EXPLORING BOUNDARIES!

2015: Borderlines

WELTEMPFANG –
Centre for Politics, Literature and Translation
Hall 3.1 L 25

Dear friends of the Weltempfang at the Frankfurt Book Fair,

The armed conflicts raging in places like Syria and Iraq have called into question, not only the regimes but also the existing borders of the respective states.

Fixed borders, which to us the West might almost seem outdated features of bygone days, have once again become a focus of interest in political and military confrontations – not least because of the tense situation in Ukraine, the annexation of Crimea by Russia, and the territories occupied in Georgia. However, the actual positioning of state borders is only the outward point contention. It is common knowledge that political borders seldom coincide with the boundaries of cultures and languages, or even with social borders. When people identify themselves with different groups it creates many spaces in which they can distance themselves from one another. This leads to complex geographies, diverse sovereignties and multiple loyalties among larger and smaller groups that live alongside each other. Politicians like to make pretty speeches depicting these differences as sources of constructive friction, and thus as focal points of innovation and diversity in a society. But if this is ever true, then surely only in the interior perceptions of a few countries of the European Union. Sadly, geopolitical realities today speak a different language.

This year’s Weltempfang is dedicated to this topical question of ‘border lines’ in all its multifaceted significance, and will introduce it through many different examples.

I wish you an exciting and stimulating Frankfurt Book Fair, and I look forward to seeing you in the Weltempfang.

Tobias Voss
Frankfurt Book Fair,
Vice President International Markets,
Project Manager Weltempfang

Wednesday, 14 October 2015

noon–1.00 pm, Stage
Presentation of the Übersetzerbarke (“Translators’ Barque”) Award ceremony
German | English
Every year, the German Literary Translators’ Association recognises figures from literary life who have made a special contribution to the cause of translation. This year, the Translators Barque will be awarded to the literary critic and author Elke Schmitter. For over 20 years, with her unerring observations on world literature, she has shown how the intrinsic reflection of the translator’s work is a kind of literary criticism.

Taking part: Elke Schmitter (Berlin), author and literary critic; prize winner Hinrich Schmidt-Henkel (Berlin), chairman of the VdÜ; laudation

Cooperation: German Literary Translators’ Association (VdÜ)

1.00–2.00 pm, Salon
Making literature travel between Europe and Asia
Talk
English
Having an agent is a must for authors today and there are now literary agencies working not only in the Anglophone world but also across Europe. But how does writing from other continents find its way to publishers in today’s competitive book industry and how do we interact with markets and literary scenes as remote as those of China, India or Indonesia? Three literary agents talk about the challenges of promoting literature between Europe and Asia.

Taking part: Eliza Vitri Handayani (Indonesia), InterSastra
David Lopez-del Amo (Spain/China), Sinicus
Vinutha Mallya (India), Kaavi

1.30–2.30 pm, Stage
Free spaces:
Cultural activities in refugee camps
Panel discussion
German | English
Refugee camps are intended to be temporary, but in some conflict-affected areas they remain in place for decades. The people in them live with geographical, political, cultural, linguistic and personal restrictions. Are there ways in which cultural activities in these places can create spaces for the free expression of pain, suffering and loss, for coping with the senselessness of war, or for developing positions for the future?

Taking part: Peter Mares (Germany), head of zivik – Civil Conflict Resolution of ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen)
Friederike Stolleis (Germany), political analyst for Syria with the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation
Susanne Heinke (Germany), head of communications, BICC (Bonn International Center for Conversion)
Carla Mikael (Lebanon), advisor on refugee camps in Lebanon for UNHCR and others

Cooperation: ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen); BICC (Bonn International Center for Conversion)

Organisation and implementation:
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For the latest information:
www.buchmesse.de/weltempfang
2.30–3.30 pm, Salon
*The Arab World: (Not) an unlimited book market*
Panel discussion
*English*

The Arab literary scene boasts a persuasive array of authors ready to tackle the issues of the day. For them to reach their readers requires dedicated publishers, booksellers and other multipliers. At the same time, there is a shortage of effective distribution channels. What can be done to promote exchanges and people’s joy in reading? How large is the scope for expression? What role is played by translations?

/ Taking part: Rania Zaghir (Lebanon), author; publisher, Al Khayyat Al Saghir Publishers

Valentina Qussisiya (Jordan), publisher; publisher, Al Kotob Khan for Publishing and Distribution

/ Chaired by: Amira El Ahi (Germany), journalist; moderator

/ Cooperation: Goethe-Institut Cairo; Litrix.de

4.30–5.30 pm, Stage
*Opening of the Weltempfang: Borders in an age of flight and displacement*

*German | English*

We celebrated the “Arab Spring”, but we failed to understand the challenges the collapse of the old regimes would bring. We talk about conflict in the Middle East, and we still haven’t understood the extent to which the “old” borders have already dissolved in the face of the IS terror. That terror is aimed not only at the West, but above all at Muslims. The current waves of refugees show how urgent is the need for political solutions to help us cope with the problems collectively.

