



# GOETHE MEDAL 2020 PRESS PACK

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## **RESS RELEASE JULY, 09, 2020: 2020 GOETHE MEDALS: DIGITAL AND TELEVISION CEREMONY PLANNED**

**The Goethe Medal, an official honour of the Federal Republic of Germany, is being awarded in 2020 to Bolivian multidisciplinary artist Elvira EspejoAyca, British writer Ian McEwan and South African writer, publisher and curator ZukiswaWanner. The Goethe-Institut is recognising their outstanding contribution to international cultural exchange. The recipients are outstanding examples of the power of critical, reflective art and the theme of the 2020 awards, “Accepting Contradiction – the fruits of contradiction.”**

**This year, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the recipients are not able to travel to the official ceremony in Weimar, which traditionally takes place on 28<sup>th</sup> August, the birthday of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. The Goethe-Institut is therefore working with Deutsche Welle to organise a digital ceremony for a global audience – with interviews, talks, appreciations, film portraits and music.**

**Klaus-Dieter Lehmann, President of the Goethe-Institut:** “The coronavirus crisis is more than a virological phenomenon. The isolation, disinformation and contradiction it has led to is changing society. We intend to defy this situation and so we are not cancelling the Goethe Medal presentation ceremony. We are strengthening our connections with a cross-border digital cultural network and thus developing new alternatives and processes out of the contradictions we face. “

**Deutsch Welle Director General Peter Limbourg:** “The Goethe-Institut and DW have been promoting international cultural exchange for decades, and the Goethe Medal honours outstanding artists and visionaries in this area. It is an honour and a great joy for DW to be able to provide multimedia and multilingual coverage to ensure that these three impressive individuals are given the recognition they deserve, and to enable culture enthusiasts around the world to take part.”

The ceremony centres on three short films presenting Elvira EspejoAyca, Ian McEwan and ZukiswaWanner and their places of work in Bolivia, England and South Africa. A discussion between Klaus-Dieter Lehmann and the three recipients is also planned. Three renowned individuals will pay tribute to the recipients: Barbara Göbel, an ethnologist at the Ibero-American Institute in Berlin (Elvira EspejoAyca), journalist and author Franziska Augstein (Ian McEwan) and writer Zoë Beck (ZukiswaWanner). Students and teachers from the University of Music Franz Liszt Weimar, led by Tiago de Oliveira Pinto, will present musical compositions that they have chosen and created especially for the medal recipients.

**The Goethe-Institut will stream the digital Goethe Medal ceremony on 28 August at 11 am CET on its website at [www.goethe.de/goethe-medaille](http://www.goethe.de/goethe-medaille), Deutsche Welle will stream it on its channel [youtube/DWBooks](https://www.youtube.com/DWBooks) and will also introduce the recipients in its multilingual television programme.**

**In addition, 3sat Kulturzeit will present the recipients on 28 August in its Kulturzeit programme, also available on its website at [www.3sat.de/kulturzeit](http://www.3sat.de/kulturzeit).**

The press pack with information on recipients, presenters and the Goethe Medal is available at: [www.goethe.de/pressemappe](http://www.goethe.de/pressemappe)

Press photos of the recipients are available from: [www.goethe.de/bilderservice](http://www.goethe.de/bilderservice)

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Information on the Goethe Medal and an overview of previous recipients can be found at: [www.goethe.de/goethe-medaille](http://www.goethe.de/goethe-medaille)

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## PRESS RELEASE APRIL 28, 2020: GOETHE MEDALS GO TO ELVIRA ESPEJO AYCA, IAN MCEWAN AND ZUKISWA WANNER

The 2020 Goethe Medals are being awarded to Bolivian multidisciplinary artist Elvira EspejoAyca, British writer Ian McEwan and South African writer, publisher and curator ZukiswaWanner. The Federal Republic of Germany's official honour is conferred by the Goethe-Institut every year on individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to international cultural exchange. The prize will be awarded by the President of the Goethe-Institute, Klaus-Dieter Lehmann, on 28 August, the birthday of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. The theme of this year's awards is "Accepting Contradiction – the fruits of contradiction."

