

Participants from Berlin-A TOLEDO Project - Cities of Translators Berlin-Kolkata



Jürgen Jakob Becker studied Latin American and German Studies (M.A.) in Mainz and at the Freie Universität Berlin. Since 1990, he has worked at the Literarisches Colloquium Berlin as program director and curator, and has been instrumental in strengthening the LCB's focus on translation. In 1997 he co-founded the Deutscher Übersetzerfonds, of which he has since been director. With Ulrich Janetzki he edited the anthologies *Die Stadt nach der Mauer. Junge Autoren schreiben über ihr Berlin* ("The City After the Wall: Young Authors Write About Their Berlin") (Berlin 1998) and *Helden wie Ihr. Junge Schriftsteller über ihre literarischen Vorbilder* ("Heroes Like You: Young Writers on Their Literary Role Models") (Berlin 2000). He is also co-editor of *Zaitenklänge. Geschichten aus der Geschichte der Übersetzung* ("Stories from the History of Translation") (Matthes & Seitz, Berlin 2018).



Patricia Klobusiczky, is the chairperson of the Verband deutschsprachiger Übersetzer (VdÜ). Patricia Klobusiczky is an important representative of the German translation scene. As part of the DAAD Artists-in-Berlin Programme, she has worked intensively on texts by Kolkata-born author Raj Kamal Jha. Born in Berlin in 1968, Klobusiczky studied literary translation in Düsseldorf and has worked in the field for 25 years. She translates from English and French, concentrating on prose by classic modernist authors like Jean Prévost, Henri-Pierre Roché, and contemporary authors such as Marie Darrieussecq, William Boyd, Valérie Zenatti and Petina Gappah, as well as occasionally translating plays or non-fiction. She lives in Berlin.



Aurélie Maurin, born 1975 in Paris, has lived in Berlin since 2000. She is currently director of the TOLEDO Program of the Deutscher Übersetzerfonds and the Robert Bosch Stiftung. She is a translator, curator, and editor (of the series *VERSSchmuggel* from Verlag das Wunderhorn and the magazine *la mer gelée* from Nouvel Attila, for example). She also acts as a juror for the Berlin Senate for the City Tax cultural sponsorship program and for literary working grants. Her most recent publication is *L'homme qui croyait encore aux cigognes* by Thomas Rosenlöcher (Nouvel Attila, Paris 2018).



Sherry Simon lives in Montreal. Author of the book "Cities in Translation" which includes a whole chapter on "Nineteenth-century Calcutta - Renaissance City", Sherry Simon is Professor in the Department of French Studies at Concordia University. She has published widely in the areas of literary, intercultural and translation studies, most recently exploring the cultural history of linguistically divided cities and the multilingual cities of the former Habsburg empire. Among her publications are *Translating Montreal, Episodes in the Life of a Divided City* (2006) and *Cities in Translation: Intersections of Language and Memory* (2012), both of which have appeared in French translation. She has edited or co-edited numerous volumes, including *Translation Effects: The Shaping of Modern Canadian Culture* (with K. Mezei and L. von Flotow), (2014) and *Speaking Memory. How Translation Shapes City Life* (2016). A forthcoming book is entitled

Sites of Translation. A Field Guide to Polyglot Places. (Routledge 2019) She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, a recipient of a Killam Fellowship, and a member of the Académie des lettres du Québec.



Isabel Fargo Cole was born in Galena, Illinois, USA in 1973, grew up in New York City and studied at the University of Chicago. Since 1995 she has lived in Berlin as a writer and translator of such writers as Wolfgang Hilbig and Franz Fühmann. Her debut novel, "Die grüne Grenze", was published in 2017 and nominated for the Leipzig Book Fair Prize in 2018.



Nikola Richter: Founder and director of mikrotext, which publishes primarily contemporary boundary-crossing literature on current themes: new narratives and texts with attitude, often with a digital basis. She was previously Acting Editor-in-Chief of the magazine *Kulturaustausch*. Richter organized Germany's first e-book festivals, is a member of PEN Germany, and is on the jury for the Kurt Tucholsky Prize.