/ Taking part: Juergen Boos (Frankfurt), Director of the Frankfurt Book Fair; welcome address

Dr. Andreas Gürgen (Berlin), head of the Directorate-General for Culture and Communication of the German Federal Foreign Office; welcome address

Najem Wali (Germany/Iraq), writer and journalist

Prof. Dr. Udo Steinbach (Berlin), Middle East expert

/ Chaired by: Dr. Michel Friedman (Frankfurt), journalist

/ Cooperation: Frankfurt Book Fair; German Federal Foreign Office

Thursday, 15 October 2015

10.30–11.30 am, Stage
*Politics defines language: Drawing the borders in Eastern Europe*

Panel discussion

*German | English*

New political systems in eastern and southern Europe have often had – and continue to have – politico-linguistic impacts. Where do the fault lines run? Is there such a thing as “linguistic cleansing”? What does this mean for the development of language – or for literature? How do authors, translators and academics deal with this phenomenon?

/ Taking part: Iryna Herasimovich (Minsk), translator; essayist; culture manager

Anna Hodel (Basel), Slavic languages scholar; translator; research project “Narration beyond national interests”

Prof. Vahidin Preljević (Sarajevo), German scholar; cultural theorist; literary translator

/ Chaired by: Claudia Dathe (Jena), translator to German from Ukrainian, Russian and Polish; coordinator of the EU project “TransStar Europe”

/ Cooperation: German Literary Translators’ Association (VsU)

noon–1.00 pm, Stage
*Unlimited web – unlimited communication? Instructions for the “Global Citizen”*

Panel discussion

*German | English*

Social media create the framework for global and interactive communication. Even key players in foreign policy use the tools of Web 2.0. Which forms of participation do foreign policy actors offer citizens beyond likes and hashtags? How do they use the results of these interactions?

/ Taking part: Markus Beckedahl (Germany), net activist, blogger (netzpolitik.org), founder of re:publica and consultant to the German Bundestag

Diana Kepper (Germany), research programme “Culture and Foreign Policy” of ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen)

Jon Worth (Germany), blogger (jonworth.eu) and consultant to EU institutions

/ Chaired by: Adelheid Feilcke (Germany), Deutsche Welle (DW)

/ Cooperation: ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen), Deutsche Welle

1.00–2.00 pm, Salon
*Independent feminist publishing across borders – dialogue between 4 feminist publishers from 3 continents*

Panel discussion

*English*

Feminist publishing in the 21st century: in what ways does it transform patriarchy and heterosexism? Do feminist publishers face any particular challenges that differ from other independent publishers? This panel brings together feminist publishers with decades of experience and knowledge of
publishing in the global space, to discuss the strengths, problems and future of feminist publishing.

Taking part: Renate Klein (Australia), former Professor of Women’s Studies, health researcher and co-founder of Spinifex Press
Susan Hawthorne (Australia), poet, novelist, political commentator, publisher and co-founder of Spinifex Press
Colleen Higgins (South Africa), activist, publisher and writer, founder of Modjaji Books
Müge Gürsoy Sökmen (Turkey), editor, translator and co-founder of Metis Publications

Chaired by: Juan Carlos Sáez (Chile), publisher of JC Sáez Editor
Cooperation: Frankfurt Book Fair, International Alliance of Independent Publishers

1.30 – 2.30 pm, Stage
Streaming Egos – Digital identities in Europe
Panel discussion
German | English | Spanish
On the Internet, anyone can create a virtual image of their ideal selves. Simultaneously, there exists the need to be authentic. But in this game of digital identities, do different rules apply in Spain than in Germany, for example, or is the Internet a global, westernising leveller? The project “Streaming Egos”, brings together Internet specialists and artists to address this issue.

Taking part: Bram Crevits (Belgium), lecturer; curator of media art and Internet culture
Sabria David (Germany), media researcher, Slow Media Institut
Matéo Feijóo (Spain), theatre director; curator of international projects and art exhibitions

Chaired by: Nina Lindlähr (Germany), freelance author; journalist; moderator
Cooperation: Goethe-Institut Paris; Slow Media Institut; NRW-Forum

2.30 – 3.30 pm, Salon
On the right track? The challenges of democracy and civic freedoms in Indonesia
Panel discussion
German | English
Indonesia is described as the second largest democracy in Asia. Despite this, human rights have often been curtailed in regions such as Aceh and Papua. To this day, the subject of a brutal massacre in 1965, which claimed hundreds of thousands of victims, has barely been investigated. How far does Indonesia’s democracy guarantee civic freedoms and what are the key factors that have to be considered in order to guarantee the liberty of all citizens?

