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The American Library in Paris

ESTABLISHED 1920

e-Libris 4 April 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

Library closed this Sunday 9 April

**The Library will be closed this Sunday for the Easter holiday.
We reopen at 10h00 on Tuesday 11 April.**

Meet the 2023 Book Award Jury

We're proud to announce the jury for the 2023 American Library in Paris Book Award, now in its eleventh year. The decorated writers who will be choosing this year's winning title are:

Doan Bui is a French writer and journalist for the news magazine *L'Obs*. Born in le Mans to parents who emigrated from Vietnam, she is a 2013 recipient of the Albert Londres Prize, France's equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize, for her work on refugees. Her books include the memoir *Le silence de mon père* (2016); the novel *La Tour* (2022); two graphic novels with illustrator Leslie Plée, *C'est quoi un terroriste* and *Fake News*; and *Ils sont devenus Français* with co-author Isabelle Monnin. She has won or been shortlisted for many prestigious literary awards.



Lauren Groff (Jury Chair) is the author of six books, including three National Book Award Finalists: *Fates and Furies*, *Florida*, and *Matrix*. She has won the Joyce Carol Oates Prize, the Story Prize, and *Madame Figaro's* Grand Prix de l'Héroïne, and has published work in thirty-five languages. She was born in Cooperstown, New York and lives in Gainesville, Florida. Her fifth novel, *The Vaster Wilds*, will be published in September 2023.



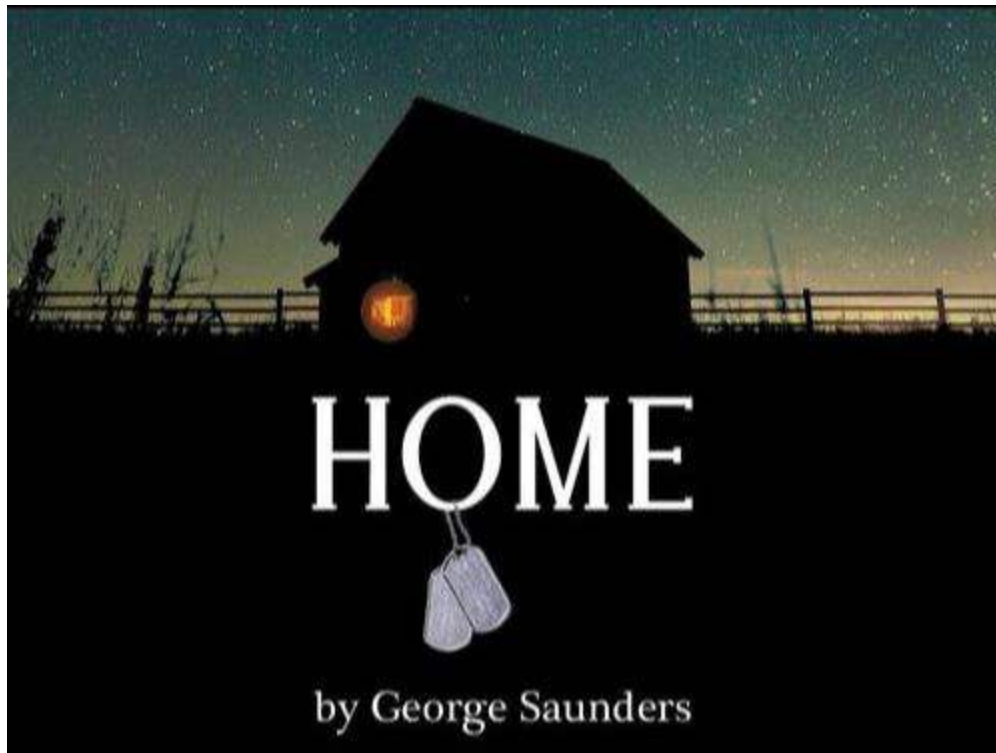
Sudhir Hazareesingh was born in Mauritius and teaches Politics at Balliol College, Oxford, UK. He has written about French political, intellectual, and cultural history, from the Revolutionary era to the present. His most recent books are *In the Shadow of the General: Modern France and the Myth of de Gaulle* (2012); *How the French Think: An Affectionate Portrait of an Intellectual People* (2015); and *Black Spartacus: The Epic Life of Toussaint Louverture* (2020), the winner of the 2021 American Library in Paris Book Award.



