

Istanbul meeting

11 Australian, Bulgarian, Indian, Iranian, South African, Syrian, Turkey, US and UK publishers gathering in Turkey

Programme

10-14 June 2015



Programme

JUNE 10th, Wednesday

Arrival of participants

Welcome dinner, sponsored by Metis Publishers: 20.00

Meeting point in the hotel lobby at 19.30

JUNE 11th, Thursday

Venue: Chamber of Mechanical Engineers Meeting Room
10.00 – 18.00

Morning: 10.00 – 12.30

Presentation of participants/ session one (10.00 – 12.30)

- Roundtable and presentation of participants
- Overview of the publishing landscape in Syria, Iran, Bulgaria, and Armenia: Samer ALKADRI (Syria/Turkey), publisher (Iran), Antoinette KOLEVA (Bulgaria), Ariadna GRIGORYAN (translator and lecturer, Armenia) – presentation of publishing houses, lists, and in-country publishing and cultural contexts.

Lunch: 12:30-14:00

Afternoon: 14.00 – 18.00

Follow-up on the Cape Town meeting/ session two (14.00 – 14.45)

Diffusion of the International Declaration of independent publishers and the 80 recommendations in support of bibliodiversity (see documents attached)

- How did publishers take ownership of the Declaration and 80 recommendations? What steps were undertaken by publishers to distribute them?
- What new steps should be taken to promote the Declaration and recommendations to international bodies, and in-country public authorities?

Publishing partnerships: co-editions, translations... (14.45 – 16.00)

Report on past and current projects in the network: proposals for future projects

Meeting with publishers member of the **Turkish Publishers Association** (16.00 – 18.00)

- Overview of publishing in Turkey (including implemented initiatives and solutions to combat piracy, and freedom of expression related matters), by Mr. Metin Celal ZEYNIUGLU, president of the Turkish Publishers Association
- Discussions with publishers member of the Association

Free evening

JUNE 12th, Friday

Venue: Chamber of Mechanical Engineers Meeting Room
10.00 – 18.00

Morning: 10.00 – 12.30

Fair/ free speech: how do publishers experience this on a daily basis, and what is the position of the Alliance?/ session three (10.00 – 12.30)

- Publishers share their experience on the fragile state of freedom of speech in their country: how does this translate on a daily basis for publishers? How does it impact on their work? How do publishers respond? What role independent publishers can currently play, and particularly in Europe?
- Discussion: how can the Alliance strategically and politically position itself as an international network? With which organisations and NGOs could it work?

Lunch: 12:30-14:00

Afternoon: 14.00 – 18.00

Digital publishing, "the human end of digital publishing"/ session four (14.00 – 15.30)

- Introduction by Susan HAWTHORNE (Spinifex, Australia)
- Discussion among participants: what are the consequences and impacts (benefits and limitations) of digitalisation for publishers (in their practices and more generally for the world of ideas)?

Field trip to the independent bookstore and publishing house Pan Yayincilik, in Besiktas (16.00 – 18.00)

Visit of a small independent publishing house/bookshop founded some 30 years ago.

Evening: 18.30

Boat excursion on the Bosphorus

For those who wish to participate, the cost of this excursion is to be paid by publishers directly.

JUNE 13th, Saturday

Venue: Chamber of Mechanical Engineers Meeting Room

10.00 – 18.00

Publishing partnerships: co-publishing, translation.../ *session five* (10.00 – 11.15)

- Continuation of co-publishing and/or translation project proposals between publishers.
- How can environmental and ecological inputs be mainstreamed in publishing practices, including in publishing projects between publishers of the Alliance? What are publishers' current practices? How can they be improved?

What are the partnerships, exchanges, and collaborations with Syrian, Iranian and Bulgarian publishers? (11.15 – 12.30)

Discussions of potential projects between publishers of the English-speaking network and invited publishers.

Lunch: 12:30-14:00

Afternoon: 14.00 – 15.30

Closure/ *session six* (14:00 – 15:30)

Closure of meeting, comments, and way forward.

Free afternoon and evening for sightseeing

Programme to be confirmed.

JUNE 14th, Sunday

Departure of participants

Practical information

Useful addresses

Entesapart Apart Otel

Taksim İstiklal Cd. İpek Sokak - No:19

80060 Beyoğlu İstanbul

Tel.: +90 212 293 22 08

Tel.: +90 212 293 24 08

www.entesapart.com

[Google map of the hotel](#)

Shuttle from the airport to the hotel

A shuttle will be available from the airport, taking you directly to the hotel (stop 5 minutes away from hotel): more information here (<http://www.havatas.com/>).

Chamber of Mechanical Engineers

İpek Sokak No:9 Beyoğlu - İstanbul

[Google map of the meeting venue](#)

Metis Publishers

İpek Sokak 5, 34433 Beyoğlu - İstanbul

Tel.: +(90-212) 245 45 09

Cell. Muge SOKMEN: +0 532 705 23 63

Costs

In the context of this meeting, the Alliance will cover the costs for:

- Your return plane ticket
- 4 night stay at the hotel Entesapart Apart Otel, from 10 to 13 June included,
- 3 breakfasts (11, 12 and 13 June)

Participants are expected to cover all other costs (bus, taxi from airport to hotel, visa, dinners, sightseeing tours).

