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Schreiben
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HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG
GUNDA WERNER INSTITUTE
Feminism and Gender Democracy

WRITING ON

Authors from conflict areas on second chances and publishing in new home countries

The Goethe-Institut Toronto is inviting **Rabab Haidar (Syria), Tanja Dückers (Germany), Ahmad Danny Ramadan (Canada/Syria), Galal Al-Ahmadi (Germany/Saudi Arabia/ Yemen), Noor Kanj (Germany/Syria), Svenja Leiber (Germany), Ayelet Tsabari (Canada/Israel), Mariam Meetra (Germany/Afghanistan), and Antje Rávic Strubel (Germany)** for readings & discussions in Toronto between April and November 2018.

The authors and organisers of Writing On, an initiative that gives authors from conflict areas an opportunity to “write on”, will be guests at the Goethe-Institut **under the patronage of Senator Ratna Omidvar**. They will be reading from their works in English, German, and the original Arabic or Farsi. In conversations with Canadian writers, journalists and artists, the authors will touch on issues and difficulties they face in re-establishing themselves and their voices. They will reflect on cultural identity, dreams, hopes and opportunities.

For the first free event, “Culture talks @ Goethe: Cooking the Heart of a Wolf”, on April 6, 6:30 PM, the Goethe-Institut brings together Rabab Haidar from Damascus and Tanja Dückers from Berlin with writer and journalist Ahmad Danny Ramadan, who fled Syria and now lives in Vancouver.

Introduced by Dr. Ines Kappert, Director of the Gunda Werner Institute at the Heinrich Böll Foundation Berlin.

More events to follow on May 25 and November 9 (tbc).

All *Culture talks @ Goethe* start 6:30 PM, doors open 6 PM

Admission is free on a first-come first-served basis.

Goethe-Institut Toronto, 100 University Ave, North Tower, 2nd Floor, Toronto

[Culture talks @ Goethe: Writing On: Program & Events; Message from Senator Ratna Omidvar; Press Releases; Editorial; Author Biographies](#)

A literary platform presented by the Heinrich Böll Foundation & the Goethe-Institut

“We spoke with authors from crisis regions and asked them what they wish for. The response we heard was, ‘To write on’. To keep on writing also means to keep on being read. Writing and being read belong together. Authors do not write for themselves, but so their thoughts can be heard.”

- Annika Reich and Ines Kappert, Artistic Directors of Writing On

Twenty authors from crisis regions –many of them now living in Germany– working in short prose, poetry, essays and literary journalism, have been publishing work since May 2017 on the German web platform weeterschreiben.jetzt. **The Goethe-Institut Toronto is commissioning literary translations into English for this series in Canada.**

The guest authors of Writing On have entered into a conversation with established German-speaking authors. Together, they have been working on literary texts and translations in order to promote artistic exchange and create new, mutual perspectives. More than 40 works were published on the website in 2017 alone, in the original language and in German translation, illustrated by photographers and artists from crisis regions.

Media response

“Under the prevailing political circumstances, literature is perhaps the only form that can restore dignity to the reeling discourse over Arabic culture.”

Michael Krüger, author and publisher, Hanser Verlag

“While we otherwise only read about the people seeking refuge among us, here they finally have their say.”

Anna Vollmer, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung*

“Writing On offers what this initiative already bears in its title: continuation, continuity, extension, expansion.”

Senthuran Varatharajah, *Zeit Online*

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