Christian Filips, born in 1981 in Osthofen near Worms, lives as a poet and stage director in Berlin. In 2001 he received Austrian Radio's Rimbaud price for his poems. Since 2006 he has worked as a program and archive manager of the Sing-Akademie in Berlin. Since 2010 he has been publishing the "roughbooks" along with Urs Engeler. In 2012 he received the Heimrad-Bäcker Award for experimental poetry. He currently works for the theater and increasingly works as a stage director (among others for the Berliner Volksbühne and Haus der Berliner Festspiele). In 2016 he invented the Tea Party Mumbai that brought poetry to the tea stalls in the streets of Mumbai. Additionally Filips translates poetry, primarily from European, but also from languages of the Indian subcontinent (working with poets from Mizoram, Sikkim and other regions of India).



Anja Kootz was born in Northern Germany where she also went to school. She then studied in Berlin and New York and spent several years of her life in Paris. She now works as a literary translator from French, English and Italian to German. She also is a photographer and currently pursues an ongoing project entitled „Photographs of Translators“, portraying translators worldwide.

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Chinmoy Guha, a Professor of English at the University of Calcutta, is an acclaimed Bengali essayist and translator, and a scholar of French language and literature. A former Vice-Chancellor, Rabindra Bharati University, he has lectured at the Universities of Oxford, Edinburgh, Paris, Sorbonne, the Institute of European Studies, Belgrade, amongst others. He has won the Lila Ray award of the Government of West Bengal in 2008 and the Derozio bicentenary award in 2010. He has been awarded knighthoods by the ministries of Education and Culture of the Government of France, in 2010 and 2013. Paschimbanga Bangla Akademi and the Government of West Bengal conferred on him Vidyasagar Puroshkar in 2017.



Subroto Saha, a translator of texts from German to Bengali since 1997, has participated in numerous translation projects and bilingual author programs. His first translation, *Selected Poems of Rose Ausländer*, was published in 2004. Among his published translated works, his compilation of 223 selected poems (1950 – 2015) by Hans Magnus Enzensberger (*Parampara Prakashan*, 2018) has been recognized by the publisher Suhrkamp Verlag Berlin, as well as by the author himself, as the most comprehensive and successful collection so far. In 2013, 2016, and 2018, he was honored with an invitation to participate in the international translators' meeting at the Literarisches Colloquium Berlin. Presently he is involved in the first "Social Translating Project" in which a German contemporary novel is being translated in ten Asian languages. In November 2018, he will be leading the first Translator Expedition Project "City of Translators (Berlin-Kolkata)" within the framework of "TOLEDO – Translators for Cultural Exchange" in Kolkata. He teaches German at the Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Kolkata.



Nilanjan Hajra, 51, is a Senior Assistant Editor, Ei Samay, a Bangla daily published by the Times of India Group. Over the past two decades, Nilanjan has translated Pakistani contemporary Urdu poetry into Bangla and English. He has to his credit three anthologies of Bangla translations of today's Pakistani poets. His English translations of Pakistan's leading poet Afzal Ahmed Syed has been published in the prestigious magazine *Modern Poetry in Translation* (MPT), Oxford. He has also translated a collection of short stories of Naguib Mahfouz into Bangla. In 2018 he was awarded the Leela Roy Memorial Award by the West Bengal Bangla Academy for his contribution to Bengali literature through translations. Nilanjan also has three anthologies of his own poems and a collection of non-fiction prose. His other area of interest is culinary history. The Biriyani entry of www.Sahapedia.org, an open online resource on the arts, cultures and heritage of India, is written by Nilanjan. At present he is working on a global anecdotal history of Kebabs.



Palash Baran Pal (b. 1955) is a physicist who retired from the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics in Calcutta and is now an Emeritus Professor at the Physics Department of Calcutta University. Besides his own research contribution he writes popular science, mostly in Bengali. He is one of the pioneers of writing computer softwares for Bengali. He has written books on various aspects of linguistics, and translated literary works of many Bengali authors into English, including Rabindranath Tagore, Parashuram and Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay. His books of translation into Bengali include a complete translation of Pablo Neruda's "Donde nace la lluvia" from Spanish. Many of his other translations from Pablo Neruda, Octavio Paz and other poets have appeared in literary magazines.

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