



Games
Popular Adult Education
Québec



Jamaica Kincaid

2026
24-27
SEPT

GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

THE SWEDISH EXHIBITION
& CONGRESS CENTRE
GOTHENBURG



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BOKMÄSSAN
Gothenburg Book Fair

It is in our DNA

The concept of *folkbildning* – the Nordic tradition of popular adult education – was born out of a democratic promise: knowledge should not be the preserve of the elite. Reading, conversing, and sharing our thoughts are not just down to the individual – they are acts critical to society. We face increasing polarisation, while the rise of algorithms and AI are changing the way we acquire information, making it harder to know what is true, and so adult education is more important than ever. This is something we need to talk about.

As part of this year's popular adult education theme, we will be discussing its very future, including reading as a daily defence mechanism, and language as the key to knowledge. We will be casting our minds back to Ellen Key and the rich history of study circles in Sweden. We will be placing the focus on democracy, crisis, and disinformation. And we will be hosting an incredibly special book launch: a fresh translation of the New Testament into Swedish. A very big thank you to our theme partners the Swedish National Council of Adult Education, the University of Gothenburg and Folkuniversitetet, the Swedish Bible Society and the Swedish Academy.

As this year's guest of honour we are delighted to welcome Québec – a francophone linguistic and literary island surrounded by anglophones, where the issues of language, identity, and cultural legacy are a constant presence. More than twenty Québécois books have been translated into Swedish in anticipation of the Book Fair, and many of their authors will be present. Our tremendous thanks to Québec Édition for their sterling efforts – we hope our partnership will continue well beyond 2026.

Also joining the Book Fair as a first-time theme will be Games. We will be focusing on video games, board games, and role-playing games, as we explore one of the most dynamic and exciting forms of contemporary storytelling out there. Games bring to life complex characters as they build worlds and shape human fates – often with the player themselves as a co-creator in the story. Sweden is one of the world's leading gaming countries: more than 4.7 million Swedes play games, and the Swedish gaming industry is a dominant force on the international scene. Nevertheless, the barrier between the gaming world and the rest of the cultural sphere remains high; we want to change that.

This year's Gothenburg Book Fair achievement award, Sjöjungfrun (the Mermaid), goes to Jamaica Kincaid, one of the shining lights of contemporary literature. Her writing inspires important discourse about colonialism, relationships, and identity – and she has made a big impression on readers in Sweden and beyond. Don't miss the award ceremony on Saturday 26 September at 13:00!

With more than 800 participants across 300 seminars, the Book Fair remains a place for reading, conversation, and new perspectives. People have been gathering here to exchange ideas since 1985; folkbildning is part of our DNA. A very warm welcome to the 42nd Gothenburg Book Fair!



Oskar Ekström
Director of the Gothenburg
Book Fair

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General information:

For tickets, opening hours and further information, visit www.goteborg-bookfair.com

Upcoming fairs

2027: 23–26 September
2028: 28 September–1 October
2029: 27–30 September
2030: 26–29 September

Gothenburg Book Fair would like to thank all exhibitors, publishing houses, institutes, and organisations for their contribution to this year's seminar programme.

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PHOTO: NATALIE GREPPI

Guests of Honour 2024
 – Tjálleagoahte, the Bágo
 Writers Association and Sámi
 Girječálliid Searvi.

Guest of Honour

The Guest of Honour sets the tone and the theme for Gothenburg Book Fair, offering visitors a unique opportunity to explore the literature, culture, and ideas of a specific region. We are delighted to announce that Québec will take centre stage in 2026.

THE GUEST OF Honour benefits from a large-scale, eye-catching and centrally-located stand at the event which is guaranteed to receive many visitors. Our food outlets tailor their range to the Guest's culinary highlights, readings and artists from their country are showcased at VIP receptions, and the opening of the Book Fair as a whole takes place at the Guest's stand under the gaze of cultural stakeholders, authors, journalists, politicians and readers.

AS OUR PROMINENT Guest of Honour and the centre of attention, the Guest will be afforded a unique opportunity to market its country, culture, literature and authors to more than 95,000 visits and in excess of 700 journalists. The book fair generates over 7,000 articles in the media, and highlighting our Guest of Honour is always at the top of our agenda.

PAST GUESTS OF Honour include Brazil, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, the Nordic countries, Poland, Romania, South Africa, South Korea, Spain and the United Kingdom. This year we are proud to welcome Québec as our Guest of Honour.

VOICES FROM

Another way to
participate

The Guest of Honour programme is our flagship: it is the defining way to shape and influence the Book Fair in-depth. Other avenues include our Voices from-programme, aimed at raising interest in a country's contemporary literature and writers. It is a smaller scale programme, featuring a curated selection of seminars highlighting authors and experts from a guest country or institution, hosting a stand and a cultural programme on the fair floor as well as a reception in honour of participating authors. In recent years, we've presented voices from Iceland, Catalonia, Ireland, Italy, Bangladesh and Ukraine.

PHOTO: MARTINA LUNDBORG



International Rights Centre

Where books grow wings and find new readers.

GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR is the most important marketplace for Nordic literature. In Sweden, almost one in five of all published books are translated from another language. Foreign authors account for 58 % of fiction sales. Our International Rights Centre (IRC) brings together a plethora of agents and publishers from around the world as they buy and sell rights. This represents an excellent business and networking opportunity. The Gothenburg IRC is renowned in the book industry as an intense professional forum which also manages to be quality driven, composed, professional and personal. Located in the much-appreciated K-hall, it brings agents and publishers together and supports their needs, while also affording them direct access to the rest of the exhibition centre. With our friendly, professional colleagues on hand, the IRC is sure to live up to comments such as “this is the nicest IRC in Europe.”

Meet the Nordic Book Market

Do you want to participate at Gothenburg Book Fair? Please contact us for more information.

hej@bokmassan.se

You can also find information on goteborg-bookfair.com

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

TO INCREASE THE knowledge of Sweden's literature and book market the Swedish Arts Council and Gothenburg Book Fair provide a fellowship programme for translators from Swedish into other languages, as well as non-Nordic publishers and sub-agents interested in attending Gothenburg Book Fair. Travel costs, accommodation for three nights, and seminar cards are included in the offer.

The programme is partly pre-planned, with round table meetings, lectures on the Swedish book market and new Swedish literature as well as evening activities, and partly open with time set aside for individual meetings with agents in the Rights Centre. There will be both separate activities for translators and publishers as well as joint activities.

The fellowship is a great opportunity to get an overview of the Swedish and Nordic literature scene in just a couple of days.

Seminars

Writers, illustrators, translators, scholars, scientists, politicians, philosophers and journalists from around the world appear in readings, talks and high-profile debates on almost every conceivable topic.

The following seminars are held in non-Nordic languages. Where no other language is specified, the conversation will be held in English. A complete list of this year's seminars can be found on our Swedish website.

THURSDAY 10:00–10:45

HALL F3

AT THE HEART OF DEMOCRACY

What happens to democracy when more and more people encounter information via algorithms rather than through shared public spaces? With increasing digitalisation, information overload and a crisis in trust, libraries are assuming an ever-more important role as open meeting places. How can these institutions develop to strengthen participation, critical thinking and mutual dialogue across the Nordic region? **BRIT STAKSTON** will be in the chair for this panel featuring **ELISABETH AQUILONIUS**, Stockholm City Librarian, **GERD ELISE MØRLAND**, Head of Department at the Deichman Bjørvika (Oslo's main public library), and **SALLA TAMMI**, Director of Central Library Services at Helsinki City Library.

ORG: THE ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM, THE EMBASSY OF FINLAND IN STOCKHOLM AND VOKSENÅSEN

THURSDAY 11:00–11:45

HALL J2

CRITIQUING CIVILISATION AND THE RIGHTS OF NATURE

QUÉBEC Can nature talk? And can children's literature give it its own voice? This panel brings together Québécoise **CAROLINE MEROLA**, who is marking the release of her book *Mina och Odjuret* [Mina and the Beast] (translated from the original French edition *Mina et sa bête* by Maja Joyce) and Swede **MALIN ERIKSSON SJÖGÅRD**, whose book *Bergets barn* [The Children of the Mountain] has just been published. Together, they will explore how fairy tales, myths and magical realism can shape the value of nature, frame the ecological conflicts of our time, and encourage children's unique ability to identify what is magical – and what is under threat – in the world around us. This conversation about responsibility, imagination, and the rights of nature will be moderated by **SHORA ESMAILIAN**. Language: Swedish and French interpreted into Swedish

ORG: OPAL AND QUÉBEC – GUEST OF HONOUR

THURSDAY 12:00–12:45

HALL R2

THE CARIBBEAN ESPORTS MIRACLE

GAMES How are identity and community shaped through digital gaming culture, and what opportunities are created for the players themselves? **NICOLE GARIP**, the CEO of Dominican esports organisation Blink Esports, will be talking about the Dominican Republic's unexpected rise to the position of global player in the realm of fighting games. She will be in conversation with **JOHANNA KOLJONEN** about esports as a cultural force, career path, and driving force for social mobility.

ORG: THE EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, STOCKHOLM

THURSDAY 12:00–12:45

HALL F1

BOOKS THAT TRAVEL BETWEEN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

QUÉBEC What does it take for a book to travel between languages and cultures? Québécoise author **MARIANNE DUBUC**'s charming books are beloved the world over, and this year marks the release of her eighth title in Sweden (translated from the original French edition *Flop et le lac* by Helena Stedman). Swedish author **PER GUSTAVSSON**'s latest picture book is *Vi är frisörer* [We're Hairdressers], while his book *The Boy, The Father, and The Bear* was published earlier this year in Canada (in a translation by Eva Apelqvist). The panellists will be discussing the current state of play for children's books in their respective countries. What is it that brings certain books worldwide appreciation? What is central to their authors' own creative processes? Moderator: **THERÉSE GRANWALD**.

ORG: LILLA PIRATFÖRLAGET AND QUÉBEC – GUEST OF HONOUR



THURSDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL J1

BLOW UP THE MOULD!

JOHANNA SCHAIBLE and **EMMA VIRKE** stretch the book as a form and exploit the abilities of the printing world to develop their own artistic practice and their stories. Schaible's new book *Good Morning / Good Night* features two covers; this new type of binding enhances the story about the movement of the day. Emma Virke has explored the boundaries of books in several of her works such as *Presenten* (The Present) and *En sur citron* (A Sour Lemon). She also does this in her latest book, *Popcorn, popcorn, popcorn!*, in which two children are determined to lay their hands on popcorn. They will be in conversation with art historian **PATRIK STEORN**.