Taking part: Azhari Aiyub (Aceh, Indonesia), author; director of the cultural organisation Komunitas Tikar Pandan
Anett Keller (Bremen), freelance journalist; board member of the Southeast Asian information point (Südostasien-Informationstelle); publisher of “Indonesien 1965ff.”
Basilissa Dengen (Berlin), co-director of the human rights organisation Watch Indonesia
Norman Voß (Wuppertal), coordinator of the human rights organisations West Papua Netzwerk and the International Coalition for Papua

Chaired by: Gunnar Stange (Frankfurt), Goethe University Frankfurt am Main
Cooperation: Frankfurt University Research Hub, Globaliser Islam (FGGI); cluster of excellence at the Goethe University Frankfurt am Main; Watch Indonesia e.V.; Südostasien Informationsstelle (SOAI); West Papua Netzwerk

3.00 – 4.00 pm, Stage
Islam is part of Europe. The Balkans as the European home of Muslims
Panel discussion
German | Albanian | Bosnian | Macedonian
The borders between Christianity and Islam are not to be found in Asia or Africa. They are fluid, and have run for centuries through Europe. However, this fact is largely ignored in the latter day debate surrounding Islam. What is the modern face of European Islam in the Balkan countries: in Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina?

Taking part: Ramadan Ramadani (Skopje), Islamic theologian; author; member of the religiously and politically unaligned Macedonian think tank “Nisma”.
Mustafa Nano (Tirana), commentator; known in Albania for his book “Pax Albanica”, which draws on history to posit an Albanian interreligious peace
Dževad Hodžić (Sarajevo), Islamic theologian; philosopher; imam of the Islamic Cultural Centre in Cologne from 1987 to 1990; professor of ethics at Sarajevo University

Chaired by: Wolfgang Benz (Berlin), historian; emeritus professor at the Freie Universität Berlin; author of “Die Feinde aus dem Morgenland. Wie die Angst vor den Muslimen unsere Demokratie gefährdet” (C. H. Beck, 2012; “Enemies from the Orient. How the fear of Muslims is threatening our democracy”, not available in English translation)
Cooperation: S. Fischer Stiftung; TRADUKI

4.00 – 5.00 pm, Salon
The borders of my language are the borders of my world
Panel discussion
German | Spanish
Every language is a world unto itself. By learning a new language we are passing across a border. Translators are the builders of bridges between different worlds.

They enable the constant exchange of ideas across those language borders. Three translators tell us of their experiences as the ambassadors of languages.

Taking part: Christian Hansen (Madrid), translator to German from Spanish and French
José María Micó (Barcelona), translator to German from Italian and Spanish
Luis Ruby (Munich), translator to German from Spanish, English, Italian and Portuguese

Chaired by: Diego Valverde Villena, director of the Instituto Cervantes in Frankfurt
Cooperation: Instituto Cervantes; German Literary Translators’ Association (VÖ)

4.30 – 5.30 pm, Stage
Cairo Short Stories
Award ceremony, with a reading and talk
German | English | Arabic
The awarding of the second promotional prize of the KfW Foundation to Omaima Sobhi marks the continuation of the Cairo Short Stories project. The respected German-Iraqi writer Abbas Khider led the workshop in Cairo, in which a select group of young authors were invited to refine their writing techniques and develop their short stories. A talk on Cairo’s young literary scene.

Taking part: Omaima Sobhi (Cairo), winner of the promotional prize of the KfW Foundation
Abbas Khider (Berlin), writer; most recent work: “Brief in die Auberginenrepublik” (Nautilus 2013; “Letter to the Eggplant Republic”, not available in English translation)
Karam Youssef (Cairo), publisher; participant in the Frankfurt Book Fair’s invitation programme; member of the jury in Cairo
Ingrid El Sigai (Frankfurt), public speaker; actress; reader of the German text
Johannes Ebert (Munich), Secretary-General of the Goethe-Institut; welcome address
Friday, 16 October 2015

10.30–11.30 am, Salon
“The enigma of arrival”
Panel discussion
German | English | Arabic
Many writers, artists and human rights activists left their countries because they were endangered or lacked freedom of expression. Some find refuge in temporary exile. The debate will focus on hopes and experiences and the question: Have they really “arrived” in the city or country of refuge?