**Klaus-Dieter Lehmann**, President of the Goethe-Institut, emphasised: "The theme, "Accepting Contradiction – the fruits of contradiction" is a plea for engagement with ambivalence, even in difficult circumstances. It is precisely out of contradiction that productive vitality grows, vitality that promotes diversity and provokes reflection and new insights. Faced with the populist movements that are gaining in strength throughout the world, functioning democracy must assert critical discourse. The recipients of the 2020 Goethe Medal are outstanding examples of the power of critical, reflective art and open, international, cultural exchange that does not shun contradiction but rather recognises it as an opportunity."

### Awards Rationale

**Elvira EspejoAyca**, born in 1981 in Bolivia, is the Director of the National Museum of Ethnography and Folklore (MUSEF) in La Paz as well as being an artist - a poet, essayist, musician and weaver. The Goethe Medal Committee honours Elvira EspejoAyca as a "true builder of bridges, whose work constitutes invaluable cultural mediation: between Latin America and Europe, between Bolivia and its colonial past, between countries' own indigenous traditions and other cultures, between artistic disciplines and generations. It is in her engagement with ambivalence that she develops her unique creative energy." **Ian McEwan**, born in 1948 in England, is one of the most important and most internationally respected contemporary authors. "His literary work is imbued with the essence of contradiction and with critical, deeply psychological reflection on phenomena that affect society as a whole, such as climate change, artificial intelligence and morality in science. Despite the harsh attacks he is often subjected to in his own country, he campaigns against narrow-minded nationalism and is a passionate pro-European," says the jury. **ZukiswaWanner**, born in 1976 in Zambia, is an author, journalist and publisher. "Her conception of herself as an African writer leads her to range far beyond national frontiers in her writing, whilst at the same time bringing the diversity of African culture into her artistic work. Her detailed knowledge of South African literature and her nuanced understanding of regional discourses and female identity in Africa mean her expertise is internationally sought after; she is also a role model for an entire generation of African writers," the jury says.

### About the 2020 recipients

**Elvira EspejoAyca**, born in 1981 in the province of Avaroa in the department of Oruro in Bolivia, grew up in an indigenous village community. From an early age, she rebelled against the tradition and convention that excluded her from higher education and precluded her from obtaining a professional qualification. Her decision to pursue her education and career led her to break with her family and her village. In 2004 she studied art at the Academia de Bellas Artes Hernando Siles in

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La Paz. She has never forgotten her indigenous roots, and weaves them continually through her work and her projects. In 2005 she co-lectured on unwritten Andean languages for the *Duke en los Andes* programme, working with musician Álvaro Montenegro to record traditional songs and dialogues on indigenous and urban musical instruments. From 2010 to 2011 she was a contributor to the *Das Potosí Prinzip* exhibition at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt cultural centre in Berlin, which subsequently toured in Spain and Bolivia. She then joined the Board of Directors for the Institute of Aymaran Languages and Culture (ILCA) and became Director of the National Museum of Ethnography and Folklore (MUSEF) in La Paz, turning it into one of the most important cultural centres in Bolivia.

**Ian McEwan**, born in 1948 in Aldershot in England, was the son of a Scottish army major and grew up amongst other places in Singapore, Libya and Germany. He studied English Literature at the University of Sussex in Brighton and the University of East Anglia in Norwich. Today, Ian McEwan is a highly renowned contemporary author and has won numerous literary prizes, including the Man Booker Prize, the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. Twelve of his stories have been turned into films, including *Atonement* (2007), which was nominated for seven Oscars. Ian McEwan was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 2000. In 2011 he was awarded the Jerusalem Prize for the Freedom of the Individual in Society. He has also been the recipient of prestigious awards in the German-speaking world, such as the Alfred Toepfer Foundation Shakespeare Prize for his life's work (1999) and the German Book Prize (2003). Over 20 of his works have been published in German by Diogenes Verlag.