ORG: THE EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND IN SWEDEN AND LILLA PIRATFÖRLAGET

THURSDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL J2

UKRAINE, THE WAR, AND POETRY

Hemingway Knows Nothing by the Ukrainian poet **ARTUR DRON'** is now out in Swedish translation; the essay collection explores what experiences of war are doing to human relationships in Ukraine. Dron' voluntarily enlisted in February 2022 and remained in active service until the autumn of 2024, when he was wounded at the front. Poet and researcher **IRYNA SHUVALOVA**'s poetry collection *Кінечні нісні* [Endsongs] is about the impact of Russia's incessant attacks on daily life in Ukraine. In this encounter, the duo will be discussing Ukraine's current situation, future, and literature. Moderator: **CECILIA HANSSON**, author.

ORG: ELLERSTRÖMS FÖRLAG, 20TAL, AND THE UKRAINIAN INSTITUTE IN SWEDEN



THURSDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL F4

THE NORDICS – A REGION OF MANY GAMES

GAMES Is there a 'Nordic' way to make games? How can players be made to feel at home in typical Nordic settings? And what sets Nordic players apart from everyone else? This panel will bring together Finland's **EEVI KORHONEN** (narrative designer at Housemarque Games, who are responsible for the games *Returnal* and *Saros*), Norway's **ARE SUNDNES** (co-founder of the Hyper Games studio, which has put out the *Moomin* games), Denmark's **TRINE LAIER** (co-founder of the Those Eyes studio), and Sweden's **FREDRIK MALMBERG** (one of the biggest names in Swedish gaming since the 1980s). The session will be moderated by tech and gaming journalist **EVELINA GALLI**.

ORG: THE ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM, THE EMBASSY OF FINLAND IN STOCKHOLM AND GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

THURSDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL F2

WITH THE POPE AT THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

In 2023, the Spanish author **JAVIER CERCAS** – an atheist and in his own words a 'militant secularist' – was granted permission to accompany Pope Francis on a tour to Mongolia. Never before had the Vatican flung open its doors to a writer in this way. The trip resulted in the documentary novel *God's Fool at the Ends of the Earth* – a thriller about the role of the spiritual and the place of religion in human life, as well as the longing for immortality. Cercas will be joined by the Peruvian author **SANTIAGO RONCAGLIOLO**, whose book *El pastor y los lobos* [The Shepherd and the Wolves] is about Pope Leo XIV's struggles against evil – specifically sexual abuse and financial crime – which took him from his role as a missionary in Peru to pontifical office. Moderator: **ANTJE JACKELÉN**, Archbishop emerita of the Church of Sweden.

ORG: THE EMBASSY OF SPAIN IN SWEDEN, CHURCH OF SWEDEN. BEHOLD MAN STAGE, AND THE EMBASSY OF PERU IN SWEDEN

THURSDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL R2



COMICBOOK ADVENTURES FROM QUÉBEC

QUÉBEC Two award-winning comic creators from Québec join researcher and author **FREDRIK STRÖMBERG** to discuss comics and the passion for reading. **JOCELYN BOISVERT'S** *The Enchanted Library* series brings children's reading to life in a quirky play with the comic book format. **GUILLAUME PERREAULT** is the creator of the popular space adventure series *The Postman from Space*. What characterizes language, action, and the relationship between text and image? What do comics mean for children's reading and language development? And how do comic cultures in Québec and Sweden differ? Moderator: **WILMA HOLMESTRAND**. Language: Swedish and French interpreted into Swedish

ORG: HEGAS, SPEJA FÖRLAG, AND QUÉBEC – GUEST OF HONOUR

THURSDAY 14:00–14:45

HALL F5

GEORGI GOSPODINOV

Labyrinths of history

Opening poet: Niklas Åkesson. How do you describe a life in a time that keeps constantly writing about itself? Bulgarian author **GEORGI GOSPODINOV'S** *The Physics of Sorrow* is a novel about history as a labyrinth: families, ideologies, and everyday details and memories that can never quite be left behind. Can you get out – and do you want to? The book blends essay with poetry and prose, and was published a decade prior to Gospodinov's International Booker-winning *Time Shelter*, quickly becoming a cult classic in European literary circles. Moderator: **DANIEL MEDIN**, Professor of Comparative Literature at the American University of Paris.

ORG: ERSATZ. CO-FUNDED BY THE EU



THURSDAY 14:00–14:45

HALL F1

LITERARY VOICES FROM MINORITY POPULATIONS

QUÉBEC This panel will bring together two authors who write about belonging to a minority and seeking out their identity in the transitory spaces that this often gives rise to. Originally from Pessamit in Québec, the Innu poet **JOSÉPHINE BACON'S** poetry collection *Uiesh / Somewhere* describes her return to the words of the tundra, nature, and the nomadic ways of her ancestors. Norwegian author **KATHRINE NEDREJORD'S** *Sameproblemet* [The Sámi Problem] is a novel about Sámi identity that pulsates with anger, self-doubt, and pride. Moderator: **CARL ÅKERLUND**, author. Language: Swedish, Norwegian, and French interpreted into Swedish

ORG: QUÉBEC – GUEST OF HONOUR, RÅMUS, TRANAN

THURSDAY 15:00–15:45

HALL F2

STREET CHILDREN AND AUTOMATIC REVOLVERS

In the Louisiana bayou in the early twentieth century, four children flee poverty and dangerous strangers, crossing America in search of the answer to who killed Miss Dawn. Meanwhile, in a dystopian future version of Stockholm, a gang of street children in disguise are fighting each other and fanatical technocrats who have left the city in smoking ruins. Both **DAVIDE MOROSINOTTO'S** *The Pocket Watch Gang* (recently published in a Swedish translation from the Italian by Joel Nordqvist) and **FABIAN GÖRANSON'S** *Teknokraternas plan* [The Technocrats' Plan] (the second instalment in the *Klara* trilogy) focus on classic, dangerous, and swash-buckling adventure. They will be joining journalist and critic **JONAS THENTE** to discuss young protagonists, courage, and resistance.

ORG: GALAGO, BOKFÖRLAGET OPAL, AND THE ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE IN STOCKHOLM

THURSDAY 15:00–15:45

HALL G4

JON KLASSEN

The 2026 ALMA laureate

The Canadian writer and illustrator **JON KLASSEN** is the creator of acclaimed picture books such as *I Want My Hat Back* and *The Rock from the Sky*. Klassen's brilliant stories, which are loved by children and adults alike, are characterised by a simple elegance and interpretive depth that sees the reader become a co-creator. This year's recipient of the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award – the biggest prize for children's and young adult literature in the world – will be in conversation with **IKA JOHANNESSON**. Language: English, sign language interpretation will be provided.

ORG: ASTRID LINDGREN MEMORIAL AWARD

THURSDAY 15:00–15:45

HALL F3

NOT FINDING YOUR ROOTS

QUÉBEC A panel discussing rootlessness in relation to language, place, majority society, and minority groups. In her stage play *Akuteu*, author and artist **SOLEIL LAUNIÈRE** explores the feeling of being stuck between two cultures. In his debut novel *Hollo*, **PÄR POROMAA ISLING** writes about feeling like a visitor no matter where you go. **KATARINA KIERI'S** children's novel *Det står någon vid grinden* [There's Someone Standing by the Gate] addresses the impact on a child of living in an environment where guilt and shame related to personal heritage go hand-in-hand with pride. Moderator: **ELIN ANNA LABBA**, author and journalist.

ORG: ELLERSTRÖMS, LILLA PIRATFÖRLAGET, WAHLSTRÖM & WIDSTRAND AND QUÉBEC – GUEST OF HONOUR

THURSDAY 15:00–15:45

HALL F4

IRAN – WHAT'S GOING ON?

The world's gaze has been directed towards the Middle East since the start of the US-Israel war on Iran in February of this year. What impact is the war having on Iranian civil society? What does the conflict mean for the opposition? How have perspectives on the regime changed since the start of the war – both inside and outside of Iran? Iran expert **ROUZBEH PARSİ** will be in conversation with author **SAHAR DELIJANI**, whose novel *Children of the Jacaranda Tree* is about people who never give up, no matter how gruesome their history. Moderator: **EDGAR MANNHEIMER**.

ORG: RE:ORIENT



THURSDAY 16:00–16:45

HALL R2

DRAWING STORIES, READING IMAGES

Four renowned European visual storytellers, **JOHANNA SCHAIBLE** (Switzerland), **IRINA DOBRESCU** (Romania), **LEO TIMMERS** (Belgium) and **ULLA SAAR** (Estonia) explore the dynamic relationship between words and images and reflect on how graphic storytelling can enhance meaning, understanding, emotion, and interpretation across different audiences and age groups and stimulate interest in reading, learning, empathy, and critical thinking. Can visual narratives make difficult topics more accessible? Moderator: **ELINA DRUKER**, Professor in Literature from Stockholm University.

ORG: EUNIC

THURSDAY 16:00–16:45

HALL F2

**CAN ADULT EDUCATION STRENGTHEN MINORITY LANGUAGES?****POPULAR ADULT EDUCATION QUÉBEC**

Québec's minority language policy is designed to protect the French language in parallel with its eleven First Nations (including the Inuit Nation), who have specific languages and rights. Sweden has surveyed the impact of the majority society on its national minorities' cultures and languages, as well as the importance of linguistic revitalisation for future generations. How are minority languages in Québec protected and promoted in comparison with Sweden? What role can adult education play in such initiatives? Featuring author **NATASHA KANAPÉ FONTAINE**, linguistic researcher **MARJA KRISTIN SKUM** (Sámi University of Applied Sciences), and educationalist **LENA TANO** (Tornedalen Folk High School). Moderator: **DANJEL NAM**, UR.

ORG: THE SWEDISH NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADULT EDUCATION, UR (THE SWEDISH EDUCATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY), RAMUS AND QUÉBEC – GUEST OF HONOUR

THURSDAY 16:00–16:45

HALL F3

THE ROLE OF LITERATURE IN A CONSTANTLY CHANGING EGYPT

'Cairo writes, Beirut publishes, and Baghdad reads' – so goes the twentieth century Arab proverb. But what is the situation like today? Two Egyptian intellectuals share their perspectives on contemporary Arabic literature, based on their own writing. The conditions for literature and its authors are in a state of constant change at present, while new cities such as Dubai and Riyadh are appearing on the Arab literary map. **YASSER ABDELLATIF** has been instrumental in developing the Arabic storytelling style, and his 2002 debut novel *Law of Inheritance* won the prestigious Sawiris Cultural Award in Egypt. Egyptian writer, poet, and academic **IMAN MERSAL'S** biographical and autobiographical style explores family relationships and themes such as attachment and exposure. Moderator: **KHOLOD SAGHIR**.

