



13th Thessaloniki Book Fair

12-15 May 2016

Resumes of Foreign Writers

The **foreign writers** who are **participating** in the 13th TBF are the following (per country):

BASQUE COUNTRY

Katixa Agirre Miguélez



Katixa Agirre Miguélez (Gasteiz, 1981) holds a PhD. in media studies, and has been a postdoctoral researcher at Queen Mary University of London and University of East Anglia. She is currently an adjunct professor at the University of the Basque Country.

She published her first book in 2007, *Sua falta zaigu* ('We need a light') a collection of short stories. In 2007, she was awarded the Igartza Award for young writers to complete a collection of short stories published in February 2009 under the title *Habitat*. She has also written three children's books: *Paularen seigarren atzamarra* ('Paula's sixth finger') and *Ez naiz sirena bat, eta zer?* ('I'm not a mermaid, so?'), and *Patzikuren problemak* ('Patziku's problems'). In 2010, she created the series of novels for young adults entitled Amaia Lapitz, which narrates the stories of the archaeologist and adventure-seeking character, Amaia Lapitz. *Amaia Lapitz eta erregina gorriaren hilobia* ('Amaia Lapitz and the Red Queen's Grave', 2010) is one of the titles in the collection.

Some of her short stories have been published in Catalan, Dutch and English. In 2015 she published her first novel: *Atertu Arte Itxaron* ('To Wait Until it Stops Raining'), drawing both popular and critical acclaim.

CANADA

Rawi Hage



Rawi Hage was born in Beirut. He is a writer, and a visual artist. His first novel, *De Niro's Game* won the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award and was translated into thirty languages. It also won the McAuslan First Book Prize and the Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction and was a finalist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, the Governor General's Literary Award, the Writers' Trust Award, and the Commonwealth Writers' Prize. *Cockroach*, his second novel, was a finalist for many prestigious awards, including the Scotiabank Giller Prize, prix Courier international, International Literary Prize of the Haus der Kulturen der Welt and won the Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction. His latest novel *Carnival* (2012) is about the beautiful, twisted existence of life in the modern city, told from the perspective of a taxi driver. *Carnival* was a finalist for the Writers' Trust Award and won the Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction. His work has been translated into 30 languages. *De Niro's Game* and *Cockroach* have been published in Greek by 'Papyros' Publishing House. Rawi Hage resides in Montreal.

Madeleine Thien



© Babak Salari (photo credit)

Madeleine Thien is the author of the story collection *Simple Recipes* (2001) and the novels *Certainty* (2006) and *Dogs at the Perimeter* (2012), which was shortlisted for Berlin's 2014 International Literature Award and won the Frankfurt Book Fair's 2015 Literaturpreis. Her books and stories have been translated into 25 languages, and her essays have appeared in *Granta*, *The Guardian*, *Financial Times*, *Five Dials*, and *Brick*. Her story "The Wedding Cake" was shortlisted for the 2015 Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award. The daughter of Malaysian-Chinese immigrants to Canada, she lives in Montreal. A new novel, *Do Not Say We Have Nothing*, about music and revolution in China, will be published in 2016.

Joseph Kertes



Joseph Kertes was born in Hungary but escaped with his family to Canada after the revolution of 1956. He studied English at York University and the University of Toronto, where he was encouraged in his writing by Irving Layton and Marshall McLuhan. Kertes founded Humber College's distinguished creative writing and comedy programs. He was until recently Humber's Dean of Creative and Performing Arts and is a recipient of numerous awards for teaching and innovation. His first novel, *Winter Tulips*, won the Stephen Leacock Award for Humour. *Boardwalk*, his second novel, and two children's books, *The Gift* and *The Red Corduroy*

Shirt, met with critical acclaim. His novel, *Gratitude*, won a Canadian National Jewish Book Award and the U.S. National Jewish Book Award for Fiction. Kertes has also been a finalist for a National Magazine Award and the CBC Literary Award. His latest novel, *The Afterlife of Stars*, has been described by Anne Michaels as “unforgettable and deeply moving,” and by Richard Bausch as “brilliant, radiant.” It is forthcoming in the U.S. in January of 2017.