**Zukiswa Wanner** was born in 1976 in Lusaka, Zambia and is a writer, journalist, publisher and curator. After attending school in Zimbabwe, she studied journalism at Hawaii Pacific University in Honolulu. Since 2006 she has been an author and a promoter of African literature. In addition to fiction for children and adults, she has published reportage, essays and travelogues, which have appeared in international newspapers and magazines (The Guardian, The Observer, Juice, Elle and many more). She co-authored the Nelson Mandela biography, *A Prisoner's Home* (Penguin, 2000). Together with the Goethe-Institut in Nairobi, Kenya, she developed the transnational series Artistic Encounters, which brings African writers into discussion with other artists. She is also curator of the Afro Young Adult project and has established short story writing workshops. The renowned Hay Festival selected Zukiswa Wanner as one of its preeminent African authors in 2014. In 2018 she founded her own publishing house, Paivapo, together with Nomavuso Vokwana. Since the coronavirus lockdown she has been curating the virtual literary festival AfrolitSansFrontières, organised by 16 writers from 10 African countries.

**Press photos of 2020 recipients are available from:**  
[www.goethe.de/bilderservice](http://www.goethe.de/bilderservice)

**Information on the Goethe Medal and an overview of previous recipients:** [www.goethe.de/goethe-medaille](http://www.goethe.de/goethe-medaille)

### **About the Goethe Medal**

The Goethe Medal was established by the Executive Committee of the Goethe-Institut in 1954 and recognised as an official honour by the Federal Republic of Germany in 1975. The awards ceremony takes place in Weimar on Goethe's birthday, 28 August. The Goethe-Institut also organises an accompanying programme in collaboration with the Kunstfest Weimar festival. Since the medal was introduced in 1955, it has been awarded to a total of 354 individuals from 67 countries, including Daniel Barenboim, Pierre Bourdieu, David Cornwell aka John le Carré, Sir Ernst Gombrich, Lars

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Gustafsson, Ágnes Heller, Petros Markaris, Sir Karl Raimund Popper, Jorge Semprún, Robert Wilson, Neil MacGregor, Helen Wolff, JuriAndruchowytch and Irina Scherbakowa.

### **The Goethe Medal Committee**

Dr. Franziska Augstein (journalist, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*), Prof. Dr. Christina von Braun (Chair and committee spokesperson, Cultural Studies expert, Humboldt-Universität in Berlin), Dr. Meret Forster (Music Editor, BR-Klassik), Dr. Anselm Franke (Curator, Director of Fine Art and Film Department, Haus der Kulturen der Welt), Dr. Ina Hartwig (Head of the Frankfurt am Main Culture Department, literary critic), Prof. Dr. Ursula von Keitz (Professor of Film Research and Film Education, Filmuniversität Babelsberg Konrad Wolf), Ulrich Khuon (Artistic Director, Deutsches Theater), Eva Menasse (author), Elisabeth Ruge (author, publisher and literary agent), Moritz Müller-Wirth (journalist, *Die Zeit*); representing the German Foreign Office: Assistant State Secretary Dr. Andreas Görge (Director of the Culture and Communications Department); representing the Goethe-Institut: Prof. Dr. h.c. Klaus-Dieter Lehmann (President), Johannes Ebert (Secretary General)

## **PRESENTATION OF THE 2020 GOETHE MEDALS**

- **Official ceremony**

The digital ceremony, which will last around 50 minutes, is being held in collaboration with the broadcaster Deutsche Welle on Tuesday 28th August 2020 at 11 am CET on [www.goethe.de/goethe-medaille](http://www.goethe.de/goethe-medaille) and at [#GoetheMedaille2020](https://twitter.com/GoetheMedaille2020) on [youtube/goetheinstitut](https://www.youtube.com/goetheinstitut). An English language stream will also be available at [youtube/DWBooks](https://www.youtube.com/DWBooks).