Participants



Samer ALKADRI (Syria-Turkey)

Bright fingers

www.brightfingers.com

Bright Fingers Publishing House was founded in 2004, by a group of young people wanting to challenge the gloomy perception of the children and youth cultural landscape in the Arab world. While tackling issues of style, content, mode of publishing, suitable price and quality, we are always mindful of the somewhat difficult life conditions prevailing in the Arab world. Since entering the market in 2005, the publishing house enjoys a distinguished presence, and is going from strength to strength with every exposition, fair and event dedicated to children. Growth was not only achieved through sales, but also through the development of our method of working with books and our knowledge of the needs of children, families and the market. In 2008, we became to be known as one of the best Arab publishers for children's literature.

Jed BICKMAN (United States)

The New Press

www.thenewpress.com



THE NEW PRESS

For 30 years, André Schiffrin headed one of the most prestigious US publishing houses, Pantheon Books, publishing works by Foucault, Sartre, Chomsky, Medvedev etc. Since 1991, he has been managing The New Press, an independent publishing house. Founded in 1990 as a major alternative to the large, commercial publishers, The New Press is a not-for-profit publishing house operated editorially in the public interest. It is committed to publishing in innovative ways works of educational, cultural, and community value that, despite their intellectual merits, may be deemed insufficiently profitable by commercial publishers. Like the Public Broadcasting System and National Public Radio as they were originally conceived, The New Press aims to provide ideas and viewpoints under-represented in the mass media. As an author of international renown, André Schiffrin analyses the threats to the world of publishing and uses his works to protest against the globalisation phenomenon as it impacts the world of publishing and media. He has published among other works *L'édition sans éditeurs* (Publishing without Publishers) and *Le contrôle de la parole* (Controlling speech) published by La Fabrique in France.



Indira CHANDRASEKHAR (India)

Tulika Books

www.tulikabooks.wordpress.com

Tulika Books is an independent publisher based in Delhi, India, specializing in non-fiction, academic books in the social sciences and humanities. Established more than 10 years ago, it has published nearly 65 titles to date, and has been able to attract reputed scholars from various disciplines — such as history, economics, development studies, literary theory, cultural studies, art, sociology and politics — as its authors.

Tulika Books is an active and organizing partner of the Independent Publishers' Group (IPG), a collective of 10 Delhi-based independent publishers formed in March 2005; and of the Independent Publishers' Distribution Alternatives (IPD Alternatives), a partnership of 8 independent Indian publishers set up in

late 2005, which handles the distribution of titles published by nearly 20 small/independent publishers (including those of the 8 partners).



Muge GURSOY SOKMEN (Turkey)

Metis Publishers

www.metiskitap.com

Founded in 1982, Metis has established itself as one of Turkey's leading publishing houses, renowned for defending its independent spirit and radical commitment, celebrating critical thinking, original talent, and bringing distinguished letters from the world to generations of Turkish readers. With over 800 titles to its name, Metis is reputed for its careful translations and editorial integrity.

Metis list includes both fiction and nonfiction, specializing in high literature and critical theory. Some of the literary authors published in translation are Ursula K. LeGuin, Marguerite Yourcenar, Salman Rushdie, Henry Bauchau, Georges Perec, John Berger, J.R.R. Tolkien and Maurice Blanchot. The works of such distinguished Turkish authors as Murathan Mungan and Bilge Karasu are also published by Metis. Metis nonfiction list features works of an interdisciplinary character that have the potential to intervene in the cultural climate of Turkey from a radical political perspective, such as those by Walter Benjamin, Max Horkheimer, Theodor Adorno, Edward Said, Immanuel Wallerstein, Emile Cioran, Slavoj Zizek, Judith Butler, Nurdan Gürbilek and Nilüfer Göle. World-class literary theorists including Gyorgy Lukacs, Tzvetan Todorov and Mikhail Bakhtin, philosophers such as Paul Ricoeur, Ludwig Wittgenstein and Roland Barthes and psychoanalytic masters including Sigmund Freud, Anna Freud, Melanie Klein and Heinz Kohut are also amongst the authors Metis has published in Turkey.

Susan HAWTHORNE (Australia)

Spinifex Press

www.spinifexpress.com.au



Spinifex is an independent feminist press publishing innovative and controversial feminist books with an optimistic edge. Spinifex, our namesake, is an Australian desert grass that holds the earth together. We publish broadly, with a focus on ecology, development, Indigenous and human rights issues in our non-fiction titles, and world stories in our fiction and poetry. We are also at the forefront of digital publishing, with many of our titles available as eBooks.



Colleen HIGGS (South Africa)

Modjaji Books

www.modjajibooks.co.za

Modjaji Books is an independent feminist press that publishes southern African women writers. Modjaji Books fills a gap by providing a platform for serious and ground-breaking writing by new and established women writers with brave voices. We publish short stories, novels, memoir, biography, poetry, essays, narrative non-fiction, reference books and relevant non-fiction.