Denis Thériault



Born in the north coast of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, near Sept-Îles, Quebec, **Denis Thériault** studied psychology and is an award-winning scriptwriter. He lives with his family in Montreal. His first novel, *L'Iguane* ('The Iguana', it is forthcoming in Greek by Haramada Publications in early 2016), met with great critical acclaim and won three important literary awards (France-Québec 2001, Anne-Hébert 2002, Odyssée 2002). *The Peculiar Life of a Lonely Postman* (in French, *Le Facteur émotif*) is his second novel and has won the Prix littéraire Canada-Japon 2006. His works have been translated in many languages.

CROATIA

Ivan Srsen



Ivan Srsen was born in 1979 in Zagreb, where he completed his education in historical and linguistic studies. Since 2001 he has been active in the publishing field as editor and literary agent in various publishing houses and literary agencies (IBS, Mlinarec&Plavić, Konzor, Masmedia, Fortuna, Sandorf). He also publishes articles, news reports and prose in Croatian magazines, while at the same time he translates from English (Anthony Kiedis, Henry Rollins, Robert Graves, Frank Zappa). Since 2007 he has been director of the publishing house and literary agency “Sandorf” promoting Croatian writers abroad. He has published a short story collection (entitled *The Raft*¹, 2010), a cultural-historical study about books in Croatia, as well as a novel (*Harmattan*, 2013).

¹ *Skela – bajke iz automata za kavu*

ENGLAND

Rob Davis



Rob Davis was born in Dorset, UK. After creating the psychedelic comic *SLANG* from 1989 to 1991, he started working professionally for the popular classic comics *Roy of The Rovers* and *Judge Dredd*. Disenchanted by the world of comics, since it didn't measure up to his expectations, he separated image from words earning a living as an illustrator. During that period he did illustrations for *The Guardian*, the BBC magazines, as well as the publishing houses Scholastic and Random House, among others. In 2005 he returned to the comics, writing and later illustrating comic strips for *Doctor Who Magazine*, webcomics as well as short strips for Solipsistic Pop comics publisher. He was the mind behind a British collective graphic novel, which he co-edited with Woodrow Phoenix, a unique book which won the British Comics Award and was nominated for an Eisner Award. Since then, he has made an adaptation of *Don Quixote* for SelfMadeHero publishing house, which won the acclaim of both the audience and the critics, as well as two Eisner Awards. He has also recently completed the amazing *The Motherless Oven*, that was also nominated for an Eisner Award.

Daniel Hahn



© John Lawrence (photo credit)

Daniel Hahn is a writer, editor and translator with forty-something books to his name. His translations (from Portuguese, Spanish and French) include fiction from Europe, Africa and the Americas and non-fiction by writers ranging from Portuguese Nobel Laureate José Saramago to Brazilian footballer Pelé. He is currently shortlisted for the Man Booker International Prize with José Eduardo Agualusa's *A General Theory of Oblivion*. He is a former chair of the Society of Authors, the UK's writers' union.

Philip Kerr



Philip Kerr was born in Edinburgh in 1956. He studied law and wrote articles for *The Sunday Times*, the *Evening Standard* and the *New Statesman*. As a writer, he gained worldwide reputation thanks to his series of novels featuring the detective Bernie Gunther, considered among the most important series of contemporary noir crime fiction. The stories about Bernie Gunther are set mostly in Germany during

the Nazi domination and the Second World War. The books in the series have been published in Greek by 'Kedros' Publishers. The trilogy *Berlin Noir* is already in circulation (It includes in one volume the novels *March Violets*, *The Pale Criminal* and *A German Requiem*), as well as the works *Prague Fatale*, *A Man Without Breath*, *A Quiet Flame*, *The Lady From Zagreb* and *A Philosophical Investigation*. His novels *January Window* and *Hand of God* featuring Scott Manson, detective – football manager, will also be published in Greek by 'Kedros' Publishers in 2016.

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Vladimir Martinovski



Vladimir Martinovski born in Skopje in 1974, is a poet, prose writer, essay writer, literary critic and translator. He works as an Associate Professor, teaching the subject of Comparative Poetics at the Department of General and Comparative Literature, Faculty of Philology "Blazhe Koneski", Sts Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje. He completed his PhD at University Paris III – Sorbonne Nouvelle in 2007.

Stojcevska Antik Vera, prof. Ph.D.