This spring, a group of dedicated Screeners will review submissions. The Jury will deliberate over the summer, and the winner will be revealed at the Book Award Ceremony in November at the Hotel de Talleyrand. If you would like to submit your book for consideration, please visit our [website](#).

The Book Award ceremony is the Library's most important donor appreciation event of the year. If you would like to receive an invitation to the 2023 ceremony, we invite you to inquire about becoming a donor: giving@americanlibraryinparis.org.

Word for Word Comes Back to Paris!



After a three-year hiatus, the San Francisco-based performing arts company Word for Word comes back to Paris this spring with their performance of *Home*, by author George Saunders.

***Home* by George Saunders**

Tuesday 16 May at 19h30

Théâtre du Ranelagh, 5 rue des Vignes, 75016 Paris

Please note that this event is offsite: [Théâtre du Ranelagh, 5 rue des vignes, 75016 Paris](#)

Tickets for HOME

HOME is the story of Mikey, a war veteran returning to a home that is increasingly cruel and absurd—and his quest for understanding and compassion. Saunders' subtle yet absurdist humor brings a unique slant to otherwise dark topics. The performance is directed by Word for Word core company member Shila Balter.

WORD FOR WORD Performing Arts Company presents short works of fiction in their entirety, preserving the author's voice and honoring their intent with exciting visuals and inventive staging. Founded in 1993 by Susan Harloe and JoAnne Winter, Word for Word believes in the power of the short story to provide solace, compassion, and insight into our daily lives. They bring stories from diverse cultures to diverse communities, and develop audiences' love for the printed and spoken word.

This event is co-sponsored by the American Library in Paris, the Fondation Jeannine Manuel, and Word for Word Performing Arts Company.

Giving Story: Alumni Group Supports Children's and Teens' Programming

We are excited to share that an informal group of HEC Paris alumni recently donated funds towards the Library's children's and teens' programming. The gift was then matched by American Library in Paris Board member Whitney Gore, who is a director of business and legal affairs for UK scripted series at Netflix. Thanks to Gore, additional funds were provided by Netflix through its employee giving program, which generously matches 200% of employees' donations to approved organizations.

This group donation contributes to the Library's robust slate of children's and teens' programs, including weekly Story Hour, writing groups, film clubs, and the Young Authors Fiction Festival (YAFF), which now extends throughout France. Over 3,500 young readers participate in over 200 Library events each year. This generous HEC alumni group gift and Gore's matching contribution help undergird these beloved programs.



Poet and author Elizabeth Acevedo signing books for young fans in September 2019.
Photo © Julien LB Photography Paris.

We are grateful to all those who contributed to this campaign and helped make it a success: Priyanka Narasimhan, Francesco Caravello, Binta Gnagadou, Whitney Gore, Emma Kearney, Nathalie Kwingoua, Xavier Martin, Olivier Martinez, Lorenzo Nicolosi, Florent Pascal, Alessandria Redley-Bagayan, Chen Shao, Anglea Sheng, Helen Roh, Alexandre Visage, Vlad Cherevko, Hui Wang. These HEC Paris EMBA alumni graduated with the Library's Director, Audrey Chapuis.

Our children's programming has always been the heart of the American Library in Paris. It is what connects us with young readers and writers from all over the world and allows us to help ignite an early love of books and creativity that will serve them in the future. Without the support of our community, we would not be able to provide the resources, services, and programs that educate and inspire these budding readers and writers. Interest in these programs only continues to grow, and every donation makes a difference.

If you are interested in making an individual or group charitable gift, creating a matching opportunity, or inquiring about corporate sponsorship, please email giving@americanlibraryinparis.org.