The recipients will be introduced by means of short films and in discussion with Goethe-Institut President Klaus-Dieter Lehmann. Three renowned commentators will pay tribute to the recipients: Barbara Göbel, an ethnologist and Director of the Ibero-American Institute in Berlin (Elvira EspejoAyca), journalist and author Franziska Augstein (Ian McEwan) and writer Zoë Beck (ZukiswaWanner). Musical interludes will be provided by students and teachers from the University of Music Franz Liszt Weimar, who come from Mozambique, Brazil, Australia and Bolivia and will be led by Tiago de Oliveira Pinto; they will present compositions that they have chosen and created especially for the medal recipients. The ceremony will be hosted by Deutsche Welle presenter Karin Helmstaedt.

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The Goethe-Institut Goethe Medal will also be covered by the TV programme DW Deutsch at 11.15 am (CET) / 9.15 am (UTC), and DW Deutsch+, at 9.30 pm (CET) / 7.30 pm (UTC). The TV magazine show Kultur.21 will also present the recipients in a special programme on 29th August, and in its English, Spanish and Arabic editions. The 3sat show Kulturzeit will present them on 28<sup>th</sup> August at 7.20 pm (CET) and on its website at [www.3sat.de/kulturzeit](http://www.3sat.de/kulturzeit).

- **Programme of music**

The music for the ceremony has been created in collaboration with the University of Music Franz Liszt Weimar.

#### Musicians

- Luka Mukavele (Mozambique) – vocals, mbira, xitende/ xizambi (conductor)
- Kamai Freire (Brasil) – mbira
- Jordan White (Australia) – electric guitar
- José Andres Navarro Silberstein (Bolivia) – piano (solo)

#### Compositions

- for Elvira EspejoAyca

Performed by: José Andres Navarro Silberstein – piano

Composer: Marvin Sandi – In Memoriam (Homenaje a Caba) Op. 1b (1957)

This piece has been selected for Elvira EspejoAyca because of the emphasis it places on cultural mediation. Composer Marvin Sandi gives the piano, an instrument from the classical European musical tradition, a Bolivian flavour and brings it into dialogue with aspects of the country's indigenous music. The work combines diverse and ambivalent elements to illustrate different forms of musical interaction. The composer's use of the piano blends the polystylistic juxtaposition of the 20<sup>th</sup> century with elements from indigenous Bolivian music; it was written as an homage to Bolivian composer Eduardo Caba. Its dense, seemingly Romantic harmonies conceal expressive melodic lines and rhythmic variation. The Bolivian pianist is a former student of the University of Music Franz Liszt Weimar and sees himself as building bridges between continents and cultures, past and present, Latin America and Europe.

- for Ian McEwan

Composed and performed by an ensemble of 2 musicians:

Luka Mukavele – vocals, xitende/ xizambi (African musical bows)

Jordan White – electric guitar

A new work by a musical duo is being presented to mark the award of the Goethe Medal to internationally renowned contemporary writer Ian McEwan. Both the line-up of the group and the nature of the music foreground contemporaneity and internationalism. Traditional and modern instruments are blended with a global musical style that breaks down boundaries and prompts dialogue across national borders. The University of Music Franz Liszt Weimar students come from Mozambique and Australia and fuse the xitende and xizambi musical bows from Africa with the internationally familiar electric guitar into a contemporary blues style, in honour of this exceptional medal recipient.



- forZukiswa Wanner

Composed and performed by an ensemble of 3 musicians:

Luka Mukavele – mbira (African lamellophone)

Kamai Freire – mbira (African lamellophone)

Jordan White – electric guitar

The piece *Africa Unite* has been composed by Luka Mukavele especially for ZukiswaWanner. Double mbiras, instruments that are unique to the African continent, form the centrepiece of the work. The two instruments are known to specialists as lamellophones (and more colloquially as “thumb pianos”) and are not only played by the doctoral student at the University of Music Franz Liszt Weimar, but were also made by him. These pan-African instruments bring together both the traditions and the present-day challenges facing the continent. The trio is a dialogue between two mbira players and an electric guitarist. Luka Mukavele describes his aims of his composition as follows: “I see ZukiswaWanner as exemplifying the same kind of commitment to Africa as MirriamMakeba, who was also known as ‘Mama Africa’. That’s why I’ve dedicated this piece – on the mbira, a genuinely African invention – to her.”

