



Brussels, 11 May 2021

Dear EWC Member,

The European Writers' Council is delighted to present: **“Invasion of Reality - Prose, Politics & Poetry in the Time of Corona”**, on Saturday, 5 June 17:00 (CEST), online.

We invite you, your members, colleagues, and friends to join us for an evening of literature. Sixteen authors from twelve countries and strong voices from the book sector will debate with the moderators Lena Falkenhagen (Chair of the German Writers' Union) and Porter Anderson (Editor in Chief, Publishing Perspectives) on the current literary, political and social challenges for writers. The event is free of charge and will be streamed live on Facebook and the EWC website, among others. In addition, you can also register directly and exchange comments with each other in the webinar chat window.

Programme & Schedule

17:00 OPENING

17:05 Session I LOVE ETC. IN THE TIME OF PANDEMIC

COVID-19's impact on literature: How will the pandemic be portrayed in literature and what do the publishers want to publish – presence or absence of the virus? How could love etc. be romantic when wearing a mask? How are children's books affected? The introductory session with **Philip Pullman** (novelist, President of The Society of Authors UK), **Renate Punka** (Janis Roze Publishers, President of Latvian Publishers' Association), **Marie Sellier** (children's book author, filmmaker, former President Société des Gens de Lettres, France) and **Hannele Mikaela Taivassalo** (novelist, President of The Society of Swedish Authors in Finland) will debate on the challenge for writers in the time of Corona. Moderator: **Lena Falkenhagen** (novelist, Chair of the German Writers' Union).

Approximately at 17:40 CEST - Session II WORDS FOR DEMOCRACY IN BELARUS

The attacks against the cultural and the literature scene in Belarus violated the human and the democratic rights of writers and translators. Why tyrants tackle the defenders of free words and expression, how a revolution must move from the desk to the street, and what Belarusian poets, translators and writers expect and hope from Europe and the world: Meet **Hanna Komar** (poet, activist, PEN Belarus), **Maryja Martysevich** (blogger, poet, Belarus), **Dmitri Plax** (writer, translator, Sweden) and **Alena Makouskaya** (Director at CSO World Association of Belarusians Homeland, EWC Board Member). Moderator: **Porter Anderson** (Editor in Chief, Publishing Perspectives).



Approximately at 18:15 CEST - Session III THIS IS NOT A FAKE!

Debate: How can non-fiction books and authors get us through the crisis? What debates do they spark? We discuss with **Helena Ruuska** (Professor of Finnish language and literature, author of biographies, former Vice-president of The Association of Finnish Non-Fiction Writers), **Øyvind Strømme** (author, translator, journalist, Norway), **John P. Portelli** (Professor in the Department of Social Justice Education; writer, poet, Malta/ Canada). Moderator: **Lena Falkenhagen** (novelist, Chair of the German Writers' Union).

Approximately at 18:50 - Session IV: TEN SQUARE CENTIMETRES OF POETRY

A foray through poetry: Short, to the point, lyrical, political, erotic, humorously tender and resistant. This is how poets describe reality, dreams, visions, love, loneliness, and politics. With **Arne Johnsson** (poet, literary critic, Sweden), **Gino Leineweber** (poet, translator, Germany), **Raquel Martínez Gómez López** (novelist, poet, Winner of the 2010 European Union Prize for Literature for Spain), **Jitka Bret Srbová** (poet, writer, President of the Czech Writers' Association), **Asuman Tümer** (poet, author, Turkey). Moderator: **Porter Anderson** (Editor in Chief, Publishing Perspectives).

Approximately at 19:25 - CLOSING.

**

Hosts & Organisers: Nina George (EWC President), Alena Makouskaya (EWC Board Member), and Viveka Sjögren Bangoura (EWC Board Member).

The event is co-funded by Förderverein Buch e.V. and Kulturwerk deutscher Schriftsteller.

Videodesign: Daniel Carinsson, Syndikat – Association of German Language Crime Writers.

The event will be livestreamed. You can watch it on Facebook directly on the EWC homepage or [register](#) to attend.

- [Share the event on Facebook](#)
- Read more: <https://europeanwriterscouncil.eu/invasionofreality/>
- Watch the Livestream on our homepage: <https://europeanwriterscouncil.eu/invasionofreality-livestream/>