Taking part: Parvin Ardalan (Iran), women’s rights activist, journalist, writer, persecuted and detained in Iran, 2010 to 2012
Yamen Hussein (Syria), poet, journalist, since the end of 2014 scholarship by German PEN – Writers-in-Exile, lives in Munich
Abdul Hakim Hashemi Hamidi (Afghanistan), writer, film maker, threatened in his country, since spring 2015 ICORN writer in Malmö

11.30 am–12.30 pm, Salon
Poetry in the city
Reading and talk
German | English
There is no lack of initiatives to bring poetry into cities. But how does that affect poets whose works are only accessible in translation? Does it need a special approach for them to reach as large an audience as possible? Two women poets who have lived in Frankfurt am Main as a “city of refuge” talk about their hopes and experiences, and read their poems in Russian and Farsi (translations will be read in German).

Taking part: Anzhelina Polonskaya (Russia), poet; journalist; seven published volumes of poetry, most recently: “Schwarzer als Weiß” (Leipziger Literaturverlag 2015; “Blacker than White”, not available in English translation); ICORN author in Frankfurt am Main since 2015
Pegah Ahmadi (Iran/Germany), poet; literary critic; several published volumes of poetry; ICORN author in Frankfurt am Main from 2009 to 2011, now living in Cologne

Focus: Exchanges between worlds: Surmounting boundaries in biography and education
Panel discussion
German | English
Passing from one culture to another either inspires us with new perspectives and potentials, or it throws up challenges and hurdles. Efforts to transcend borders can exist in many dimensions – both personal and institutional. This discussion focuses on how a change of location can influence biography and literature. Moreover, it also looks at the impact of international education projects on national university systems.

Taking part: Benjamin Alire Sáenz (USA), author of “Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe” (Simon & Schuster, 2012)
Brigitte Jakobeit (Germany), translator of “Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe”
Dr. Susanne Helene Becker (Germany), Chair of the German Association for Children’s and Youth Literature (AKJ)

Focus: On a knife-edge: Ukraine between Europe and Russia
Panel discussion
German | Ukrainian | Russian
Together with the editor-in-chief of the magazine “Osteuropa”, Ukrainian intellectuals explore the social and cultural dimensions of the ongoing polarisation of Ukraine’s population. Where, how and by whom are the borders being drawn up? What are the panellists views on the European and/or Russian concepts of Ukraine?

Taking part: Boris Chersonskij (Odessa), Russian-speaking Jewish author; poet; psychologist; his poems and articles have reflected events since the demonstrations on the Maidan
Manfred Sapper (Berlin), Editor-in-chief of “Osteuropa” (numerous issues published about the Ukrainian conflict of 2014–15); co-editor of “Testfall Ukraine. Europa und seine Werte” (Suhrkamp 2015; “Test Case Ukraine. Europe and its Values”, not available in English translation)
Serhij Zhadan (Kharkiv), author; poet; musician; texts published on the Donbass and the post-communist transformation, most recently “Mesopotamien” (Suhrkamp 2015; “Mesopotamia”, not available in English translation)

Focus: Academic Exchange Service

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1.30–2.30 pm, Stage
Frankfurt Undercover: Review
Press conference
German | English
About 20 authors from all around the world have spent three days discussing a hot topic. The result of this exchange of ideas—and what fruits it might bear—will be announced here.
/ Taking part: Janne Teller (USA/Denmark), author
N.N.
Juergen Boos (Germany), Director of the Frankfurt Book Fair
/ Chaired by: Katja Böhne (Germany), Vice President Marketing & Communications, Frankfurt Book Fair
/ Cooperation: Frankfurt Book Fair

3.00–4.00 pm, Stage
Voices of Silence – Peace Prize winner Navid Kermani talks to other Iranian authors
Panel discussion
German | English | Farsi
Navid Kermani, German writer of Iranian descent, is seen as a bridge-builder par excellence in the dialogue between East and West. In this talk with his colleagues Fariba Vafi and Amir Hassan Cheheltan, Kermani clearly shows how lively and eloquent contemporary Iranian literature is.
/ Taking part: Navid Kermani (Germany), writer, winner of the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade 2015, most recent work: “Ungläubiges Staunen über das Christentum” (C.H. Beck 2015; “Incredulous Awe About Christianity”, not available in English translation)
Amir Hassan Cheheltan (Iran), writer, most recent work: “Der Kalligraph von Isfahan” (C. H. Beck 2015; “The Calligrapher of Isfahan”, not available in English translation)
Fariba Vafi (Iran), writer, most recent work: “Tarlan” (Sujet Verlag 2015; “Tarlan”, not available in English translation)
/ Chaired by: Stefan Weidner (Cologne), Islamic scholar; translator; publisher
/ Cooperation: Frankfurt Book Fair; Goudafzant Network of Translation Funding Organisations