• **Presentationofawards**

The awards will be presented to EspejoAyca in La Paz/ Bolivia by Prof.Dr. Barbara Göbel, to Ian McEwan in London/Great Britain by Dr. Franziska Augstein, and to ZukiswaWanner in Nairobi/ Kenya by Zoë Beck.

Presentation times will be announced locally in advance.





## ABOUT THE 2020 RECIPIENTS

### ELVIRA ESPEJO AYCA

Museumdirector, artist, poet, essayist, musician, weaver,  
born 1981

Nationalities: Bolivian, Aymara and Quechua

#### Monographsand Publications

- Tejiendo la vida –weaving life. National Museum of Ethnography and Folklore textile collection, as per the production chain
- A Comparison of War Iconography in the Archaeological Textiles of Paracas-Topara (Südperu) and in the Weavings of Ayllu Qaqachaka, Bolivia
- On Drinking Cups and Constellations. Some Relations between Aymara Astronomical and Textual Practices in Qaqachakaayllu, Bolivia
- 2007 Hilossuelos: los Andes desde el textil (with Juan de Dias Yaoitaand Denise Arnold)
- 2010 Ciencia de las mujeres
- 2012 Ciencia de Tejer en los Andes:Estructuras y tecnicas de faz de urdimbre
- 2013 El TextilTridimensional: El Tejido como Objeto y como Sujeto

#### Discography

- 2007 La senda - canciones a los animals, with Alvaro Montenegroand others.
- 2011 Cantos a las casas - Utachkkirki

#### Exhibitions outside of MUSEF

- 2011 Das Potosf Prinzip, Haus der Kulturen der Weltculturalcentre, Berlin
- 2013:Pintisa II, Cochabamba

#### Poetry

- 2005 Sawutug parla - Acerca de los textiles
- 2006 Phaqqarkirki-Tikhatakiy- Canto a las flores:Poems in aymara, quechua and Spanish, Venezuela International Poetry Festival Prize, 2007
- 2018 KaypiJaqhaypi, Par aquf, poralla, presentation to the Cusco InternationalBook Fair / Peru

#### Short stories



- 1994 Ahora les voy a narrar (Now I will tell stories); Casa de las Americas indigenous literature competition, Cuba

## Citations

Ethnography, ethnology, folklore: for me, these are academic inventions that generate clichés – like the difference between arts and crafts. They stem from the egocentric language of colonisers, who know only what they call us, how they see us, how they treat us. So I always speak of communities. We are concerned with how different communities develop different cultures. With cultural multidisciplinary.

(...)

The eleven million inhabitants (note: of Bolivia) speak 36 languages. Each one of these represents a nationality with its own cultural identity. Aymara, Quechua, Guaraní and Uru are only the biggest and best known of these communities. It is in this diversity that our plurinationality consists. But it will be generations before this is a reality that is lived by all. And we also want to honour the diversity of all ways of life – such as the transsexual communities. Our museum must reflect the diversity and the reality of our country.

(...)

I came to the museum from another world. As a countrywoman it is important to me that we work the land in harmony with nature. The concept of sustainability is also important here in the museum: for every item, we must consider the contexts out of which it emerged. We are currently studying and preserving oral traditions. As we do so, we aim to treat communities that have never written down their narratives with the utmost respect. How many scholars have listened to these stories, published them – without ever mentioning with whom they actually originated?

(Elvira Espejo Ayca, *das goethe* magazine, Issue 1/ 2019)

Elvira Espejo Ayca is in particular concerned with highlighting the knowledge and communication technologies developed by the Andean culture through art, colour and iconography such as can be found in textile art. This 20-year plus study of traditional indigenous cultural techniques leads to interaction and dialogue with European theories of textiles.