ORG: UPPSALA INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE FESTIVAL

THURSDAY 16:00–16:45

HALL J2

JAVIER CERCAS**The Spanish Civil War Today**

JAVIER CERCAS is one of Spain's foremost contemporary writers. He made his breakthrough in 2001 with *Soldiers of Salamis*, a novel about the fascist Rafael Sánchez Mazas who towards the end of the Spanish Civil War has an encounter of vital significance. Born in 1962, Cercas argues that many of his compatriots in his generation are reluctant to write about the civil war – a conflict that was experienced by their grandparents. Twenty-five years on, what is his outlook on *Soldiers of Salamis*, which he has compared to an exhumation, and more broadly on Spain's relationship to the civil war today? Moderator: **CARL ÅKERLUND**, author.

ORG: THE EMBASSY OF SPAIN IN SWEDEN

THURSDAY 16:00–16:45

HALL F5

GROWING READING IN A STREAMING WORLD

The rapid growth of audiobook streaming has shown one thing clearly: when accessibility increases, audiences grow. But sustaining that momentum will require new perspectives on pricing, formats, discoverability, and collaboration. In this session, Spotify's **OWEN SMITH** shares his perspective on where the market is heading next. How can platforms and publishers work together to reach new readers? What role will recommendations and discovery play? And how can we better connect physical and digital reading experiences to strengthen the entire ecosystem?

ORG: SPOTIFY



FRIDAY 10:00–10:45

HALL R24+25

POETRY, POLITICS, AND THE STAGE

QUÉBEC NATASHA KANAPÉ FONTAINE'S work tirelessly addresses the impact of colonialism on Canada's indigenous people. Through her poetry, she stands up for the rights of the Innu and the preservation of their language – especially in the *Assi Manifesto* collection and through her spoken word performances. Dutch writer **BABS GONS'** poems are acute, socially conscious, and inclusive, setting out the idea of language as a home and a collective voice. She has been described as 'the queen of spoken word', and her poetry seeks to bridge the gap between written poetry and spoken word. Does the political dimension have a greater impact when expressed orally through a performance on stage? Moderator: **JUDITH KIROS**.

ORG: ZOTAL, TRANAN, QUÉBEC – GUEST OF HONOUR, AND THE DUTCH FOUNDATION FOR LITERATURE

FRIDAY 11:00–11:45

HALL F1

'ELSEWHERE PEOPLE' – TRYING TO FIND YOURSELF AND A HOME

American author **ANDRÉ ACIMAN'S** breakthrough came in 2007 with his novel *Call Me by Your Name*. In his memoir *Roman Year*, he depicts the summer he spent in Rome in the 1960s after his Jewish family was forced to flee Egypt. 'We were elsewhere people', he writes. Aciman will be joined by German author **DANA VOWINCKEL** in a discussion about restlessness and the sense of not belonging anywhere. Vowinckel's novel *Misophonia* follows 15-year-old Margarita's quest for belonging and moves between Berlin, Chicago and Jerusalem. Margarita's summer is also characterised by love and a Jewish family in crisis. Moderator: **MADELAINE LEVY**, journalist and author.

ORG: GOETHE-INSTITUT SWEDEN AND JEWISH CULTURE IN SWEDEN

FRIDAY 11:00–11:45

HALL R24+25

CRISIS AS A LITERARY FORCE

Internal or external tensions and social conflicts are fundamental forces in literature that create captivating stories. **IAN DE TOFFOLI** (Luxembourg) addresses conflicts around climate issues and radicalization while **PATRICIA PORTELA** (Portugal) reflects on the role of literature and imagination in times of crisis around the concepts of truth and information. **FATIMA DAAS** explores identity conflicts inspired by her own experiences as lesbian muslim. In Spanish rising star writer **DAVID UCLÉS** latest surreal dreamlike novel a power cut brings together all the Barcelonas throughout history. Moderator: **ELISABETH HJORTH**.

ORG: EUNIC

FRIDAY 10:00–10:45

HALL F5

BRINGING THE WRITTEN WORD TO LIFE

QUÉBEC Québécoise author **KIM THÚY** and Swedish writer **AMANDA ROMARE** are both very much involved in the film adaptations of their books. The movie of Thúy's hit novel *Ru* premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2023. Romare's acclaimed novel *Halva Malmö består av killar som dumpat mig* was the basis for the 2025 Netflix show *Diary of a Ditched Girl*. They will be joining **NANNA OLASDOTTER HALLBERG** as they discuss the art of turning the written word into moving images.

ORG: GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR, GÖTEBORG FILM FESTIVAL, QUÉBEC – GUEST OF HONOUR, SODEC, SEKWA, AND NATUR & KULTUR



FRIDAY 11:00–11:45

HALL R2

WILL CHILDREN SOLVE THE CLIMATE CRISIS?

The grown-up world increasingly seems to be forgetting that the world is facing a climate crisis, and is pushing the problem into the future. At the same time, there is a strong awareness of climate issues to be found in children's literature. In their work, **MASOUD GHAREHBAGHI**, **LENA FRÖLANDER-ULF**, **MATS VÄNEHEM**, and **HANNA LUTZ** all tackle themes such as the climate crisis, environmental destruction, and the human relationship with nature. Is it possible to write about animals and nature for children without becoming shrouded in grief and anxiety? Can the climate crisis be addressed without placing all responsibility for it on the shoulders of our children? The panellists will be in conversation with author **HANNA OLVENMARK**.

ORG: FÖRLAGET AND OPAL

FRIDAY 12:00–12:45

HALL G3

LITERATURE AND ADULT EDUCATION

POPULAR ADULT EDUCATION Some of the great writers of our time reflect upon the significance of literature to their own educational journeys, and upon the adult education that is a prerequisite for a well-functioning society. What is lost in a democratic society and in individual personal development in terms of a sense of belonging and empathy when fiction loses ground and an increasing number of young people struggle to read? Do authors and literature have special roles to play in times of war and oppression? Speakers: **ABDULRAZAK GURNAH**, **GEORGI GOSPODINOV**, and **GABRIELA CABEZÓN CÁMARA**. Moderator: **INGRID ELAM**, literary critic.

ORG: THE SWEDISH ACADEMY

FRIDAY 12:00–12:45

HALL F3

THE SELF AND THE WORD

In *Jews and Words*, historian **FANIA OZ-SALZBERGER**, together with her father, the late author Amos Oz, explored the Jewish relationship to words. They propose that Jewishness is defined not theologically or racially, but textually. In this conversation, Fania Oz-Salzberger meet **NIKLAS RÅDSTRÖM** for a discussion that spans from the Song of Songs to contemporary literature. What are their most important words and what impact have they had? How is the written word transmitted from one generation to the next, and in what ways does it shape us? **NATALIE BLOCH**, biblical scholar and translator, leads a conversation on sacred and secular literature, the significance of words and dialogue, and the influence of scripture on Jewish and Christian identity.

ORG: ALBERT BONNIERS FÖRLAG AND JEWISH CULTURE IN SWEDEN

FRIDAY 12:00–12:45

HALL F4

SECURITY THREATS FROM THE EAST

What are the security threats that we face from the East? In *Drönarnas krig* [The War of the Drones], **MARCUS LINDQVIST** examines how technological development is leaving its mark on modern warfare. In *Moskvastatens återkomst och undergång* [The Return and Fall of the Moscow State], **STEFAN HEDLUND** shows how Russia is on the verge of transforming into a modern version of the old Moscow state. **INGO PETZ'S** *Rasender Stillstand: Belarus – eine Revolution und die Folgen* [A Frenzied Standstill: Belarus – A Revolution and its Consequences] focuses on a repressive dictatorship in the heart of Europe. In *Rysk dagbok – anteckningar om Putins Ryssland 2022–2025* [Russian Diary – Notes on Putin's Russia 2022–2025], **ANDERS MÅRD** reflects upon the radical changes that have affected the country he calls home. Moderator: **ANNA-LENA LAURÉN**, journalist.

ORG: BOKFÖRLAGET STOLPE, FÖRLAGET, SCHILDTS & SÖDERSTRÖMS, AND TIMBRO FÖRLAG

FRIDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL R24+25

IMPERIAL CULTURE AND IDENTITY MACHINATIONS

Imperial power is not only exercised through armies and borders, but also through control over culture and identity. For centuries, this has been a recurring feature in Russian imperialist politics – it's a game in which national cultures are occasionally permitted to flourish only to be suppressed at a later date. The 1920s saw the emergence of a new generation of Ukrainian writers, artists, and intellectuals, who were subsequently purged as part of the so-called 'Executed Renaissance'. Join **FREDRIK SEGERFELDT**, **NATALYA PASICHNYK**, and **OSTAP UKRAINETES** for a discussion drawing upon new books that explore historical patterns. Moderator: **RUTGER BRATTSTRÖM**, writer and think tank member.

ORG: THE UKRAINIAN INSTITUTE IN SWEDEN AND TIMBRO FÖRLAG

FRIDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL F4

MIRCEA CĂRTĂRESCU

A Vision of the Many Faces of Power

In Romanian author **MIRCEA CĂRTĂRESCU'S** novel *Theodoros*, the servant boy Tudor grows up on an estate in Wallachia. Ambition guides his every step, and his path to power is strewn with corpses. Tudor becomes Theodoros: bandit and pirate, pious sinner, the terror of the Hellenic seas. He lives in forests and monasteries, witnesses great battles and miracles, and ultimately transforms into Tewodros: the ruthless emperor of Ethiopia. The literary visionary Cărtărescu weaves together myths, legends, heroes, and fantasy into an epic novel. Moderator: **SINZIANA RAVINI**, writer, psychoanalyst, and critic.

ORG: THE ROMANIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE AND ALBERT BONNIERS FÖRLAG



PHOTO: LEONHARD HILZENS AUER

FRIDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL F2

AT HOME IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE ALIENATED

The global number of refugees is on the increase as war and conflict spreads and democracies succumb to dictatorship. In **ARIS FIORETOS'S** *Yellow*, the reader follows an 18-year-old girl who has arrived in a country where no one wants her. Meanwhile, Palestinian writer **IBTISAM AZEM'S** *The Book of Disappearance* details the sufferings of Alaa following his family's expulsion from Jaffa during the Nakba. In *Nation of Strangers*, Turkish author **ECE TEMELKURAN** writes about flight and homelessness. Can these many people who have been uprooted find a feeling of home and belonging? The panellists will be in conversation with journalist **EDGAR MANNHEIMER**.

