

# Bibliodiversity

The newsletter of the Alliance of Independent Publishers  
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## Editorial

*Organizing our members in linguistic networks makes it easier to produce co-publishing projects within one single language. Beyond this – and here lies the work of the executive team of the Alliance – we must try to promote, whenever possible, exchanges between networks and the circulation of works from one language to another.*

*There is still much more work to do in this domain; however, we are particularly happy to present, in this issue of Bibliodiversity, two co-publishing projects that spanned linguistic networks. La Violence des Villes (“Urban Violence”) and Les Batailles de l’Eau (“Water Under Threat”), published originally in French, already exist in Portuguese (A Violência das Cidades) and in English (Water Under Threat).*

*Water Under Threat has today become one of the titles that is the most representative of our work to distribute ideas and works through co-publishing projects. This book now exists in 5 different languages, distributed in 29 countries.*

*This is also the work of the Alliance: a new way of distributing works and increasing their accessibility to the largest possible audience, respecting the specificities and knowledge of local publishers.*

*Etienne Galliard*

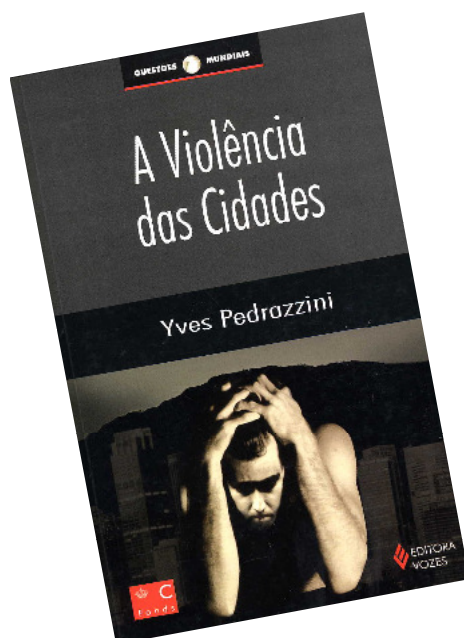
## New Release

### ***A Violência das Cidades***

**Author:** Yves Pedrazzini.

**Countries of publication:** Angola, Brazil, Portugal

**Language:** Portuguese



*La Violence des villes*, published initially in 2005 in the French-language collection *Enjeux Planète*, was published in June 2006 in Portuguese. This book was co-published by the Brazilian publisher Vozes, the Angolan publisher Cha de Caxinde and the Portuguese publisher Campo das Letras and received support from the Prince Claus Foundation for culture and development.

Following *Les batailles de l'eau* by Larbi Bouguerra, this is the second French-language title of the *Enjeux Planète* series, translated and published in the Portuguese series named *Questões Mundiais*.

### ***Water Under Threat: a success story for an essential book***

Mohamed Larbi Bouguerra’s book, written in French and originally published by 12 French publishers, is now available in English. *Water Under Threat* was published and distributed by Zed Books (Great Britain), White Lotus (Thailand), Fernwood

(Canada), Books for Change (India), SIRD (Malaysia), and David Philip (South Africa).

This English co-publication now accompanies the French-language (12 publishers), Portuguese-language (5 publishers), Arabic-language (5 publishers) and Spanish-language (1 publisher) versions. This book, written by Mohamed Larbi Bouguerra is thus now available in 5 languages, and published in 29 different countries.

This is an unprecedented success story in the history of the Alliance – due before all to the talent of the author, to his exceptional field experience, and to the quality of his international networks – but also due to the efforts of our organization to publish this essential text in the largest possible way.

This success shows how important it is that our publishers establish international agreements with their colleagues, and how this process can lead to the distribution of texts and ideas – more so than the mere export of works from one country to another. The accessibility of the book, due to co-publishing efforts, has thus been largely reinforced.

Long live *Batailles de l'eau*, which can now be read in Spanish, Arabic, French, Portuguese and English.