The history of publishing in South Africa is enmeshed with the culture of resistance that flourished under apartheid. Struggle literature may have emerged from the underground, but women's voices and particularly black women's voices – are still marginalized. Modjaji Books addressed this inequality by

publishing books that are true to the spirit of Modjaji, the rain queen: a powerful female force for good, new life and regeneration.

In a few short years, Modjaji titles have won a number of prizes or been short-listed for prizes. The prizes include the Ingrid Jonker prizes for debut poetry, short-listings for the Sunday Times fiction prize, several SALA prizes as well as a short-listing for the Caine Prize.

Renate KLEIN (Australia)

Spinifex Press

www.spinifexpress.com.au



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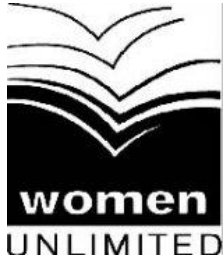


Antoinette KOLEVA (Bulgaria)

KX - CRITIQUE & HUMANISM

<http://www.bsph.org/kx>

KX - CRITIQUE & HUMANISM was established in 1990. For 25 years now, our main activity has always been publishing books in humanities and social sciences mainly (20th century philosophy, sociology, political sciences, cultural studies, history, social psychology, aesthetics, literary criticism, etc.). We are a small-size independent publishing company, and our renown is based on those more than 250 titles we have published – some of them exemplary pieces, others – among the most provocative titles of today's humanities. We have become popular locally as “publisher with philosophy”, and this is turning to be our professional slogan. Supporting an erudite and pluralist cultural ambiance has always been our publishing ideal. Our publishing programmes have never been commercially determined, and the titles have been consistently interlinked under well-established and appreciated book series, such as 'Ethos', 'Sociooptics', 'Varius', 'Ex Arte', 'Transversalia', 'Cases', etc. The close working relationship between CRITIQUE & HUMANISM and professors from some of our leading Universities (Sofia University, Plovdiv University, New Bulgarian University, Blagoevgrad University) is maintained by an active, involved board of consultants, ensuring, under the chairmanship of the director, the academic quality of the publishing program. KX - CRITIQUE & HUMANISM is the initiator and the founder of the Bulgarian Society of Publishers in Humanities – an association of some small-size but high quality independent publishers in Bulgaria (BSPH). The organization has been designed to aim at creating joint strategies in promotion of our publishing products, and enhancing the experience of small Bulgarian publishers in the domain of the European scale co-operation.



Ritu MENON (India)
Women Unlimited
www.womenunlimited.net

Women Unlimited is an associate of Kali for Women, India's first and oldest feminist press, which publishes scholarly and academic books in the social sciences; fiction; general interest non-fiction; autobiographies, reminiscences and memoirs; oral histories; books for young adults; pamphlets and monographs; and activist material. The Kali for Women/ Women Unlimited list combines the best of Kali's titles published between 1984 and 2004, and an exciting range of books and authors commissioned by Women Unlimited. Women Unlimited has close links with the women's movement, and the women's studies in India, South Asia, and internationally. We participate in campaigns, nationally and regionally, and have organised extensively on issues to do with alternative media, women's writing, and gender-based censorship. We consider all this as just an extension of our publishing activity.

WU is an active and organizing partner of the Independent Publishers' Group (IPG), a collective of 10 Delhi-based independent publishers formed in March 2005; and of the Independent Publishers' Distribution Alternatives (IPD Alternatives), a partnership of 8 independent Indian publishers set up in late 2005, which handles the distribution of titles published by nearly 20 small/independent publishers (including those of the 8 partners).

Dan RAYMOND-BARKER (United Kingdom)
New Internationalist
www.newint.org

New Internationalist

An independent, not-for-profit media co-operative, New Internationalist is a voice that empowers. We tell the stories that the mainstream media sidestep and offer a platform for the people living those stories. Our award-winning magazine, books and website set the agenda for a radically fairer future, promote global justice and campaign for the disadvantaged all over the world. New Internationalist books span activism, current affairs, children's and adult fiction, education, ethical living, photography and world food.

Acknowledgments



The International Alliance of independent publishers takes this opportunity to sincerely thank **Metis Publishers and particularly Muge GURSOY SOKMEN** (vice-coordinator of the English-language network), for their assistance and support in making this meeting possible, and for the complimentary welcome dinner offered to participants on the evening of 10 June.

The Alliance also thank the partners in Turkey:



The **Chamber of Mechanical Engineers** for graciously making its meeting room available to us;



The **Turkish Publishers Association** for hosting us.



HRANT DİNK VAKFI
HRANT DINK FOUNDATION
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We also thank **Hrant Dink Foundation** for inviting an Armenian participant to this meeting.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



CITY OF
LITERATURE

We finally thank the programme **UNESCO Melbourne City of Literature**, who sponsored the plane ticket of Susan HAWTHORNE (Spinifex Press in Australia), coordinator of the English-language network of the Alliance.

International Alliance of Independent Publishers
www.alliance-editeurs.org