ORG: NORSTEDTS, UPPSALA INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE FESTIVAL, AND ORDFRONT FÖRLAG

FRIDAY 14:00–14:45

HALL R2

NAPLES FOREVER

Author **DOMENICO STARNONE** is part of a long Neapolitan storytelling tradition – from **MATILDE SERAO'S** *The Belly of Naples* to Elena Ferrante's Neapolitan Quartet. In his novel *The House on Via Gemito*, he depicts a grim childhood under a father who is convinced he could become a world famous artist – were it not for the fact that he must provide for his family. Joining Starnone will be **TOMAS LAPPALAINEN**, who has written about the city in *Se Neapel och sedan dö* [See Naples and Die], and they will be in conversation with **KRISTINA KAPPELIN**, a journalist, author and the Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer of Villa San Michele on the isle of Capri.

ORG: PALAVER PRESS AND THE ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE IN STOCKHOLM





FRIDAY 14:00–14:45

HALL HI

UNEQUAL EQUALITY IN THE GAMING WORLD

GAMES Almost as many women as men play computer games, and yet under 30% of those working in the gaming industry are women. Game characters are dominated by white heterosexual men, while female, non-white, and queer counterparts are often stereotypes. Among gamers themselves, phenomena such as 'Gamergate' have resulted in women who are working to change these trends being subject to widespread vitriol and threats. Journalist **AMAT LEVIN** will be in conversation with **KIM BELAIR** (narrative designer and co-founder of Sweet Baby Inc.), **JENNY BRUSK** (founder of the DONNA gaming network), and **SIGNE KRANTZ** (writer and gaming enthusiast).

ORG: GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

FRIDAY 14:00–14:45

HALL R24+25

HOW MAKING GAMES PROMOTES LEARNING, CREATIVITY, AND ENGAGEMENT

GAMES When we create games, we unite storytelling, art, technology, and collaboration in a process that stimulates creativity, enhances understanding, and creates engagement. This panel explores international programmes and local initiatives to teach children and young people and get them involved, as well as detailing how making games can contribute to sustainable development. Speakers include **ARANA SHAPIRO** (Chief Program Officer, Games for Change), **KRISTOFFER GANDRUP-MARINO** (Chief of Innovation, UNICEF), **FELIX GYLLENSTIG SERRAO** (Head of Development, Gothenburg Region (GR)), and **KRISTIAN LUNDQUIST** (CEO, Gro Play). The session will be moderated by **PER STRÖMBÄCK**, CEO of Swedish Games Industry.

ORG: SWEDISH GAMES INDUSTRY

FRIDAY 14:00–14:45

HALL F3

A NEW TWIST ON LATIN AMERICA'S COLONIAL HISTORY

A meeting of two stars of Latin American writing. Argentina's **GABRIELA CABEZÓN CÁMARA** and Mexico's **ÁLVARO ENRIGUE** have both recently published original reinterpretations of colonial history. Cabezón Cámaras's *We Are Green and Trembling* is about a Spanish nun who fled her convent to live as a man and join the conquest of the Americas, while Enrique's *You Dreamed of Empires* playfully depicts the infamous encounter between the Aztec emperor Moctezuma and the conquistador Hernán Cortés. They will be in conversation with **HANNA NORDENHÖK**, who translates both writers from Spanish to Swedish, as they explore what these stories can tell us today.

ORG: TRANAN, THE EMBASSY OF MEXICO IN SWEDEN, AND THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY IN SWEDEN

FRIDAY 15:00–15:45

HALL G4

ABDULRAZAK GURNAH

Paths through life – in conversation with a Nobel Laureate

Opening poet: Lucija Stupica. **ABDULRAZAK GURNAH** was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2021 'for his uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents'. Recurring themes in Gurnah's work include identity, alienation, migration, and colonial legacy. Rather than focusing on the hard facts, he draws on empathy in portraying how humans strive to live meaningful lives in the face of both personal and social contradictions. Gurnah will be in conversation with **CARIN KLAESSON** about his writing, particularly reflecting his views on exile and exclusion.

ORG: THE SWEDISH ACADEMY AND GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR



FRIDAY 15:00–15:45

HALL F2



KIM THÚY

From Vietnam to Québec

QUÉBEC **KIM THÚY** was ten years old when she was among the boat people who fled Vietnam. Her family came to Canada where they settled in Québec; Thúy wrote about her experiences in her 2009 French-language debut *Ru*. Her breakthrough was immediate and the book was translated into a number of languages, including Swedish and English. Thúy went on to write several more successful novels characterised by her sparse and poetic prose, all of which have been translated to Swedish. Join one of Québec's most acclaimed writers in conversation with literary critic **INGRID ELAM**.

ORG: QUÉBEC – GUEST OF HONOUR AND SEKWA

FRIDAY 15:00–15:45

HALL R2

JIMMY WALES

The Wikipedia co-founder on spreading knowledge

POPULAR ADULT EDUCATION When **JIMMY WALES** co-founded Wikipedia, many people thought it would fail – but today the site is the world's most-used source of knowledge. How did this happen? As part of a discussion about public education, Wikipedia's founder will explore the principles of its success, and trust in an era of mistrust and disinformation. Jimmy Wales's latest book is *The Seven Rules of Trust*. He will be in conversation with media strategist **BRIT STAKSTON** on how we can work together to build knowledge on a large scale.

ORG: VOLANTE



FRIDAY 16:00–16:45

HALL R2

NICOLE BROSSARD

Pioneering feminist and experimental writer from Québec

QUÉBEC Since the 1970s, **NICOLE BROSSARD** has been a key writer on Québec's feminist and queer literary scene. Her work explores feminism and desire, and their connection to language's structure and mobility, diversity, and flexibility. Now one of her seminal works, the poetry collection *Installations*, which was first published in 1989, is finally available in a new Swedish translation published by OEI editör. In parallel, a translation of the 1988 collaborative work *Theory, A Sunday* is also being published in Swedish – it is one of the most influential poetological reflections of 1980s Québec and continues to generate texts from younger generations of writers. Brossard will be in conversation with Professor of Literature **EBBA WITT-BRATTSTRÖM**.

ORG: OEI EDITÖR AND QUÉBEC – GUEST OF HONOUR

FRIDAY 16:00–16:45

HALL F2

CHO NAM-JOO

On feminist liberation

Since the release ten years ago of South Korean writer **CHO NAM-JOO's** *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982*, the novel has gone on to become a powerful and vital part of the country's feminist movement. It details the life of an ordinary Korean woman who is driven to psychosis by misogynistic ideals and the unrealistic expectations placed upon mothers. The narrative is interspersed with real-life statistics that highlight inequality in South Korea. Cho Nam-joo will be discussing her book, which has sold more than two million copies across forty different countries, in conversation with journalist **PATRIK LUNDBERG**. Their discussion will be interpreted by: **HAJIN CHOI**. Language: English and Korean interpreted into English

ORG: AKADEMIUS AB AND THE KOREAN CULTURAL CENTER IN SWEDEN

FRIDAY 16:00–16:45

HALL G3

AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE MASTERS OF ILLUSTRATION

QUÉBEC Children's book illustrators **ISABELLE ARSENAULT**, **LINDA BONDESTAM**, and **JON KLASSEN** all have their own, personal, and recognisable styles. Arsenault's illustrations are described as minimalist and imaginative, and are often done using a gentle palette with streaks of melancholy. Bondestam's work is often rich in contrasts, with a collage-style mixture of texture and technique where humour serves as the unifying thread. ALMA laureate Klassen often creates seemingly simple illustrations that open up multiple interpretations. What is their process? What inspires them? Why did they become illustrators? Moderator: **SARA TELEMAN**, Professor of Illustration.

ORG: ASTRID LINDGREN MEMORIAL AWARD, FÖRLAGET AND QUÉBEC – GUEST OF HONOUR

FRIDAY 16:00–16:45

HALL F4

WHO TELLS THE STORY WHEN THE PLAYER TAKES OVER?

GAMES In the course of thirty years, games have gone from being simple stories to being complex, multifaceted narratives in which the player forms a key part of the dramaturgy. How is interactivity changing our way of understanding storytelling? And what can development in the world of games tell us about the future of storytelling in general? The panel will bring together **LOUISE PERSSON** (Program coordinator of the Game Writing study program at University of Skövde), **GREGORIOS KYTHREOTIS** (creative director responsible for *Sable*), **CHRISTOFFER BODEGÅRD** (creator of the game *Esoteric Ebb*), and **KIM BELAIR** (screenwriter, narrative designer, and co-founder of Sweet Baby Inc.). Moderator: **JONAS THENTE**.

ORG: UNIVERSITY OF SKÖVDE

FRIDAY 16:00–16:45

HALL F3

SYLVIE SIMMONS

The life and work of Leonard Cohen

QUÉBEC Leonard Cohen was one of the most influential artists of the twentieth century, as well as one of the most elusive. Music journalist and author **SYLVIE SIMMONS** got to know him like few others. Her biography *I'm Your Man* is today considered the defining work on Cohen's life and follows him from his beginnings as a cherished baby in Jewish Montréal to his wandering existence as a poet and musician. He was in the midst of the historical and cultural currents of his time, and yet still searching. Simmons will be in conversation with journalist **RICKI NEUMAN** about the boy with the golden voice who was Leonard Cohen.

ORG: GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR AND JEWISH CULTURE IN SWEDEN

FRIDAY 17:00–17:45

HALL F2

BEING HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE CRIMES OF HISTORY

Ostensibly, the lawyer **HANS FRANK** was an educated, civilised family man – but at the same time he was one of the architects of the Nazi legal apparatus. He was one of many Nazis to be sentenced to death at the Nuremberg trials in 1946 – while hundreds of thousands of collaborators remained at large. Fritz Bauer, a homosexual German Jewish prosecutor, wanted to change that. The historian **ARTUR SZULC** is the author of *Hitlers jurist: Berättelsen om Hans Frank* [Hitler's Lawyer: The Story of Hans Frank], and journalist **JACK FAIRWEATHER** is the author of *The Prosecutor: One Man's Battle to Bring Nazis to Justice*. They will be in conversation with author **ANITA GOLDMAN**.