(...)

Elvira Espejo is a woman who always speaks, in her community and in the western world, as a representative of her country. In the city of La Paz, she moves between worlds. The women of the Andes and of the indigenous world in general have made a great effort to communicate their ideas, their arguments and their words. Elvira has been a strong advocate for them and has broken with conventional perceptions, which are characterised by oppressive structures. In spite of the colonial wounds of the “woman in billowing skirts”, she stands without violence as a creator and overseer of the revival in women’s studies. She advances towards the western world as someone who is recognised and valued by indigenous culture and she brings the Aymara and Quechua worlds to the west by breaking through the barriers of the colonial past in order to reinvent textile weaving.

(...)

Elvira and the weavers are women with roots, which means they understand the roots of their own personal story, their territory; they do not disown their lives in order to talk with the western world, and they acknowledge the teaching of their grandfathers and grandmothers.



(Aura Isabel Mora, *Nómadas*, No. 49, 2018, Translation: Sabine Hentzsch/Sarah Rimmington)

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## IAN MCEWAN

Novelist and screenwriter,  
born 21.6.1948

Nationality: British

### International awards (selection)

- 1989: Honorary doctorate from the University of Sussex
- 1993: Honorary doctorate from the University of East Anglia
- 1998: Booker Prize for Amsterdam
- 1999: Alfred Toepfer Foundation Shakespeare Prize for lifetime achievement
- 2000: Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE)
- 2001: People's Booker for Atonement
- 2003: German Book Prize for Atonement
- 2003: Los Angeles Times Prize for Fiction for Atonement
- 2008: Galaxy Book of the Year for On Chesil Beach
- 2011: Jerusalem Prize for the Freedom of the Individual in Society

### Monographs and publications

- 1978: The Cement Garden; Ger. Der Zementgarten, Diogenes 1982
- 1981: The Comfort of Strangers; Ger. Der Trost von Fremden. Diogenes 1981
- 1987: The Child in Time; Ger. Ein Kind zur Zeit. Diogenes 1988
- 1990: The Innocent, Ger. Unschuldige. Eine Berliner Liebesgeschichte, Diogenes 1990
- 1992: Black Dogs; Ger. Schwarze Hunde, Diogenes 1994
- 1997: Enduring Love; Ger. Liebeswahn, Diogenes 1998
- 1998: Amsterdam, Ger. Amsterdam, Diogenes 2000
- 2001: Atonement, Ger. Abbitte, Diogenes 2002
- 2005: Saturday, Ger. Saturday, Diogenes 2005
- 2007: On Chesil Beach; Ger. Am Strand, Diogenes 2007
- 2010: Solar; Ger. Solar, Diogenes 2010
- 2012: Sweet Tooth, Ger. Honig, Diogenes 2013
- 2014: The Children Act; Ger. Kindeswohl, Diogenes 2015
- 2016: Nutshell, Ger. Nussschale, Diogenes 2016
- 2019: Machines Like Me; Ger. Maschinen wie ich, Diogenes 2019
- 2020: Erkenntnis und Schönheit. Über Wissenschaft, Literatur und Religion. Diogenes, Sept. 2020

### Screenplays



- 1983: The Ploughman's Lunch
- 1988: Soursweet
- 1993: The Good Son; Ger. Das zweite Gesicht
- 2017: On Chesil Beach; Ger. Am Strand
- 2017: The Children Act; Ger. Kindeswohl

### Short stories

- 1975: First Love, Last Rites; Ger. Erste Liebe, letzte Riten, Diogenes 1982
- 1978: In Between the Sheets; Ger. Zwischen den Laken, Diogenes 1983
- 1995: The Short Stories (Collection of short stories)
- 2016: My Purple Scented Novel, The New Yorker

### TV plays

- 1976: Jack Flea's Birthday Celebration
- 1980: The Imitation Game

### Children's books

- 1985: Rose Blanche
- 1995: The Daydreamer, Ger. Der Tagträumer, Diogenes 1996

### Citations

Ian McEwan –he is the engineer of these breathtaking novels, planned step by step, like a game of chess, but where one person plays both sides. In the end, it is always the elegant McEwan who wins. You stand amazed before his brilliant and clear-eyed insight into human nature and bow down: so much delight, at such a high level!