Stojcevska Antik Vera born in 1939 in Bitola, graduated from the Faculty of Philology –Skopje and obtained a Ph.D. in the field of Medieval Literature. She has published over 850 articles in domestic and foreign publications, as well as 65 special editions of books. She is the winner of many awards and distinctions. She was elected the first Director of the Institute of Literature, is the Vice - Rector for International Cooperation at the University St. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje. She is Chief - Editor of the magazines *Literary word*, *Spectrum*, *Annual proceeding of the Faculty of Philology* and a member of the American Slavic Association.

Vlada Urosevic



Vlada Urosevic (Skopje, 1934) is among the most notable literary figures of contemporary literature. Although he is well-travelled, Urosevic remains inseparably connected to his homeland and to his country's particularities. He is a writer of the intellectual type, yet whose perception and sensibility are nourished by a direct and spontaneous contact with nature, whereas within the heart of each of his works lie answers about the most burning questions of our time. He has published nine poetry collections, six short story collections and five novels. All of Urosevic's

prose is dominated by a surrealistic atmosphere, although his heroes walk completely real paths and, which can be recognizable on occasion. His poems and short stories have been translated and published in journals and anthologies, in various European languages. His books have been translated in German, English, Bulgarian, Spanish, Polish, Russian, Serbian and Slovenian. Corresponding member of the Academy Mallarmé (Paris) and the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Belgrade), vice-president of the European Academy of Poetry (Luxembourg) and Presidency member of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Skopje), Vlada Urosevic taught until recently History of European Poetry of the romanticism and symbolism periods, at the Faculty of Philology in Skopje, chair of Comparative Literature. He was named Knight, and later Officer, of the Order of Arts and Letters (Ordre des Arts et des Lettres) by the government of the French Republic.

FRANCE

Marc Boutavant



Marc Boutavant was born in 1970. He is a graphic designer, illustrator and comic book writer. He has published many children's books with Albin Michel, Actes Sud junior, Nathan, Seuil jeunesse and Mila publishing houses. His first work circulated by Actes Sud junior publishing house, entitled *À petits pas* ('In baby steps'). He collaborated with François Michel for the book *L'écologie à petits pas* ('Ecology in small steps'). In 2002, he created his own world of animals in the series *Mouk*, a series of books for children by Mila

Éditions publishing house. He wrote the series *Ariol et ses amis*², together with Emmanuel Guibert, in the children's magazine *J'aime lire* of the Bayard Presse group. Marc Boutavant is one of the creators of Atelier des Vosges/Atelier Nawak, the "new generation" of comic book writers together with Émile Bravo, Lewis Trondheim, Christophe Blain, David B., Joann Sfar, Frédéric Boilet, Marjane Satrapi and others. He is currently represented by Heart Agency, an illustrator agency with offices in London and New York.

Laurent Binet



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Laurent Binet was born in Paris in 1972. Son of a historian, he studied literature at the Sorbonne. He teaches French at the University of Saint-Denis. In 2010 he published his first novel, *Hhhh*, a totally groundbreaking, pulsing work, which met with critical acclaim as soon as it was published. Contemplating about fiction and its troublesome connection to the historic reality, he writes: "I only hope that, behind the thick reflective layer of idealization that I will cast over this incredible story, the mirror of historic

² *ARIOL Graphic Novels* available in English from Papercutz.

reality will still remain penetrable.” In his latest novel *The Seventh Function of Language*³, he weaves an imaginary conspiracy around the death of Roland Barthes. It was awarded the Fnac 2015 Prize for Fiction and the Interallié Prize for 2015. In Greek it has circulated by ‘Kedros’ Publishers, 2015 (translated by Giorgos Xenarios). Laurent Binet won the Goncourt prize for debut novel in 2010, as well as the Readers of Pocket Editions Award⁴ in 2011.

GERMANY

Carmen-Francesca Banciu



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Carmen-Francesca Banciu was born in 1955 in Lipova, Romania and studied Ecclesiastic Painting and International Commerce in Bucharest. Her winning of the Arnsberg International Short Story Prize resulted in her publications being banned in Romania. Since 1990 she has lived and worked as a writer in Berlin, she writes for the radio, she conducts Creative Writing workshops and she manages workshops for new writers. Carmen-Francesca Banciu has been awarded many scholarships and prizes, while she has

also been writing in German since 1996.