## Events

### Setting fixed prices for books: a subject of debate in Mexico and Brazil

The law on setting a single price for books has celebrated this year its 25th anniversary in France. This law allowed independent

bookstores to exist, and has helped support many independent publishing houses.

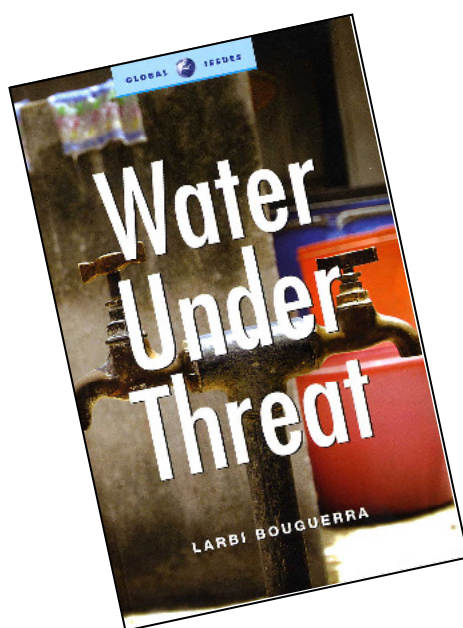
Several European countries have adopted a similar law (Germany, Spain), while others have continued to oppose it (Great Britain, Belgium). The debate is still current in many countries, particularly Mexico and Brazil.

The Mexican Parliament adopted a law protecting books and readership in the beginning of 2006, due largely to the action led these past few years by independent publishers grouped together under AEMI (Alianza de editoriales mexicanas independientes). This law was unfortunately rejected last August by the President of the Republic, who is opposed to setting fixed prices for books, and thus sent the law back to the Senate.

The Mexican independent publishers thus continue their work, particularly through a website dedicated to giving information on the topic: [www.leydellibro.org.mx](http://www.leydellibro.org.mx).

In Brazil, the “Springtime of books”, an event organized by the LIBRE organization (a Brazilian federation of publishers), was also the occasion to discuss a law regulating the price of books. Approximately a hundred independent Brazilian publishers participated in this great celebration of books, from September 15-17. Upon the publication of the Portuguese language version of *Protéger le livre* («Protecting books») - a study published in 2003 by the Alliance of Independent Publishers, Markus Gerlach, author of the study, accompanied by an economist and president of LIBRE, Araken Ribeiro, participated in an in-depth debate on setting fixed prices for books.

*Como proteger o livro* is the first co-publishing project between LIBRE and the Alliance of Independent Publishers (bravo to LIBRE



for its beautiful cover for the work – very apt! – presented below). We are particularly pleased that Markus Gerlach’s work exists, in addition to the French- and Spanish-language versions, in Portuguese.

Remaining active, the LIBRE organization organized a round table discussion focused on “Proposals and commitments made by Presidential candidates”, with the participation of several representatives of candidates from the principal parties involved in the Brazilian Presidential campaign.

As we can see, the establishment or the rejection of a law on books and readership makes for some serious debate, particularly in Latin America.

## Frankfurt 2006 in Indian style...while waiting for Paris

Indian publishers were at the focus of the 2006 Frankfurt Book Fair (Germany) – one of the most important events in the world of publishing.



Representing the Alliance of Independent Publishers, Thierry Quinqueton had the opportunity to meet some Alliance members who were able to make the journey, as well as other publishers we know: Indu Chandrasekhar and Ritu Menon from India, Muge Sokmen from Turkey, Paulo

Slachevsky from Chile, Hector Dinsman and Octovio Kulesz from Argentina, Bridget Impey and Maggie Davey from South Africa... Many other contacts were established by Thierry, particularly looking toward our 2007 meeting.

After Frankfurt, it will be the return of Paris to celebrate Indian publishing at the 27<sup>th</sup> edition of the Book Fair. Let’s hope that France will offer as warm a welcome to a diversified editorial world, both innovative and open on the world.