ORG: HISTORISKA MEDIA AND NORSTEDTS

FRIDAY 17:00–17:45

HALL J2

COURAGE, SOLIDARITY AND COMMUNITY

How do you reflect social structures for young readers? In *Build A Dragon*, **MASOUD GHAREHBAGHI** depicts a town swept up in speculation when a column of smoke is spotted in the distance. No one knows what has happened, but suspicions and drastic decisions soon wreak havoc on the community. In **BJARKE STENBÆK KRISTENSEN's** *Demonen i träkets hjärta* [The Demon in The Heart of The Marsh], the reader accompanies solitary, fearful Bastian as he tries to find both courage and direction. They will join journalist **SHORA ESMAILIAN** for a conversation about children's literature that inspires courage and solidarity.

ORG: OPAL AND RABÉN & SJÖGREN



FRIDAY 17:00–17:45

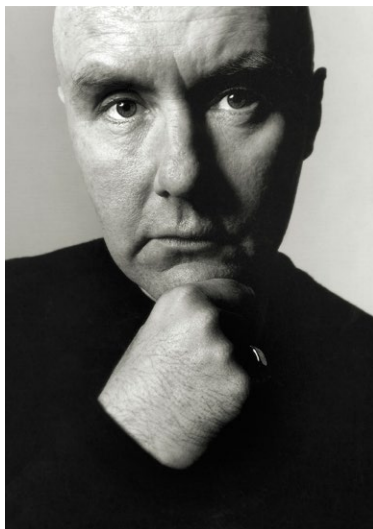
HALL G3

IRVINE WELSH

Trainspotting – the cult classic 30 years on

Thirty years ago, the film *Trainspotting* starring Ewan MacGregor wowed cinema audiences the world over. The film was based on **IRVINE WELSH'S** novel, published in Swedish translation in the same year. This black comedy about a group of drug addicts in the edgy Leith area of Edinburgh will premiere as a musical this year in London's West End. Irvine Welsh will be in conversation with journalist **IKA JOHANNESSON** about his cult classic *Trainspotting*.

ORG: GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR



FRIDAY 17:00–17:45

HALL R24+25

LIFE-CHANGING REALISATIONS

QUÉBEC **GABRIELLE BOULIANNE-TREMBLAY'S** autobiographical novel *Dandelion Daughter* introduced notions of trans identity to the broad social discourse taking place in Québec. This is the story of an alienated trans girl in the windswept rural setting of Charlevoix, a region characterised by its traditional values. The reader follows Gabrielle through her complex teenage years until she realises that she needs to undergo a transition in order to carry on living. Joining her will be the Swedish actress and trans activist **SAGA BECKER**, whose novel *Våra tungor smakar våld* [Our Tongues Taste of Violence] reflects her own experiences. Moderator: **KAKAN HERMANSSON**.

ORG: QUÉBEC – GUEST OF HONOUR AND ORDKLINGA

SATURDAY 10:00–10:45

HALL R2

DEPICTING THE CLIMATE CATASTROPHE IN FICTION

How do you write about the climate? **KAJSA GRYTT** (*Ökenhundar*), **JACOB HIRDWALL** (*Karta med vita fläckar*), and **IAN DE TOFFOLI** (*Léa ou la Théorie des systèmes complexes*) approach the climate issue from different angles – in stories about people on the run, about radicalization, and about landscapes that have become uninhabitable. Here, they meet in a conversation about cli-fi, about literature's ability to portray what is difficult to grasp, and about what happens to humanity when the world changes. Moderator: **IZABELLA ROSENGREN**.

ORG: THE EMBASSY OF LUXEMBOURG AND ORDFRONT PUBLISHING HOUSE

SATURDAY 11:00–11:45

HALL G4

TROY BAKER

Acting for computer games

GAMES The American actor **TROY BAKER** is literally one of the gaming world's best-known voices. For more than twenty years, he has voiced and provided motion capture for over 140 games. Among these are iconic roles such as Joel Miller in *The Last of Us*, Booker DeWitt in *BioShock Infinite*, Higgs Monaghan in *Death Stranding*, and Indiana Jones in *Indiana Jones and the Great Circle*. He will be talking to **KRISTOFFER VIITA** about the art of creating characters that resonate with gamers all over the world.

ORG: GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR



SATURDAY 10:00–10:45

HALL F3

HOW INDIE GAMES BEAT GOLIATH

GAMES Languorous open worlds. Dazzling, lifelike visuals. Lavish launch parties. Huge game studios with hundreds of staff toiling away for years. For a long time, this was the normal approach to making bestselling games. Today, this is no longer the only truth. Gamers are increasingly turning towards smaller games that have been made by a handful of people or even sometimes a single developer. **DAVID EROSA** (producer of *Blasphemous 2*), **GREGORIOS KYTHREOTIS** (creative director of *Sable*), and **TRINE LAIER** (founder of the Those Eyes studio) will be discussing the appeal of indie games. Moderator: **KRISTOFFER VIITA**, journalist.

ORG: THE EMBASSY OF SPAIN IN SWEDEN AND GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

SATURDAY 11:00–11:45 HALL G3

THE WORLD UNDER TRUMP

QUÉBEC Donald Trump will soon have reached the halfway point of his second term as President. His years in power have been tumultuous, with his decisions affecting not only his own country but the entire world. The question of whether democracy is to be, or not to be, is suddenly highly topical. **ALAIN ROY** is the author of *Le Cas Trump* [The Trump Case]. Journalist Sara Stenholm and podcast producer **VIKTOR MATSSON** are the authors of *Uppståndelsen – Hur Trump återkom, skapade kaos och skrämdde livet ur Europa* [The Resurrection – How Trump Returned, Created Chaos and Terrified Europe]. Moderator: **FOUAD YOUNCEFI**, journalist.

ORG: FRI TANKE, KAUNITZ-OLSSON, AND QUÉBEC – GUEST OF HONOUR

SATURDAY 11:00–11:45 HALL F3

MAGICAL, DANGEROUS ANIMALS

What does the animal say about the modern human? In **PAJTIM STATOVCI'S** novel *The Cow Gives Birth at Night*, the protagonist sees all the world's beauty and suffering manifested in his grandfather's cow. In **GAEA SCHOETERS'** novel *Trophy*, there is confusion over who is prey and who is hunter, who is human and who is beast. In *Alt et* by **LEANDER DJØNNE**, a pregnant wolverine lives on the slope behind the house, its hunger and rage threatening everyone. The animal is a silent victim of humans, yet secretly connected to a nature that appears increasingly menacing. Literary critic **MALIN ULLGREN** leads a conversation about violence, animal and human instincts, power, and morality.

ORG: ERSATZ, THE ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM, FLANDERS LITERATURE, FÖRLAGET, FLO FÖRLAG

SATURDAY 11:00–11:45 HALL R24+25



MOLLY CRABAPPLE

The Jewish Bund

'What does Judaism look like without Zionism?' That was how the *New York Times* headlined the review of Molly Crabapple's latest book *Here Where We Live Is Our Country: The Story of the Jewish Bund*. The secular, progressive Bund organisation was a Jewish labour movement during the first half of the twentieth century. It was on the scene on the Battleship Potemkin and in the Warsaw ghetto uprising, and it remained anti-Zionist to the last. Artist, illustrator, and author **MOLLY CRABAPPLE** began her career on the New York burlesque scene. She will be in conversation with the journalist **EDGAR MANNHEIMER**, whose great grandfather was a member of the movement.

ORG: GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

SATURDAY 11:00–11:45 HALL J2

IN SEARCH OF MEANING

QUÉBEC In *Anspråkstagen* [Claimed], religious historian **DAVID THURFJELL** searches for meaning as he follows the winding paths at the edges of human experience, tracing the subtle threads that connect humankind to the wider world. **GABRIELLE FILTEAU-CHIBA** sold all her worldly belongings and moved into a wooden cabin in the remote Kamouraska region where she wrote her debut novel, *Encabanée* [Gimme Shelter]. **ANDRÉANE FRENETTE-VALLIÈRES'** essay *Tu choisiras les montagnes* [You Will Choose the Mountains] explores withdrawal as a means of survival, drawing on her experiences living in Québec's sparsely populated Côte-Nord region. Together with **AMANDA SVENSSON**, they will discuss the search for meaning far from the metropolis.

ORG: ÉDITIONS J. J., NORSTEDTS, ASKA FÖRLAG, AND QUÉBEC – GUEST OF HONOUR

SATURDAY 12:00–12:45 HALL G4

LITERATURE THAT CONCERNS EVERYONE

QUÉBEC **ÉRIC CHACOUR'S** goal when he came to write his novel *What I Know About You* was to write a love story between men that not even his grandmother would want to read. Ten years on from the publication of his portrayal of the AIDS epidemic, **JONAS GARDEL'S** *Don't Ever Wipe Tears Without Gloves* has become a modern Swedish classic. At the heart of both novels is a society in flux and lives that are torn apart due to norms and stigmatisation. Both authors will join the writer and critic **KRISTOFER FOLKHAMMAR** in a conversation about literature that concerns everyone.

ORG: NORSTEDTS, RÁMUS, AND QUÉBEC – GUEST OF HONOUR

SATURDAY 12:00–12:45 HALL F5

ELIZABETH GEORGE

The queen of modern detective fiction

Ever since her debut in 1988 with *A Great Deliverance*, the first novel in the series following the work of DI Thomas Lynley and DS Barbara Havers, **ELIZABETH GEORGE** has been a central figure in the world of anglophone crime fiction. Her credible psychological portraits were groundbreaking for their time and were germinal for much of the modern suspense fiction that came in their wake – particularly in Scandinavia, where many have followed in George's footsteps. Readers have been captivated for decades by the twenty-two instalments in the Lynley series. The creator of the modern psychological suspense novel will be in conversation with journalist **TITTI SCHULTZ**.

ORG: NORSTEDTS



SATURDAY 12:00–12:45

THE MAGIC OF ROLE-PLAYING

GAMES Role-playing is on the rise. As the world goes digital, an increasing number of gamers are seeking out analogue ways to socialise and build epic stories together. The British streamer and filmmaker **PJ LIGUORI** (better known as KickthePj), **EVELINA 'MARO' FERBRACHE** (Chair of the Swedish Gaming Federation), and game writer **GABRIELLE DE BOURG** (who has written on games such as *Call of Cthulhu*) have all been devoted to role-playing for many years. They will join writer and gaming enthusiast **SIGNE KRANTZ** to discuss their game playing and how to get started with role-playing, while offering their top tips for a successful campaign.

ORG: GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

Please note: This seminar takes place outside the Book Fair and is open to the public free of charge, subject to availability. **Venue:** Science Fiction Bokhandeln, Kungsgatan 19. **Tram stop:** Domkyrkan.





SATURDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL F2

THE BEAUTIFUL GAME CORRUPTED

Mafia methods, extortion and criminal gangs – is football under attack? In his new book *Ultras – Hur maffian tog makten över läktarna* [Ultras – How the Mafia Seized Power Over the Stands], the author and mafia expert **ANTON MONTI** details how Italian organised crime has begun to infiltrate groups of ultras and exploit their influence, money, and strong community spirit. TV4 Fotbollskanalen journalist **ANDRÉAS SUNDBERG'S** *Fotbollsgenterna* [The Football Agents] explores how the Swedish football agenting profession is holding the sport hostage. Monti and Sundberg will be in conversation with football writer **JENNIFER KÜCÜKASLAN** as they discuss big clubs allowing themselves to be controlled, and networks that are profiting at the expense of the beautiful game.

ORG: POLARIS AND SCHILDTS & SÖDERSTRÖMS

SATURDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL R24+25

PHILOSOPHICAL MYSTICISM AND THE RADICAL RIGHT

Mark Sedgwick

What are the philosophical roots of the modern radical right? Thanks to many years of research, **MARK SEDGWICK** has succeeded in shining a light on one of the world's shadier anti-modernist movements. In *Traditionalism: The Radical Project for Restoring Sacred Order*, he charts the course of traditionalism from the Hindu caste system of the seventeenth century, modern Sufism, and right-wing critiques of modernity to present-day digital culture warriors and anti-establishment movements. Mark will be in conversation with the author and religious historian **DAVID THURFJELL**.

ORG: FRI TANKE

SATURDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL F5

A THRILLING NORDIC SUMMIT

Opening poet: Jenny Tunedal. **VIVECA STEN** has enjoyed great success thanks to the international triumphs of her Sandhamn series and Åre Murders series, respectively. This autumn marks the release of the seventh instalment in the Åre Murders series, *Fördrivaren* [The Banisher]. **RAGNAR JÓNASSON** is an award-winning Icelandic crime writer with two series of his own: Dark Iceland and Hulda. **KATRÍN JAKOBSDÓTTIR** is a former Prime Minister of Iceland and literary scholar. She and Jónasson co-wrote the crime novel *Reykjavík* in 2023, and their sequel *Franski spítalinn* [The French Hospital] will be released in September in a translation to Swedish by Arvid Nordh. Sweden and Iceland's leading crime writers will be in conversation with **HENRIK FEJEXUS**.

ORG: BOKFÖRLAGET FORUM AND ROMANUS & SELLING

SATURDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL F4

WALKING IN PALESTINE

The Palestinian author, lawyer, and activist **RAJA SHEHADEH'S** *Palestinian Walks: Notes on a Vanishing Landscape* describes walks in the West Bank starting from the late 1970s. He writes about the landscape and how Israeli settlements in recent decades have made it harder to move around the area. In his essay collection *Upplyst sten* [Enlightened Stone], author **JOHANNES ANYURU** writes about the Israeli invasion and bombing of Gaza, as well as language and its death, Palestinian poetry, and living in a state that supports what many regard as genocide. They will be in conversation with the author and journalist **BITTE HAMMARGREN**.

ORG: CELANDERS AND NORSTEDTS



SATURDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL G4

SHOULD MORE WRITERS BE GAMERS?

GAMES Games and books are often placed at opposite ends of the cultural spectrum, but does that really have to be the case? Perhaps writers should play more and draw inspiration from the methods of the gaming world? Why not take cues from the artistry of digital worlds and interactive storytelling? At the same time, game designers have much to learn from authors and the tools of literature. This promises to be a fascinating encounter between two creative worlds, as author **MIRCEA CĂRTĂRESCU** (who recently announced that he is a gamer) and writer and game maker **KAUR KENDER** (*Disco Elysium*) join a conversation led by author **LYRA ERIKSSON LINDBÄCK**.

ORG: GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR AND THE ROMANIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE

SATURDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL F1

SPACE AND MEMORY

The astronaut in **CECILE PIN'S** *Celestial Lights* is on the way to Jupiter's moon Europa. The further into the unknown he travels, the deeper he becomes absorbed by memories and self-examination. But will the world he remembers be real or fiction if he ever returns? In **DORTHE NORS' Range**, a scientist retreats to the Danish countryside to research gamma-ray bursts and the origins of the universe, but finds herself constantly intruded upon by others. They will be in conversation with author **AGRI ISMAIL** in a discussion about distance and memories. How can one find one's place – be it in space or among other people?

ORG: NIRSTEDT/LITTERATUR AND ORDFRONT FÖRLAG

SATURDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL H1

UNDERGROUND IN QUÉBEC AND SWEDEN

QUÉBEC Comic creator **JULIE DOUCET** is a Québec institution. Feminist underground series such as *Dirty Plotte* and *My New York Diary* have garnered awards and acclaim, and have even featured on Canadian postage stamps. In 2022, she became the third female recipient of the Grand prix de la ville d'Angoulême lifetime achievement award, which is given annually during the Angoulême International Comics Festival. She will be in conversation with cartoonist and artist **JOAKIM PIRINEN**, whose absurd and headstrong imagery has played a central role in the alternative comics scene in Sweden since the 1980s. Moderator: **NINA HEMMINGSSON**, cartoonist and author.

ORG: KAUNITZ-OLSSON AND QUÉBEC – GUEST OF HONOUR

SATURDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL J2

CIVILIAN LIVES IN THE SHADOW OF CONFLICT

In *The Armies*, Colombian author **EVELIO ROSERO'S** breakthrough novel, a retired primary school teacher wakes up one morning to find that soldiers have abducted his neighbours. As the fighting intensifies and others flee, he opts to stay in the ghostly city. In **LAYLA MARTÍNEZ'S** novel *Woodworm*, she explores structural violence, financial insecurity, and the legacy of trauma that permeates the home and transforms daily life into a place characterised by tension and conflict. The authors will be joining **LINA WOLFF** to discuss how violence seeps into daily life – even for those who don't directly participate in armed conflicts. Language: Spanish interpreted into Swedish

ORG: THE EMBASSY OF COLOMBIA IN SWEDEN AND THE EMBASSY OF SPAIN IN SWEDEN

SATURDAY 13:00–14:30

HALL K

JAMAICA KINCAID**Sjöjungfrun (The Mermaid Award) 2026**

This year, the Gothenburg Book Fair's achievement award, *Sjöjungfrun* (The Mermaid), will be awarded to one of the most influential literary voices of our time. **JAMAICA KINCAID** is a witty and incisive writer whose novels and essays shine a sobering light on everything from colonial history and family ties to the flowers in our gardens. After the Book Fair's Programme Director **OSKAR EKSTRÖM** has presented the hand-carved mermaid statuette, Jamaica Kincaid will be interviewed by journalist **JESSIKA GEDIN**. The *Sjöjungfrun* award is presented in partnership with Arctic Paper.

ORG: GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR



SATURDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL J1

LIFE IN THE SHADOW OF WAR

LIDA STARODUBTSEVA, **ANNELI JORDAHL**, and **JUDY BATALION** will be discussing the greatness and smallness of humankind during violent times. In *Hilja går* [Hilja Walks], Starodubtseva tells the story of one of thousands of Ingrian Finns who were deported to Siberia and Central Asia. Jordahl's novel *Kallet* [The Calling] revolves around Karolina, a volunteer first-aider in the wilderness, and is based upon the fate of the author's own family during the Second World War. Batalion's *The Last Woman of Warsaw* follows two Jewish women in the late 1930s in their quest for love, meaning, and a sense of home, while dark clouds gather around them. Moderator: **MADELAINE LEVY**, journalist and author.

ORG: JEWISH CULTURE IN SWEDEN, NIRSTEDT / LITTERATUR, AND NORSTEDTS

SATURDAY 14:00–14:45

HALL R24+25

LITERARY GIANTS OF UKRAINE: SHEVCHENKO AND UKRAINKA

How did two poets shape a nation's self-image? **TARAS SHEVCHENKO** and **LESYA UKRAINKA** are two fundamental pillars of Ukrainian identity. By defying Tsarist oppression and giving a voice to the people's longing for freedom, they laid the foundations for a cultural resistance movement. Their works reveal a Ukrainian culture whose very existence Putin's Russia denies. **RUTGER BRATTSTRÖM**, **NILS HÅKANSON**, **OSTAP UKRAINETZ**, and **EVA STRÖM** will be discussing Ukrainian cultural heritage and why the struggle for the language is so important. Moderator: **SVANTE WEYLER**.

ORG: THE UKRAINIAN INSTITUTE IN SWEDEN AND TIMBRO FÖRLAG

SATURDAY 14:00–14:45

HALL HI

A SUMMIT ON STORYTELLING IN GAMES

GAMES Several of the most acclaimed stories of our time hail from the gaming world. As technology develops, it offers more opportunities to tell stories in brand new ways, while the challenges also increase. How do you create a cohesive narrative without limiting the player? Game writer **JENNIFER SVEDBERG-YEN** (*Clair Obscur: Expedition 33*), **EVEI KORHONEN** (narrative designer, behind *Saros*), actor **TROY BAKER** (*The Last of Us*), and streamer and filmmaker **PJ LIGUORI** (better known as KickthePj) will be in conversation with creator and gaming nerd **JOEL ROCHESTER** about bringing life to the most loved stories in the gaming world.

ORG: GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR



SATURDAY 14:00–14:45

HALL J1

ANDRÉ ACIMAN

Sexuality and identity

Opening poet: Kristofer Folkhammar. In the heat of the Italian summer, 17-year-old Elio Perlman is inexorably drawn to his father's young colleague, Oliver, who is staying with the Perlmans. The love story portrayed in *Call Me by Your Name* made author and literary academic **ANDRÉ ACIMAN** a household name, but it also led to his book being banned from all libraries in the state of Florida. Following the critically-acclaimed, Oscar-winning adaptation for the big screen, the story of Elio's sexual awakening has now been re-imagined as a graphic novel by the comic artist Sarah Maxwell. Aciman will be in conversation with the cultural journalist **MATS ALMEGÅRD**.

ORG: JEWISH CULTURE IN SWEDEN

SATURDAY 14:00–14:45

FINDING YOUR PLACE

In *Nation of Strangers*, the award-winning Turkish author **ECE TEMELKURAN** presents letters from one homeless refugee to another about the possibility of building a new nation. **NICOLAS LUNABBA'S** *Inte din statsminister* [Not Your Prime Minister] grapples with experiences of class and racism in Swedish society. In her book *Vi som kom* [We Who Came], the journalist and author **ALEXANDRA PASCALIDOU** gives space to youngsters from Palestine, Iran, Syria, and Afghanistan to share the stories of their escape to Sweden. As part of the Blå Stället Talks forum, the panellists will be in conversation with **PARISA AMIRI** on issues of exile, class, belonging, and finding your place in a new society.