4.00–5.00 pm, Salon
“Travel agencies for literature” present the story of a European book
Talk
(English)
Since 2010 representatives of the organisations that promote translation have met here to talk about their work. This time the Goudafzant Network of translation funding organisations invites a European round of publishers together with the author who they all translated at different stages. Listen to the stories of their success or failure with publishing the translation.
/ Taking part: Peter van der Zwaag (Netherlands), De Bezige Bij
Timea Turi (Hungary), Megvető Publishers
Claus Clausen (Danmark), Tiderne Skifter
/ Chaired by: Bas Pauw (Netherlands), Dutch Foundation for Literature
/ Cooperation: Frankfurt Book Fair; Goudafzant Network of Translation Funding Organisations

2.30–3.30 pm, Salon
The next generation: Cairo Short Stories meets sexyunderground
Talk
German | Arabic
Six young authors from Frankfurt and Cairo come together for a talk. What is it that unites them? Their experiences of having participated in writing workshops. Plus the dream of publishing their own books. What else do they have in common? What was their impression of their workshops? How do they see their chances in their respective book markets? What challenges, opportunities or problems do they share, and where are the differences?
/ Taking part: Omaima Sobhi (Cairo), winner of the promotional prize of the KFW Foundation
Hala Salah (Alexandria) and Ahmed Lotfy Aman (Cairo), participants in the writing workshop in Cairo
Martin Piekar, Lisa Kaldowski and Bianca Bellchambers, members of the young authors’ collective “sexyunderground”, founded by former participants in the Schreibzimmer (“Writing Room”) events of the Literaturhaus Frankfurt
/ Chaired by: Amira El Ahl (Germany/Egypt), journalist; moderator
/ Cooperation: KFW Foundation; Litprom – the Society for the Promotion of African, Asian and Latin American Literature; Literaturhaus Frankfurt; Goethe-Institut

4.30–5.30 pm, Stage
Flight and displacement: Can art help?
Panel discussion
German | English | Arabic
All around the world, violence and emergencies force people to abandon their homes. The refugees are impoverished and traumatised, the societies which take them in are overwhelmed. In such a situation, can art and culture be of any help? How have artists in the Middle East and Germany reacted to the refugee crisis? And how might sustainable interventions by cultural institutions manifest themselves?
/ Taking part: Mohammad Al Attar (Syria), dramatist
/ Chaired by: Lena Bopp (Germany), journalist, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
/ Cooperation: Litprom – the Society for the Promotion of African, Asian and Latin American Literature; Institut français

Basma El Husseiny (Egypt), founder of the cultural organisation “Al Mawred Al Thaqafy”; head of the initiative “Action for Hope”
Klaus-Dieter Lehmann (Germany), President of the Goethe-Institut
/ Chaired by: Amira El Ahl (Germany), journalist; moderator
/ Cooperation: Goethe-Institut

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10.30 am–12.30 pm, Salon
The Transparent Translator: Border as Method
Interactive presentation
German | English
How do you translate social sciences? What is the “border perspective”? Thomas Atzert shows us his work of translating “Border as Method, or, the Multiplication of Labor” by Sandro Mezzadra and Brett Neilson (Duke University Press 2013), a study examining the fault lines of today’s global capitalism, which are shaped by many different kinds of border.
/ Taking part: Thomas Atzert (Offenbach), translator to German from English, French and Italian, of authors including Antonio Negri and Eric Hobsbawm
/ Cooperation: German Literary Translators’ Association (VdÜ)

noon–1.00 pm, Stage
Beyond politics? The role of art and culture after the Euromaidan
Panel discussion
German | English
In 2013, thousands of Ukrainians occupied the Maidan in Kiev, demonstrating for stronger civil society and closer ties with the EU. The country has been in turmoil ever since. How is this situation affecting the artists of today? In a crisis like this, can art reflect reality and move things forward? What is the role of foreign cultural agencies such as the Goethe-Institut?
/ Taking part: Yuri Andrukhovych (Ukraine), writer; translator; publisher Kateryna Botanova (Ukraine), commentator; cultural manager; curator Johannes Ebert (Germany), Secretary General Goethe-Institut
/ Chaired by: Claudia Dathe (Germany), translator; coordinator of literary translation projects
/ Cooperation: Goethe-Institut

