Culture.

If you missed our first two Ecologues meetings, you can watch them on the Library's [YouTube channel](#).

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



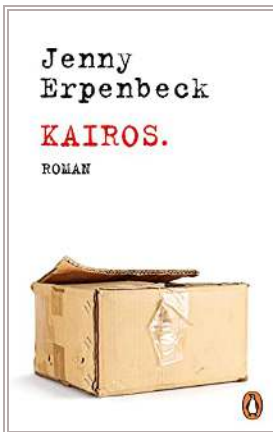
[Reimagining Race with Mohsin Hamid](#)

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Tuesday 4 April at 19h30 CEST

Award-winning novelist Mohsin Hamid's newest book, *The Last White Man*, begins with a premise borrowed from Kafka: one day, his protagonist wakes up to find that he has undergone a transformation overnight. In this case, he has metamorphosed from a white man into a man of color. As similar transformations begin to occur to all white members of his town, the previously fixed social order begins to break down. Disorienting and thought-provoking, the novel forces readers to confront the instability of racial identity in contemporary society. Wielding the absurd as a tool for political engagement, Hamid harnesses fiction's capacity to inspire the imagination in order to propose alternative visions for the world.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



[Returning to East Berlin](#) [with Jenny Erpenbeck and Claire Messud](#)

Online Event: Live on Zoom
Wednesday 5 April at 19h30 CEST

The Greek expression for timeliness or opportunity, *kairos*, expresses the correspondence of an activity to its historical moment: an ephemeral alignment of situation and season. In celebrated writer Jenny Erpenbeck's new book, *Kairos*, this alignment is a relationship which emerges between a young woman and older writer amidst the dissolution of the GDR. The book contends with generational and political divides, anchored to the division of Berlin: Having fortuitously found one another, the couple experiences the collapse of East Berlin from two different historical perspectives, unable to reach each other across the wall of time that separates them. Erpenbeck will discuss divided states, lovers, and ages with **writer Claire Messud**.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

[RSVP to attend on Zoom](#)

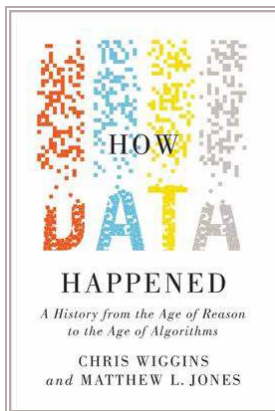


[Feminism Today with Kate Kirkpatrick and Manon Garcia](#)
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Tuesday 11 April at 19h30 CEST

The past decade has seen many significant moments in feminist history, amplified by the rise of social media. The consent revolution, from #MeToo to #Balancetonporc, led to a reevaluation of power dynamics in the workplace and in society at large. The Women’s March demonstrated the power of mass-mobilization, as well as its limits. Developments in queer studies have led to evolving notions of what womanhood means, complicating the contours of feminism and the groups it represents. Racial justice movements have brought the question of intersectionality to the forefront of feminist philosophies. As social life rapidly changes around us, is a unified definition of feminism—as a set of principles, a practice, an approach to life—still possible? Was it ever? Join philosophers of feminism Kate Kirkpatrick and Manon Garcia to discuss.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



[Entre Nous: Data’s Human History with Chris Wiggins and Matthew Jones](#)
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 12 April at 19h30 CEST

The central question of the twenty-first century has become that of data. How is it gathered? How is it used? By whom and for whom? As society becomes increasingly digital, how can one opt out of the data machine, and in what ways are we all unwittingly opting in? Omnipresent and largely anonymous, data technology’s murky origins contribute to its near-mystical status. In new work *How Data Happened*, historians of science Chris Wiggins and Matthew Jones combat this opacity, revealing the fascinating and deeply political history of data. Considering economic, social, and diplomatic factors, Wiggins and Jones situate data within a matrix of states, companies, and individuals all seeking to transform knowledge into power.