ORG: CULTURE CENTRE BLÅ STÄLLET, GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR, NATUR & KULTUR, AND ORDFRONT FÖRLAG

Please note: This seminar takes place outside the Book Fair and is open to the public free of charge, subject to availability. **Venue:** Blå stället, Angereds torg 13. **Tram stop:** Angered centrum.

SATURDAY 14:00–14:45

HALL F1

OUR RELATIONSHIP TO HUMANITY, CULTURE AND OTHERNESS

Through their novels revealed by the European Union Prize for literature, the Flemish author **GAEA SCHOETERS** and the Swedish author **FRANS WACHTMEISTER** invite to reconsider exoticism as a complex space shaped by encounters, tensions, and shifting perspectives. In *Trophy*, Gaea Schoeters explores the exotic vision of Africa, revealing tensions between fascination, domination and misunderstanding, meanwhile Frans Wachtmeister presents in *Lost Ground* exoticism as a constructed way of seeing, which destabilizes identity, showing that foreignness can emerge anywhere. Moderator: **PETER FRÖBERG IDLING**, author.

ORG: EUROPEAN UNION PRIZE FOR LITERATURE

SATURDAY 14:00–14:45

HALL R2

FROM INSIDE THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION IN CHINA

Using the people as a weapon against themselves, the Cultural Revolution's arbitrary reign of terror spread across China from 1966 to 1976. No family was left unaffected, neither on the side of the victims nor the perpetrators. It is rare for critical voices to reach us directly from China, but the poet Luo Ying is an exception. He is by no means innocent himself. In *Memories of the Cultural Revolution*, he highlights the harmless nature of the victims and asks how he became caught up in a mass psychosis where public humiliation, brainwashing, and hazardous executions became commonplace. **LUO YING** and his Swedish translator **LI LI** will be in conversation with journalist **JOHAR BENDJELLOUL**. Language: Chinese interpreted into Swedish

ORG: SMOCKADOLL

SATURDAY 14:00–14:45

HALL F3

BODIES AND HORROR

QUÉBEC In **MARTINE DESJARDINS'S** suggestive novel *Medusa*, a woman is repudiated by her family and locked up in the Athenæum, an institute for young 'malformed' girls. *Stilla vatten* [Still Water] is a gothic-erotic novel by **EDITH HAMMAR** set in proximity to water and featuring a cult with destructive undertones. **MATS STRANDBERG'S** horror novels have gained a large following in both Sweden and abroad, and his latest book *The Muse* borrows from Greek mythology. The trio will join **JESSICA SCHIEFAUER** for a conversation about bodies, horror, and social structures.

ORG: FÖRLAGET, NATUR & KULTUR, RABÉN & SJÖGREN, AND QUÉBEC - GUEST OF HONOUR

SATURDAY 15:00–15:45

HALL G4



ANDRZEJ SAPKOWSKI

The author behind *The Witcher*

GAMES It's not a question of whether you've heard of *The Witcher* – it's a question of where? The wildly popular video game? The hit Netflix adaptation? Or perhaps the literary OG? **ANDRZEJ SAPKOWSKI** is the author who put Polish fantasy on the world map. He wrote his first short story about the 'witcher' Geralt of Rivia in 1986, and his world-weary prose drawing upon Slavic mythology quickly found a large and dedicated following. Forty years later, Sapkowski is one of the biggest giants of the fantasy world. He will be in conversation with **JOHANNA KOLJONEN**.

ORG: THE POLISH INSTITUTE IN STOCKHOLM

SATURDAY 15:00–15:45

HALL R24+25

EUROPEAN PIONEERS OF INNOVATIVE STORYTELLING

Creative European voices tackle changing societies in new ways. Romanian-Canadian author **FELICIA MIHALI'S** *Pineapple Kisses in Iqaluit* highlights the conflict between migration, multiple identities and modern colonialism. **VINCENZO LATRONICO** (Italy) describes the restlessness of the millennial generation between Lisbon and Berlin. *Vienna Falling* by **FABIAN NAVARRO** (Austria/Germany) is a fast, gaming-like satire about highly relevant societal themes. Swedish director and screenwriter **DAVID DUSA** works with film, television and comic books, moving between genres and formats in contemporary European storytelling. Moderator: **SINZIANA RAVINI**.

ORG: EUNIC

SATURDAY 15:00–15:45

HALL R2

THE WORLD LOST IN A LABYRINTH – CIVILISATION, CRISIS, AND FUTURE CHOICES

What happens when civilisations lose their moral compass? How could the hope for a stable world order have been transformed into the current fragmented reality? And what does our inability to cope with global crises say about the future of humanity? Based on his latest works – *Le Labyrinthe des égarés: L'Occident et ses adversaires* [The Labyrinth of the Lost: The West and Its Enemies], *Adrift: How Our World Lost Its Way*, and *On the Isle of Antioch* – Lebanese-French author **AMIN MAALOUF** will be in conversation with writer **KHOLOD SAGHIR** about how the world ended up in the state it is in, and which options are still open to it.

ORG: UPPSALA INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 15:00–15:45 HALL F3

THE PLUCKY CHILD IN FOCUS

What happens when children have to save themselves? In the fantasy novels *Vågornas barn* [The Children of the Waves] and *Silverborn*, as well as the *Lightborn* series, we encounter children growing up in conditions of neglect, oppression, or without the presence of protective grown-ups, but who all have a supernatural power – and a responsibility that is greater than their fear. They're forced to take responsibility, make crucial decisions, and change their lives. This panel brings together authors **MALIN KLINGENBERG**, **JESSICA TOWNSEND**, and double act **MÅNS GAHRTON** and **JOHAN UNENGE** to discuss magical stories as a powerful means to explore fear, grief, courage, and responsibility. Moderator: **JOHANNA LUNDIN**, reading promoter and cultural journalist.

ORG: NATUR & KULTUR, SEMIC, AND SCHILDTS & SÖDERSTRÖMS

SATURDAY 16:00–16:45 HALL J2

THE UNREALITY OF REALITY

Opening poet: **Nina Hemmingsson**. **SJÓN** and **JUDITH SCAHLANSKY**, each in their own way, work on the basis of the real world around us, utilizing the full potential of literature to depict it. The results differ dramatically. When Schlansky finds herself unable to repress the vision of an enormous block of marble in Greece, she uses the artist's studio to visualize the way in which we human beings violate our earth. In *Sjón's* work, in contrast, reality merges with literature in magical coincidences and dreamlike worlds. With their individual literary approaches, they both touch on topical issues such as ecology and the struggle of the vulnerable, at the same time as they confirm our present human uncertainty. Moderator: **IDA LINDE**.

ORG: RÁMUS, PEQUOD PRESS, THE GOTHENBURG HOUSE OF LITERATURE, AND THE GOETHE-INSTITUT SWEDEN

SATURDAY 16:00–16:45 HALL F2

JENNIFER SVEDBERG-YEN

Clair Obscur: Expedition 33's lead writer

GAMES Clair Obscur: Expedition 33 is an unlikely success story – melancholic, low-key storylines about grief and loss in a dying world are not what most people associate with video games. Nevertheless, it has become the most decorated game in history, with 512 awards to its name. It has topped every list worth being on, while selling more than five million copies in the process. Equally improbable is the fact that the game was written amidst the snowy forests around the small Swedish town of Östersund by an author who had barely ever played a video game. The game's lead writer **JENNIFER SVEDBERG-YEN** will be talking to **ANNA ERLANDSSON** about writing a mega hit.

ORG: GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

SATURDAY 16:00–16:45 HALL R2

TAKIS WÜRGER

German bestseller about lost love

When **TAKIS WÜRGER'S** *Für Polina* [For Polina] came out, it went straight to number one in *Der Spiegel's* chart and has been one of the bestselling German-language titles over the last year. In this epic novel, pianist Hannes tries to find his way back to his lost love through the melody that he once wrote for her. Würger will be in conversation with **JENNY ASCHENBRENNER** as they discuss his breakthrough and taking the step from war reporter to author.

ORG: MONDIAL FÖRLAG

SATURDAY 16:00–16:45

HALL F5

LOUISE PENNY

Detective stories – more than violence and death

QUÉBEC A regular fixture on the *New York Times* bestseller list, Quebecer **LOUISE PENNY** has received a string of prestigious awards, including multiple Agatha and Anthony Awards, and is regarded as one of the most outstanding crime writers working today. She is particularly well known for her series featuring Chief Inspector Armand Gamache. Her writing raises questions around issues of morality, faith, and human dignity – themes that are both timely and important to public discourse. She will be in conversation with one of her loyal readers, Archbishop **MARIN MODÉUS**.

ORG: THE CHURCH OF SWEDEN AND GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

SATURDAY 16:00–16:45 HALL J1

GÄSTABUDET MEETS QUÉBEC'S JOCELYNE SAUCIER

QUÉBEC **JOCELYNE SAUCIER'S** *Twenty-One Cardinals* revolves around an eccentric family: 21 children raised in the vicinity of a deserted mine in northern Québec. After a long spell apart, the family gathers to celebrate their father, who is due to receive an award. No one lets on that one child is missing. Just what happened to Angèle, the only Cardinal with a penchant for happiness? This is a story about loyalty so extreme that it is dangerous, about childhood that distorts, and a secret so heavy that it shatters a whole family. **MIKAELA BLOMQVIST** and **LYRA ERIKSSON LINDBÄCK** from the *Gästabudet* literary podcast will be in conversation with Québécoise author Jocelyne Saucier.

ORG: ÉDITIONS J. AND QUÉBEC – GUEST OF HONOUR





SATURDAY 16:00–16:45

HALL F3

ILJA LEONARD PFEIJFFER

Europe as a museum

A writer takes up residence in the illustrious but decaying Grand Hotel Europa, to think about where things went wrong with the woman he lived with. As he pens his story of love, he finds himself drawn deeper and deeper into the hotel's own mysteries. He is captivated by the other guests, who seem to have lingered on from a far more elegant time. Dutch author **ILJA LEONARD PFEIJFFER'S** *Grand Hotel Europa* is a novel about European identity and an old continent where the past is so overwhelming that the future can no longer be accommodated. Moderator: **DANIEL MEDIN**, Professor of Comparative Literature at the American University of Paris.