1.00–2.00 pm, Salon
Between India and Pakistan: Saadat Hasan Manto and the partition of the subcontinent
Reading and talk
German
Saadat Hasan Manto (1912-1955) is one of the best-known Urdu authors, revered both in India and in Pakistan. His work mainly deals with the partition of British India in 1947. His poetry will surprise many in the audience. Incisive and sensitive, it describes the impacts of the post-colonial borders, while providing insights into the fate of individual people following the partition.
/ Taking part: Dr. Christina Oesterheld, literary editor for Urdu; translator of “Schwarze Notizen” (Suhrkamp 2006; “Black Notes” a German anthology of partition stories, translated from the Urdu) Amtul Manan Tahir, literary editor for Urdu; writer; South Asia Institute (SAI) Heidelberg University
/ Chaired by: Dr. Martin Gieselmann, SAI Heidelberg University
/ Cooperation: SAI Heidelberg University

1.30–2.30 pm, Stage
Soviet past in the Baltic children’s literatures
Panel discussion
German | English
In the Baltic countries, contemporary children’s literature is only just beginning to address the Soviet and early post-Soviet past. Why are titles that deal with the Soviet history and its legacy emerging now? Is it because of the historical distance? Or are current events in Ukraine having an effect on the children’s book scene in the Baltic region?
/ Taking part: Dace Bargā (Latvia), literary scholar; expert for 20th century children’s literature Justinas Žilinskas (Lithuania), children’s and young adult author

2.30–3.30 pm, Salon
Translation slam: Humans AND Machines?
German | English
Machine translation is a hot topic. Many people have already tried out Google Translate, but machine translation is much more than that. Using a technical text, Ralf Lemster shows us what this tool can do – and what it can’t. This is followed by the VdÜ’s Translation Slam: improvisational talent is the driver of translation. Watch as three (human) literary translators tackle a range of translation jobs in differing tones and styles – entirely spontaneously.
/ Taking part: Ralf Lemster (Frankfurt), Vice President, German Association of Translators and Interpreters (BDÜ) Karin Betz (Frankfurt), translator to German from Chinese, English and Spanish Ingo Herzke (Hamburg), translator to German from English Peter Torberg (Bad Griesbach), translator to German from English
/ Chaired by: Annette Kopetzki (Indonesian), poet; performance artist; commentator; his volume of poetry “druckmaschine dritt mensch” has been published with German translations by Ulrike Draesner (DAAD 2015; “printing machines third person”, not available in English translation) Erik Lindner (Netherlands), poet; literary critic; publishing editor of “De Revisor” and “Terras” magazines
/ Cooperation: DAAD Artists-in-Berlin Program

3.00–4.00 pm, Stage
The border region between a suitcase and its lid
Performance and panel discussion
German | English | Indonesian
In his performances and his poems alike, the Indonesian writer and artist Afrizal Malna examines the strained relationship between language, body and space. This discussion, as well as the performance created specially for the Weltempfang, will look at the relevance of these three things to the country’s oral tradition and to its different religions.
/ Taking part: Afrizal Malna (Indonesia), poet; performance artist; commentator; his volume of poetry “druckmaschine dritt mensch” has been published with German translations by Ulrike Draesner (DAAD 2015; “printing machines third person”, not available in English translation) Kätlin Kaldmaa (Estonia), ELK (Eesti Lastekirjanduse Keskus, Estonian Children’s Literature Centre)
/ Chaired by: Katja Wiebe (Munich), literary editor for Eastern Europe at the International Youth Library / ViVaVostok promotion programme
/ Cooperation: ViVaVostok – a programme of the Robert Bosch Stiftung in collaboration with the International Youth Library Foundation

4.00–5.00 pm, Salon
Where do the borders disappear to?
German
Despite the cross-border networking of people and places, even today older territorial divisions (e.g. the Habsburg and Ottoman empires) still leave their mark on the societies of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. How can we explain these phantom borders and spaces? Come with us on a journey of discovery where, with empirical examples, we identify the interactions between spatial imagination, spatial experience and spatial production.
/ Taking part: Dr. Béatrice von Hirschhausen (Berlin/Paris), geographer; researcher at the Centre national de la
Sunday, 18 October 2015

10.30–11.30 am, Salon
The Chinese are coming: Exploring the longest border in the world
Panel discussion
German | English
On Russia’s far-eastern periphery the mood is downbeat. Many people feel neglected by Moscow and are leaving their homes. Meanwhile, ever more people are moving in from China. The “Border Crossers” programme of the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the Literarisches Colloquium Berlin gave its support to authors who travelled this border region. Three of those border crossers now discuss this geographical area where the cards are being reshuffled.