The [Entre Nous](#) series is co-organized by [Columbia Global Centers | Paris](#), the [Institute for Ideas and Imagination](#), and the American Library in Paris.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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

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



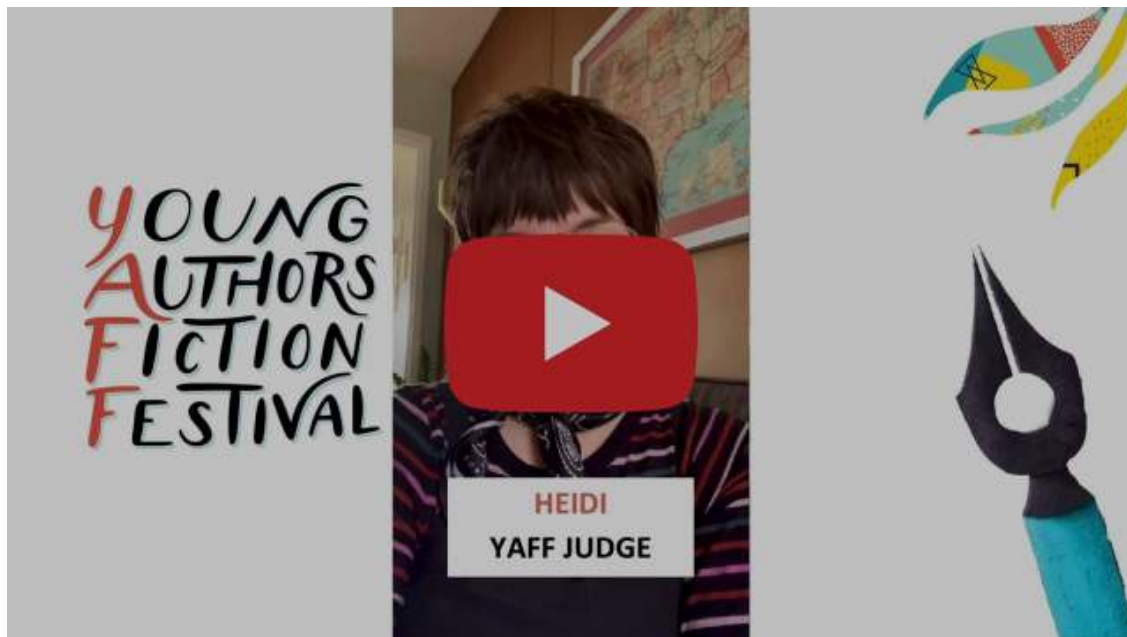
- Bruno Patino on the Age of Information
- Noga Arikha on the Self and the Disrupted Mind, in conversation with Rachel Donadio
- Philippe Sands on Britain's Living Colonial Legacy
- Getting Life Back on Track with Oliver Mol
- Linda Kinstler on the Haunting of History



GROW
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.

Children's and Teens' News



Meet some of this year's YAFF judges! Each year over 100 judges from around the world volunteer to read the stories that are submitted to the Library's writing contest for young authors. The judging team includes educators, published authors, librarians, and parents.

What are YAFF judges looking for? Originality, strong storytelling, and a clear beginning, middle, and end. They also appreciate setting and character development, good use of dialogue, a developed vocabulary, and the correct use of grammar. Expectations vary by grade level and judges take the age of the author into account. Each story submitted to YAFF is read by a minimum of three judges.

Submissions for YAFF 2023 are due on 1 April. [Visit the website](#) for more information, and to submit your short story.

Children's event highlights

- [Story Hour: Knights and Ninjas](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 22 March at 14h30
- [Good Luck Charms](#) (ages 6–12) Saturday 25 March at 11h00
- [Yoga Kids, with Pari-Grandir](#) (ages 3–6) Saturday 1 April at 11h00
- [Music Together with Stacey Pavesi Debré](#) (ages 0–5) Saturday 8 April at 11h00
- [Silly Songs with Matt Black](#) (all ages) Saturday 13 May at 11h00

Welcome to Sinamen MaGee, who has joined the Library team as our new Front of House Assistant. You'll find her at the Member Services desk, as well as in the Children's and Teens' Services Department.

This Saturday 25 March, Sinamen will lead children ages 6–12 in the [Good Luck Charms](#) program. Come meet Sinamen, learn about good luck charms, and have fun making your own!



Teen Events (ages 12–18):

- [A Cappella Night with Rock U](#)—Friday 24 March at 19h00
- [Creating Compelling Characters](#)—Saturday 25 March at 16h30
- [Writing from Life with Jion Sheibani](#)—Friday 7 April at 19h00
- [Capture the Flag](#)—Friday 21 April at 19h00
- [The 11th Annual Literary Reaping](#)—SAVE THE DATE: Saturday 17 June at 19h00

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.

RENEW

DONATE

VOLUNTEER

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

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

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

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).