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

[Reimagining Race with Mohsin Hamid](#)

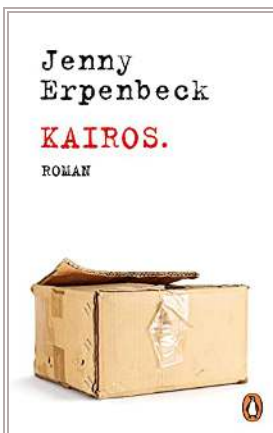
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom

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](#)



TOMORROW

[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](#)

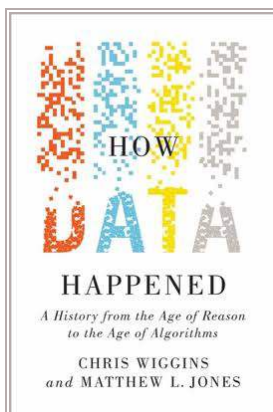
[Feminism Today with Kate Kirkpatrick and Manon Garcia](#)

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](#)

Online Event: Live on Zoom

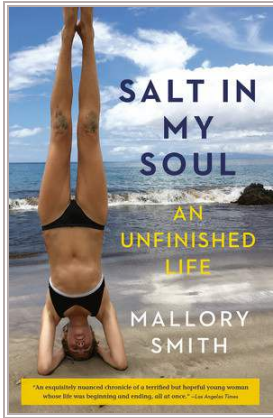
Wednesday 12 April at 19h30 CEST

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 on Zoom](#)



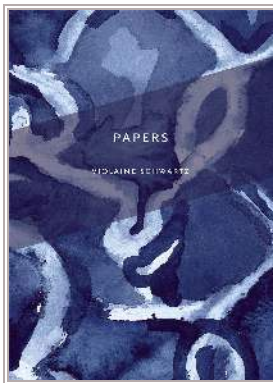
[Memoir As Medicine with Diane Shader Smith](#)

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Tuesday 18 April at 19h30 CEST**

At the age of twenty-five, Diane Shader Smith's daughter Mallory passed away following a lifelong struggle with cystic fibrosis. A passionate advocate for the cystic fibrosis community and an eloquent writer, Mallory recorded her intimate experiences for the final ten years of her life with the intent to have them published posthumously, thus rendering invisible illness visible. The result is *Salt in My Soul*, a celebration of an inspiring young life, a meditation upon health, and a document of sickness in the twenty-first century. Shader Smith will speak at the Library about medicine, memoir, and the power of storytelling.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



[Voices of Migration with Violaine Schwartz and Christine Gutman](#)

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

In *Papers*, author Violaine Schwartz gathers the numerous and varied experiences of those seeking asylum in France. Having survived arduous and often life-threatening journeys from their home countries, the subjects of this collection arrived in France only to learn that their odyssey had not yet ended. This is the story of the second half of their travels: through impenetrable bureaucratic systems, senseless administrative demands, and time itself as their wait for official government recognition draws on. *Papers* is a damning portrait of the conditions of contemporary immigration.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



Critical Conversations Meeting Six: Leisure

In Person at the Library

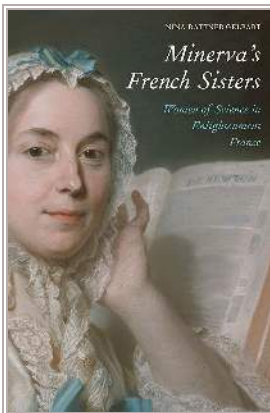
Thursday 20 April at 19h00 CEST

Please note the special start time for this event.

The terms free time and leisure are often used interchangeably. But are they the same? In this seminar, we will ask what defines leisure today: is it something greater than entertainment and relaxation? Do digital tools bring us more or less leisure? Do we feel that we have sufficient leisure in our lives? If not, what stands in the way, and what does the pursuit of true leisure teach us?