// Taking part: Sören Urbansky (Munich), academic officer at the faculty for Russian and Asian studies at the Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich
// Chaired by: Cornelia Zetzsche (Germany), literary journalist and critic
// Cooperation: Litprom – the Society for the Promotion of African, Asian and Latin American Literature
// Frankfurt Book Fair; BMBF Project “Phantom borders in Eastern and Central Europe”

11.30 am–12.30 pm, Salon
“Stillness of the Blossom” – Poems as a dialogue between Eastern and Western thought
Talk
German | Korean
Hwang Tong-gyu’s poems are among the best Korean verse of the 20th and 21st centuries. They are characterised by his personal approach to poetry, which draws on his reading of classical Korean and Chinese, as well as European poetry. It is a subtle path which he continues to follow today. In this cosmopolitan age it lends him a great emancipatory power.

// Taking part: Hwang Tong-gyu (Korea), poet; most recent work: “Stille der Blüten” (Ostasienverlag 2015, translated by Kim Kyung-hee and Theodor Ickler; “Stillness of the Blossom”, not available in English translation)
// Chaired by: Katharina Borchardt (Berlin), literary critic with the broadcaster SWR2
// Cooperation: Literature Translation Institute of Korea; Litprom – the Society for the Promotion of African, Asian and Latin American Literature

noon–1.00 pm, Stage
Borders in motion: Space, cultures and fiction in the European novel
Panel discussion
German | French | Italian | Spanish
A border divides and it connects, it can be obvious or subtle. Its mysteriousness has made the border a popular topic in literature. Three authors from Spain, France and Italy, whose novels use this motif, discuss geographical and social borders, linguistic borders and the borders between fiction and reality. To what extent is the border a metaphor of the novel?

// Taking part: Javier Cercas (Spain), writer; most recent work: “Outlaws” (Bloomsbury 2014, English translation by Anne McLean)
// Patrick Deville (France), writer; cosmopolitan; in “Kampuchea” (bilgerverlag 2015, German translation by Holger Fock and Sabine Müller; not available in English translation) he tells the story of 150 years of history in Indochina
// Igiaba Scego (Italy), writer; academic; journalist, with Somali roots; most recent work: “La mia casa è dove sono” (Rizzoli 2010; not available in English translation) an autobiographical story of African-Italian identity
// Chaired by: RUTHARD STÄBLEIN (Frankfurt), literary critic; journalist with the broadcaster HR2
2.30–3.30 pm, Salon
Between Breslau and Wrocław: European Capital of Culture 2016
Panel discussion
German
As demonstrated by its rich, dynamically developing culture and economy, Wrocław (or Breslau in German), the European Capital of Culture 2016, is blossoming. The ins and outs of the thousand-year history of Silesia’s major city have manifested themselves in its different names, its ownership by different states, the composition of its population after 1945, and the events of the last 25 years.

Taking part: Dr. Roswitha Schieb (Germany), cultural scholar; author (e.g. a literary travel guide to Breslau and “Travels to Silesia and Galicia”)
Dr. Rafał Dutkiewicz (Poland), mayor of the city of Wrocław, European Capital of Culture 2016
Prof. Dr. Krzysztof Ruchniewicz (Poland), historian; Director of the Willy Brandt Centre for German and European Studies at the University of Wrocław

Chaired by: Dr. Conrad Lay (Frankfurt), critic; radio journalist

Cooperation: Deutsches Kulturforum östliches Europa (German Cultural Forum for Eastern Europe. As determined by the German Bundestag, this receives support from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media); Festival Office Wrocław 2016, city of Wrocław

3.00–4.00 pm, Stage
On the lust to kill and the laughter of the perpetrators
Talk
German | English
Even more “male fantasies”: in his book “Das Lachen der Täter: Breivik u.a.” (Residenz Verlag 2015; “The Laughter of the Perpetrators: Breivik etc.”, not available in English translation) Klaus Theweleit explains why Breivik was grinning all the time – and why the lust to kill has nothing to do with the religion of the perpetrators. Thomas Macho has dealt at length with the topics of dying, death and killing, from a cultural-philosophical perspective.

Taking part: Prof. Dr. Klaus Theweleit (Freiburg), literary scholar, cultural theorist; writer
Prof. Dr. Thomas Macho (Berlin), cultural scholar; philosopher

Chaired by: Iris Därmann (Berlin), cultural scholar; philosopher

Cooperation: Frankfurt Book Fair; Residenz Verlag; Humboldt University, Berlin

Focus

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/ Cooperation: European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) Frankfurt; Institut français; Instituto Cervantes; Italienisches Kulturinstitut

1.00–2.00 pm, Salon
Troubled borders: Reports from India’s north-east
Reading and talk
English
Indian author Sudeep Chakravarti has become well known in recent years for his committed journalism. In “Highway 39: Journeys Through a Fractured Land” (HarperCollins India 2012) he describes the complicated situation of north-eastern India, especially in the remote states of Manipur and Nagaland. In this discussion, German and Indian experts reflect on the subject matter of that book.