## Accounting practices of the Alliance

The Alliance accounts for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 have been audited by an independent

auditor (cabinet SOFIDEEC, Paris). As you know, the Alliance has always held to the principle of transparent and professional accounting. In addition to cost accounting (based on revenue – expenditure), we decided last year to entrust an evaluation of our balance sheets and accounts to a professional agency. This is important to us, allies, as well as to all our funding partners who have put their trust in us.

In fact, the executive team of the Alliance has been working all year to mobilize funds to support our linguistic networks and their co-publishing projects. For these institutions, it is of course of utmost importance that our organization is reliable and well-managed. You can consult the list of our partners at the following address:

<http://www.alliance-editeurs.org/fr/partenaires.php>

## Portrait

### Winds from elsewhere, inspired by two



We have heard much about the publishing house Vents d'ailleurs (« Winds from Elsewhere »), during this year dedicated to French language (“Francophonie”). Here and elsewhere, this house has been

built through the work of discoverers of talent, explorers of literature, and book artists. As for us, we greatly appreciate their talent, indisputable commitment to independent publishing, and a general openness to the world – traits that are alas not so common.



In 2006, one of the authors of this house was recognized across the board. Poet, playwright, novelist, painter, musician, and Haitian actor, Frankétienne received the Latin Union Award for Romance Literature (April 2006), as well as an award from the Prince Claus Foundation for Culture and Development (August 2006).

Behind this success and growing recognition lies the devoted work of two partner editors, Jutta Hepke and Gilles Colleu, who we would like to recognize.

After the creation of the publishing house in Fort-de-France in 1994, they moved to the south of France with the firm intention of establishing bridges between the readership in the North and the artistic and literary

expressions of the South, from Africa, to South America, to the Caribbean. Their editorial policy aimed to “change ideas of the other that are based on visions from the prism of dominant cultures, as well as to contradict common myths”: quite a mission, in fact.

Vents d'ailleurs has also established partnerships with publishers based in the South. It was thus natural that Jutta and Gilles participate in the Alliance.

In addition, Gilles – who is also a professor at IUT Métiers du livre in Aix en Provence – is currently working on a study on independent publishing, upon the Alliance’s request. Who is better placed than he to intermingle the academic analysis with the practical knowledge acquired through working daily in independent publishing? Gilles’s work will be available in November – when we will have the opportunity to discuss it further, of course.

Signing partners of the Guadalajara Declaration, members of Publishers without Borders, Jutta and Gilles have a hand in all major reflection on the future of publishing and the book industry, combining both hard work and professionalism. To the point where one must wonder how they find the time to do it all. And to do it so well.

## Vents d'ailleurs

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A **non-profit association**. **Tax situation** inspected by the tax authorities of East Paris (France). **2004 accounts certified** by an independent auditor - Cabinet SOFIDEEC, Paris (France). **2005 accounts** are in the process of certification by an independent auditor - Cabinet SOFIDEEC, Paris (France). The use of data collected by the Alliance **complies with the French data protection act** (declared to the French data protection authority, the Commission nationale de l'informatique et des libertés). **Cost accounting** on class 6 and 7 accounts (revenue - expenditure) is carried out to ensure effective monitoring of fund allocation. **The annual reports** (corporate and financial) of the Alliance, validated by the Annual General Meeting, are available on request from the permanent team. The documents published by the Alliance for circulation are printed **on recycled paper**. **Consumables** used by the Alliance are usually of organic farming and fair trade origin.

The Alliance would like to thank its partner organizations and institutions: see <http://www.alliance-editeurs.org/fr/partenaires.htm>

**The newsletter** of the Alliance of Independent Publishers is produced by the permanent team. The following participated in producing this issue: Alexandre Tiphagne (atiphagne@alliance-editeurs.org), Thomas Weiss (tweiss@alliance-editeurs.org), and Etienne Galliard (egalliard@alliance-editeurs.org). This issue was translated into English by Reagan Kuhn, and into Spanish by Thomas Mouriès.