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



Nina Gelbart on the Forgotten Women of the Enlightenment

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

Tuesday 25 April at 19h30 CEST

The most frequently-cited version of the Enlightenment is that of a group of brilliant men whose contributions to science and the humanities defined the contours of the centuries to come, in France and beyond. Historian Nina Gelbart proposes that we expand this vision of the eighteenth century. In *Minerva's French Sisters*, Gelbart reveals the forgotten stories of six women whose contributions to science rival their most famous male peers. Join her to discuss new approaches to old narratives and the hidden women of the Enlightenment.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



Ecologues Meeting Four: The Food Question

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

Thursday 27 April at 19h00 CEST

Please note the special start time for this event.

While half of the world's habitable land is used to produce our food, fertilizers, sewage, and pesticides contaminate large swathes of the rest. How to feed the world, we might ask, without destroying the planet?

Journalist George Monbiot and **IDDRI Executive Director Sébastien Treyer** discuss.

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:

- Preti Taneja on the Aftermath of Disaster
- Simone de Beauvoir: Living Philosophy with Kate Kirkpatrick and Marine Rouch
- Macron's Second Term, Analyzed
- A Dispatch from the Fashion Archives with Marco Pecorari and Antoine Bucher



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

Unless otherwise noted, all events are for Library members, and advanced registration is required.



2023 Young Authors Fiction Festival receives over 1,000 submissions!

It was a banner year for the Young Authors Fiction Festival. YAFF received over 1,000 submissions for the Library's short story writing contest. Over 100 judges from around the world are now reading each submission carefully (each story is read by a minimum of six judges) before selecting their favorites. The results will be announced to all participants at the end of May.

We congratulate all the young authors that submitted a short story and hope they continue to be inspired to write and share their work.

Children's event highlights:

[Music Together with Stacey Pavesi Debré](#) (ages 0–5) Saturday 8 April at 11h00

[Mythical Beasts](#) (ages 6–12) Saturday 15 April at 11h00

[Upcycled Crafts](#) (ages 6–12) Saturday 22 April at 11h00

[Bookworms Book Club: The Crossover](#) (ages 9–12) Saturday 29 April at 11h00

[Game Day](#) (ages 6–12) Saturday 6 May at 11h00

[Blackout Poetry](#) (ages 8–12) Sunday 7 May at 14h00

[Silly Songs with Matt Black](#) (all ages) Saturday 13 May at 11h00

[Story Hour: Birthdays](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 17 May at 14h30

[Humans vs. Zombies](#) (ages 6–12) Saturday 20 May at 11h00

Program for parents and caregivers:

[Moving Up to C.P. \(in partnership with AAWE\)](#) Thursday 13 April at 19h30

Teen event highlights (ages 12–18)

[Writing from Life with Jion Sheibani](#) Friday 7 April at 19h00

[Capture the Flag](#) Friday 21 April at 19h00

SAVE THE DATE: [The 11th Annual Literary Reaping](#) Saturday 17 June at 19h00

Now Accepting Applications for 2023–2024 Teen Clubs**Deadline: 31 July 2023**

The Library's teen clubs offer a relaxed and creative setting for teens to meet, share ideas, get feedback, and work on a variety of skills—from creative writing, to filmmaking and public speaking.

Library members are invited to apply to the following clubs:

[Teen Advisory Group](#) (ages 12–18)

[Teen Writing Group](#) (ages 12–18)

Library members and non-members may apply to the following (participation is free if accepted)

[The Youth Leadership Program](#) in partnership with Toastmasters (ages 14–18)

[Master Shot Film Club](#) (ages 12–18)

Each club has limited space. Applicants will be informed by the end of August if they are accepted.



**College Admissions Resources
for Teens and their Families**

From SAT study guides to guides to universities in the US and the UK, the Library has plenty of resources available for teens investigating their educational options. The Library also organizes several events each year hosted by guests with experience navigating the landscape of US university admissions. Check out one of the upcoming events, or drop by the Teen Mezzanine to browse the college collection.

[Priceless Education on a Shoestring Budget with Richard Montauk](#)
Saturday 8 April at 14h00

[Selecting Colleges with Richard Montauk](#)
Saturday 8 April at 16h00

[The Vocabulary of U.S. College Admissions with College Goals](#)
Sunday 14 May at 14h00

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

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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 American Library in Paris
10 rue du Général Camou
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