ORG: ERSATZ AND THE DUTCH FOUNDATION FOR LITERATURE

SATURDAY 17:00–17:45

HALL F2

EUROPE, A GENERATION, AND A TIME

VINCENZO LATRONICO, **MAXIM GRIGORIEV**, and **CAROLINE RINGSKOG FERRADA-NOLI** all engage with Sweden and the wider European continent in their latest books. Latronico's *Perfection* (originally written in Italian) is a generational novel focused on the millennials and digital nomads of Berlin. Ringskog Ferrada-Noli's short story collection *Sex in the City* is an epochal drama about a number of people's relationships in a version of Europe from the mid 2010s and the following decade. Grigoriev's *Adrian* is a portrayal of Stockholm, and very much a friendship novel and bildungsroman. The trio will be discussing love and dreams in present-day Europe with moderator **AGRI ISMAIL**.

ORG: ALBERT BONNIERS FÖRLAG AND THE ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE IN STOCKHOLM

SATURDAY 17:00–17:45

HALL J1

INTERNATIONAL LITERARY STARS ON THEIR FAVOURITE BOOKS

QUÉBEC We bring together some of the most fascinating international authors at this year's Gothenburg Book Fair to ask them which novels have been most important to them. Panelists **PAJTIM STATOVCI**, **KIM THÚY**, **GIOCONDA BELL**, and **AMIN MAALOUF** will join poet and publisher **JENNY TUNEDAL** for this session. Which books shaped them as readers, people, and authors? Four authors from four different parts of the world will talk about the novels that left the deepest marks on their lives and writing. Hear them share which literary works have inspired, influenced, and changed their outlook on the world.

ORG: FÖRLAGET, QUÉBEC – GUEST OF HONOUR, PALABRA FÖRLAG, UPPSALA INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE FESTIVAL, SEKWA, AND THE EMBASSY OF SPAIN IN SWEDEN

SUNDAY 10:00–10:45

HALL F4

EVERYONE LOVES ROMANCE

The romance genre is experiencing explosive year-on-year growth. Readers around the world don't seem to be able to get enough of finding new fictional couples to fall head over heels in love with. This panel will bring together authors **STACIA STARK** (*A Kingdom This Cursed and Empty*), **ALICE VÄNNER** (*Faller som stjärnor* [Falling Like Shooting Stars]) and **ANN LOUISE MORSETH** (*Ett lyckligt slut* [A Happy Ending]) in a conversation about the rise of the genre and the art of writing romances that tug readers' heartstrings. Moderator: **AYMAN CHAUDHARY**.

ORG: SAGA EGMONT, LOVEREADS, AND KARAT FÖRLAG

SUNDAY 11:00–11:45

HALL F4

MAGGIE O'FARRELL

Life after the Great Famine

British author **MAGGIE O'FARRELL** made her major breakthrough on the international scene with her novel *Hamnet*. The film of the same title, which is based on the book, premiered in Sweden earlier this year and was nominated for eight Oscars. In her new book *Land*, O'Farrell tells the epic story of a family's attempt to make a life for themselves following the Irish Potato Famine in the mid-nineteenth century. Based on the mapping of Ireland that was taking place at the time, she depicts a society characterised by loss, change, and stubborn survival; one where the landscape and the people are closely intertwined. Moderator: **BEN MERCER**.

ORG: HISTORISKA MEDIA

SUNDAY 10:00–10:45

HALL R2

THE LAND BEARS WITNESS

QUÉBEC **MICHEL JEAN** from Quebec and French author **OLIVIER TRUC** both have backgrounds in journalism. In the novel *Qimmik*, **MICHEL JEAN** weaves together stories of love and truth set against the vast and majestic backdrop of Nunavik, a territory once subjected to attempts at subjugation by the Canadian government. Olivier Truc draws inspiration from Sápmi and Sámi culture in crime novels such as *Forty Days Without Shadow* and *The Shadows Return*. In a conversation moderated by **ANNA IVEMARK**, they discuss how journalism enriches their literary work and how they seek to raise awareness of Indigenous cultures. Interpreter: **VIVEKA HOLM**. Language: French, interpreted into Swedish

ORG: QUÉBEC – GUEST OF HONOUR, ELISABETH GRATE BOKFÖRLAG, INSTITUT FRANÇAIS



SUNDAY 11:00–11:45

HALL J1

SAM LAKE

The David Lynch of the gaming world

GAMES **SAM LAKE** is one of gaming's most famous auteurs. Not only has his face been used for that of iconic character Max Payne, but he also makes active use of film and literature as tools and inspiration for his creative work. This is clearly evident from the acclaimed game series *Alan Wake*, a meta-fictional narrative about an author losing their identity with strong ties to some of the greats of postmodern American culture: Bret Easton Ellis, Paul Auster and David Lynch are all explicit sources of inspiration. He will be in conversation with journalist and author **JENS LJLJESTRAND**.

ORG: GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR



SUNDAY 11:00–11:45

HALL J2

TRACING OUR ANCESTORS

QUÉBEC In her novel *Suzanne*, the Québécoise author and director **ANAÏS BARBEAU-LAVALLETTE** recreates the life of her absent grandmother. Through her research, she gets to know her mother's mother – a woman who abandoned her children – while also gaining new perspectives on her own life. Fellow writer and director **BJÖRN RUNGE** undertakes a similar journey in his new book *Ingen ska sova!* [No One Can Go To Sleep!] in which he follows in the footsteps of his grandfather, who died in the Battle of the Bulge in 1944. They will be in conversation with journalist **JOHAR BENDJELLOUL** about what we can learn from our ancestors.

ORG: BOKFÖRLAGET THORÉN & LINDSKOG, QUÉBEC EDITION, AND KAUNITZ-OLSSON

SUNDAY 12:00–12:45

HALL J2

KAUR KENDER

The story of Disco Elysium

GAMES **KAUR KENDER** is one of Estonia's most renowned authors, famous for being a highly provocative voice who has challenged the boundaries of freedom of expression all the way to the courts. He was also the executive producer on the acclaimed video game *Disco Elysium*, which is regarded by many as one of the best games of all time. The origins of the game are to be found in a close-knit group hailing from the generation of young Estonian artists that emerged after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Kaur Kender will be in conversation with writer and gaming enthusiast **SIGNE KRANTZ** about his writing, as well as the success of *Disco Elysium* and the dramatic aftermath.

ORG: GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

SUNDAY 12:00–12:45

HALL F1

EXPERIENCES OF BEING A WOMAN

In her novel *Grande meraviglia* [Great Wonder] (recently published in a Swedish translation by Johanna Hedenberg), **VIOLA ARDONE** gives a voice to the women – unmarried mothers, the politically engaged or 'hysterics' – who have been forcibly incarcerated for failing to adhere to the norms of society. **SUSANNA ALAKOSKI'S** *Sverigefamiljen* [The Swedish Family] depicts how the legacy of past generations lives on and affects life choices, relationships, and dreams. **PIRKKO SAISIO'S** *Backlight* and *The Red Book of Farewells* both describe a woman's upbringing, sexual liberation, and revolt. The trio will be joining journalist **PEKKA HEINO** to discuss writing about the lives, experiences, and stories of women.

ORG: BROMBERGS, FÖRLAGET, NATUR & KULTUR, AND THE ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE IN STOCKHOLM

SUNDAY 12:00–12:45

HALL F4

SKY AND AMANDA ROBERTS

Virginia Giuffre: the testimony that brought down Epstein

Nobody's Girl is Virginia Giuffre's unforgettable memoir. Her courageous testimony helped expose Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell and brought global attention to the abuse of power and sexual exploitation. Her brother, **SKY ROBERTS**, and sister-in-law, **AMANDA ROBERTS**, now help carry forward her legacy. Join them for a personal and moving conversation about Virginia's life, the struggle for justice, and why her voice remains more important than ever. Moderator: **MAX V KARLSSON**, journalist.

ORG: SAGA EGMONT

SUNDAY 12:00–12:45

HALL G4

MIEKO KAWAKAMI

An icon from Japan

MIEKO KAWAKAMI is one of the most prominent authors in the wave of Japanese literature that has swept over the world in recent years. Her debut novel *Breasts and Eggs* provoked conservative Japan through its openness about body ideals and voluntary childlessness, but at the same time made her an icon among younger generations. In *All the Lovers in the Night and Heaven* (recently translated to Swedish by Vibeke Emond), she continues her portrayals of people living on the fringes of Japanese society and its strict norms. She will be discussing her writing with **YUKIKO DUKE**. Language: Japanese interpreted into Swedish or English

ORG: TRANAN

SUNDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL F2

LISE TREMBLAY

Breaking free from predetermination

QUÉBEC In her writing, **LISE TREMBLAY** returns to issues of class, family, city, country, and women's liberation. Her work can concern the hierarchies of small towns, overcoming the shame of being abandoned as an older woman, or trying to find a different path to the one that has been predetermined for you as a teenage girl. Tremblay's concise novels cast light on people's ways of relating to or breaking free from the conventions of society and the church. Tremblay will be in conversation with the author **KRISTINA SANDBERG** about her oeuvre and her classic coming-of-age novella *Judith's Sister*. Language: Swedish and French interpreted into Swedish

ORG: RÁMUS AND QUÉBEC – GUEST OF HONOUR

SUNDAY 13:00–13:45

HALL G3

THE GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT: #BOOKTOK

Social media content devoted to literature is still growing apace. What started life as a hashtag has now become a grassroots movement with the power to sway the bestseller lists and recast long-established publishing industry truths. A clutch of the world's best-known book influencers – **AYMAN CHAUDHARY** (better known as @aymansbooks), **JOEL ROCHESTER**, (@fictionalfates), **BEN MERCER** (@benmercer), and **JASMINE DARBAN** (@jasminedarban) – will be joining **FANNA NDOW NORRBY** to discuss how they've managed to bring together millions of bookworms in one big community.

ORG: GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR

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BEYOND THE SEMINARS

If the seminar programme offers focused conversations behind closed doors, the fair floor is where the wider world of books opens up: bustling with readers, publishers, magazines, organisations, comics, educational materials and children's literature.

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- Jewish Culture in Sweden – The Jewish Stage
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- The Reading Tent
- The Authors' and Literary Translators' Stage
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- The Games Stage
- The Podcast Stage
- Room for Translation
- Room for Poetry
- Behold Man
- The Comics and Sci-fi/ Fantasy Stage
- The Writers' Stage
- Theology and the Present
- Freedom of Speech Stage
- The Crimetime Area
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