ISRAEL

Yishai Sharid



Yishai Sharid was born in Tel Aviv, Israel, in 1965. During the 80s’ he was an officer of the Israeli army. He has a law degree from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He has worked as a prosecutor in the Ministry of Justice and since 2002 he is a partner at a private law firm. He has a degree in public administration from Harvard University. His novels are: *The investigation of Captain Erez* (2000), *Limassol* (2009) which has been translated in eight languages, he has won the French Award for Crime and Detective Fiction⁵ and he was shortlisted for the IMPAC literary

prize of Ireland, *Naomi’s Kindergarten* (2013) was shortlisted for the Israeli Sapir Literary Prize and has been translated into German, *The Third* is the story of the rise and fall of the third Temple in Jerusalem, in the future kingdom of Judea. Sharid

³ *La Septième Fonction du langage*, Grasset, 2015.

⁴ Prix des lecteurs du Livre de poche.

⁵ Grand Prix de Littérature Policière

lives in Tel Aviv with his wife and their three children. He is son of the late Yossi Sharid, who was an earlier leader of the left-wing party Meretz.

Orly Castel-Bloom



© Leonardo Cedamo (photo credit)

Orly Castel-Bloom was born in Tel Aviv in 1960 by Egyptian parents. After studying at BeitZvi Institute and Tel Aviv University, she published her first collection of short stories in 1987 and has been one of the outstanding voices of Hebrew literature, constantly expanding the limits of the Hebrew language and of the narrative form. Castel-Bloom has

given a series of lectures at Harvard, ULA, UC Berkeley, New York, Oxford and Cambridge universities. Presently, she teaches creative writing at Tel Aviv University. She has published novels, short story collections, as well as a children's book. *Dolly City* was included in the UNESCO Catalogue of Representative Works and was nominated, in 2007, to be included among the list of the ten most important books since the foundation of the State of Israel. In 2013 it was included in *Tablet* magazine's list '101 Top Hebrew Books translated in English'. Castel-Bloom has won the Tel Aviv Foundation Award (1990), the Alterman Prize for Innovation (1993), and she is a three-time winner of the Prime Minister's Prize (1994; 2001; 2011); she has also been awarded the Neuman Prize (2003), the French WIZO Prize for *Human Parts* (2005), the Lea Goldberg Prize (2007) and the RishonLeZion Prize for Creativity in Hebrew Language (2016). Her latest book, *An Egyptian Novel*, won the Sapir Prize (2015). Castel-Bloom's books have been translated into 14 languages.

Avirama Golan



Avirama Golan was born in Israel in 1950. She studied literature at Tel Aviv University and, later, French literature in Paris. She worked as correspondent and then as editor of the daily *Davar* and in 1991 she moved on to *Haaretz*, where she became senior correspondent on social and cultural affairs and a member of the editorial board. At present she is columnist at *Liberal Magazine* and writes for *Haaretz*. Golan has hosted a weekly literary magazine on Channel 2 TV. In 2012 she became director of the Center for Urbanism and

Mediterranean Culture in Bat Yam. She has published novels, non-fiction and children's books, and her novels were bestsellers in Israel. She has also translated many children's classics and written screenplays for children's TV. She is the recipient of the Prime Minister's Prize (2014).

Alon Hilu



Alon Hilu (www.alonhilu.com), born in Jaffa, Israel in 1972, is the son of Damascus-born parents. He holds an LLB Degree in Law and a BA degree in the Art of Theater from Tel Aviv University where he studied Dramatic Writing. He works as an in-house legal counsel of an international hi-tech company headquartered in Israel. His first book, *Death of the Monk* (2004), a historical novel, re-tells the story of the blood libel against the Damascus Jews in 1840. It was translated into five languages (including Greek), was a finalist for the Sapir Prize in 2005, it won the Israeli Presidential prize for a debut novel in 2006 as well as the

Israeli Prime Minister prize in 2008. His second book, *The House of Rajani* (2008), is set in 1895 Jaffa and describes the dramatic relations between Jewish and Palestinian characters locked in a struggle for land and power. The book was translated into seven languages, and sold more than 70,000 copies in Israel. It became the subject of international interest when, in 2009, it won the Sapir Prize – only to be revoked one month after its announcement. *As Far As Possible* (2012), his third book, is an epistolary novel, unfolding the funny relationship between Michael, an aged lawyer who commences a spiritual journey, and his 18 year old nephew Nadav. In 2014, Hilu came out of the closet and re-published *Death of a Monk* in Hebrew with a personal foreword, describing his decision to divorce his wife after 15 years of marriage and to be openly gay. Presently, he lives in the Tel Aviv centre with his husband, a newly immigrant from Paris, and their five children.