Taking part: Dr. Dieter Reinhardt (Duisburg), political scientist
Aditya Ghosh (New Delhi), journalist; author
Urvashi Butalia (New Delhi), Zubaan Books

Chaired by: Dr. Martin Gieselmann, South Asia Institute (SAI) of Heidelberg University

Cooperation: SAI

Focus

1.30–2.30 pm, Stage
Overcoming borders with bilateral schoolbooks
Expert talk
German | English
It is difficult for schoolbooks to break free of the national paradigms in which they originate. It’s only in the context of international dialogue that their national bias is properly revealed. Bilateral schoolbook commissions are proving their worth as laboratories where the telling of history is reconfigured. It is often necessary to overcome mental barriers, misunderstandings and translation problems.

Taking part: Dr. Dirk Sadowski (Braunschweig), historian; Georg Eckert Institute; coordinator of the German-Israeli Schoolbook Commission
Oliver Schramm (Berlin), Director, Division 605, German Schools abroad and Sport Relations
Thomas Strobel (Braunschweig), historian; Georg Eckert Institute; academic secretary to the German-Polish Schoolbook Commission

Chaired by: Dr. Robert Maier (Braunschweig), historian of Eastern Europe; Georg Eckert Institute; schoolbook expert; author of binational teaching material

Cooperation: German Federal Foreign Office; Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research; German-Polish Schoolbook Commission
Wednesday, 14 October 2015

1.00–2.00 pm
Making literature travel between Europe and Asia
Talk

2.30–3.30 pm
The Arab World: (Not) an unlimited book market
Panel discussion

Thursday, 15 October 2015

10.30 am–12.30 pm
The Transparent Translator: The borders of language
Interactive presentation

1.00–2.00 pm
Between India and Pakistan: Saadat Hasan Manto and the partition of the subcontinent
Reading and talk

2.30–3.30 pm
Translation slam: Humans AND Machines
Panel discussion

Friday, 16 October 2015

10.30 am–11.30 pm
“Why is our heart in such turmoil when we love someone?”
Reading and talk

11.30 am–12.30 pm
Poetry in the city
Reading and talk

1.00–2.00 pm
Troubled borders: Reports from India’s north-east
Reading and talk

2.30–3.30 pm
Between Breslau and Wroclaw: European Capital of Culture 2016
Panel discussion

Saturday, 17 October 2015

10.30 am–12.30 pm
The Transparent Translator: Border as Method
Interactive presentation

1.00–2.00 pm
Between India and Pakistan: Saadat Hasan Manto and the partition of the subcontinent
Reading and talk

2.30–3.30 pm
Translation slam: Humans AND Machines
Panel discussion

Sunday, 18 October 2015

10.30 am–11.30 pm
Accepted? The situation of Indonesia’s Chinese population
Talk

11.30 am–12.30 pm
“Stillness of the Blossom” – Poems as a dialogue between Eastern and Western thought
Talk

1.00–2.00 pm
Troubled borders: Reports from India’s north-east
Reading and talk

2.30–3.30 pm
The next generation: Cairo Short Stories meets sexyunderground
Talk

STAGE

Wednesday, 14 October 2015

noon–1.00 pm
Presentation of the Übersetzerbarke ("Translators’ Barque")
Award ceremony

1.30–2.30 pm
Free spaces: Cultural activities in refugee camps
Panel discussion

3.00–4.00 pm
Foreign cultural policy – peacock plumage or a fig leaf?
Talk

4.30–5.30 pm
Opening of the Weltempfang: Borders in an age of flight and displacement
Panel discussion

Saturday, 17 October 2015

10.30–11.30 am
Politics defines language: Drawing the borders in Eastern Europe
Panel discussion

noon–1.00 pm
Unlimited web – unlimited communication? Instructions for the “Global Citizen”
Panel discussion

1.30–2.30 pm
Streaming Egos – Digital identities in Europe
Panel discussion

3.00–4.00 pm
Islam is part of Europe. The Balkans as the European home of Muslims
Panel discussion

4.30–5.30 pm
Cairo Short Stories
Award ceremony, reading and talk

Sunday, 18 October 2015

10.30–11.30 am
The Chinese are coming: Exploring the longest border in the world
Panel discussion

noon–1.00 pm
Borders in motion: Space, cultures and fiction in the European novel
Panel discussion

1.30–2.30 pm
Overcoming borders with bilateral schoolbooks
Expert talk

3.00–4.00 pm
On the lust to kill and the laughter of the perpetrators
Talk