Yael Dayan



Yael Dayan (1939) was born and studied in Israel. She studied Political Science at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Biology at the Open University in Tel Aviv. She has been active in politics since 1992 and has worked intensively about issues regarding equality and women's rights. She has promoted and completed radical legislation protecting the rights of women and minorities. Her main occupation outside the parliament is the active leadership of grassroots movements like "**Peace Now**" which calls for the occupation to come to an end, evacuation of the settlements, as well as a politically-negotiated 2-state

solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. She was awarded the Bruno Kreisky Human Rights Award (1991), the Olof Palme Award for Peace (1998), and more recently The Ducci Foundation Peace Award (2015), in Rome. She was included in the list "100 women who move the world" (1995) by the French magazine *L'express* and in 1997 she was honoured by the State of the World Forum with the award "Women Redefining Leadership". She is the writer of eight books, including *New Face in the Mirror*, *Death Had Two Sons*, *A soldier's diary: Sinai 1967* and *My father, His daughter* and has worked as a journalist for forty years, doing political commentary for Israeli and foreign press. Yael lives in Tel Aviv; she was married to the late Dov Sion and has two kids and four grandchildren. In 2013 she went back to her writing career.

ITALY

Diego Marani



Diego Marani (Ferrara 1959) works at the European Commission in Brussels, where he is occupied with the promotion of multilingualism. Apart from the novel *New Finnish Grammar*, which has received multiple awards, he has written other novels as well, which have also been translated and circulate successfully in many countries. Diego Marani is the inventor of Europanto, a mock-language (a combination of words from European languages) in which he has written a collection of short stories and many articles for European newspapers.

Luigi Ballerini



Luigi Ballerini was born in 1963 and lives in Milan with his wife and their four children. Doctor and psychoanalyst, he has been devoted to the writing of children's books and teens' books for several years. He considers himself lucky to have the opportunity to meet many young people, in his professional space as in schools and cultural centers. This way he is under the impression that the stories come to meet him and so he doesn't have to seek them. He has

been writing novels and short stories for years, mostly for the younger ones, wanting to describe passionately the desires, the expectations and the struggles that fill their hearts. He is head of the Oliver Twist Academy, a space in the city of Milan where the children, through music, dance, theater and singing, take initiatives, discover what passion means and learn how to keep a promise. His books have been included in the White Ravens list, while his novel *La signorina Euforgia, maestra pasticciera* ('Miss Euforgia, master confectioner') which will circulate in Greek by 'Patakis' Editions, has been honoured with the Andersen Award 2014.

ROMANIA

Rostas Zoltan



Zoltan Rostas is professor of sociology and communication at the University of Bucharest. He was founder and editor of the student journal *Echinox* (1968-1970), journalist for the Romanian Radio-Television (1970-1977), social sciences editor for the Hungarian language cultural journal *A Hét*, based in Bucharest

(1977-1992), head of the Chair for Cultural Anthropology and Communication at the Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication Studies, University of Bucharest, dean of the Faculty of Technical and Social Sciences, Sapiientia University in Miercurea-Ciuc (2004-2007). Since 2005 he supervises PhD theses in the fields of social history and the history of sociology at the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest.

Monica Savulescu Voudouri



Monica Savulescu Voudouri was born in Romania. In 1985 she emigrated from Romania to the Netherlands. Since 2007 she lives in Athens, Greece. She has a Phd. in Philosophy (Buckarest University). She has worked as journalist, researcher in sociology, writer (novels, poetry, essays, sociological studies), visiting professor, giving conferences about socio-psychology of migrants (Universities of Buckarest, Jassy, Kisinev, Anvers, Athens, etc.). Member of writers' unions in Romania, the Netherlands and Belgium, President of Cultural Society Contemporary Balkans (Athens, Greece).

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