(Ulrich Kühn, NDR Kultur, 26.11.2019)

At the very latest since Atonement, Ian McEwan has been regarded as a master of psychological realism. The perfection with which the author assimilates even the styles of his protagonists makes his novels both exciting and profound. And so it is no accident that the author, now 59, has become a bestseller.

(Christine Pries, Frankfurter Rundschau, 24.7.2007)

British author Ian McEwan has always brought diligence and craftsmanship to his engagement with the big moral issues of the age, depicting them through his educated, middle-class British heroes. His novels are not prowled by idiosyncratic outsiders, searching for the right word to express their exalted emotions; rather, senior people with strong linguistic and emotional skills go about their unglamorous duties in a plausibly sober and adept manner. You could not read any of Ian McEwan's many novels in recent years without encountering an expert introduction, delivered with a lightness of touch, to



the latest research on a complicated substantive issue relating to modern life – climatology, neurobiology, jurisprudence, the wellbeing of children, to name but a few of the bestselling British author's areas of expertise. Having written some twenty novels, Ian McEwan has attained an uncanny perfection in his chosen genre.

(Iris Radisch, Die Zeit, 22.5.2019)

Ian McEwan's latest book imagines a world in which a cockroach wakes up one day to find that he is human - and the prime minister. McEwan, one of Britain's most celebrated novelists and the author of *On Chesil Beach*, *Atonement* and *Enduring Love*, cites Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis* as an influence, but the novella, *The Cockroach*, draws on events very much of our own time, namely Brexit. In an interview with Euronews in Athens, McEwan makes no secret of his obsession with Britain's exit from the European Union. "Even as I hate it, I can't leave it alone", he says. "I'm a passionate remainer, but I don't pretend to give a balanced view. I think we're making a huge mistake."

(euronews.com, 1.10.2019)

It's done. A triumph of dogged negotiation by Theresa May and then, briefly, Johnson, has fulfilled the most pointless, masochistic ambition ever dreamed of in the history of these islands. The rest of the world, Presidents Putin and Trump excepted, have watched on in astonishment and dismay. A majority voted in December for parties which supported a second referendum. But those parties failed lamentably to make common cause. We must pack up our tents, perhaps to the sound of church bells, and hope to begin the 15-year trudge, back towards some semblance of where we were yesterday with our multiple trade deals, security, health and scientific co-operation and a thousand other useful arrangements.

(Ian McEwan, Die Zeit, 2.2.2020)



## ZUKISWA WANNER

Writer, journalist, curator,  
born 30.7.1976

Nationality: South Africa, currently resident in Kenya

### International awards

- 1985: South African Literary Awards (SALA) - K Sello Duiker Prize 2015
- Hay Festival's Africa39 2014 - Authors with a lasting impact on African literature
- Shortlist Commonwealth Prize Africa Region for Best Book, 2011

### Monographs and publications (selection)

- The Madams, Oshun Books, 2006
- Behind Every Successful Man, Kwela Books, 2008
- Men of the South, Kwela Books, 2008
- 8115: A Prisoner's Home with Alf Kumalo, Penguin, 2010
- Maid in SA: 30 Ways to Leave your Madam, Jacana, 2010
- Jama Loves Banas, Jacana, 2013
- Refilwe, Jacana, 2014
- Hardly Working: A Travel Memoir of Sorts, Black Letter Media, 2018

### Citations

There is no doubt that Zukiswa Wanner is one of South Africa's most talented authors and storytellers. Her debut novel, *The Madam*, was published in 2006 and since then Zukiswa has remained relevant and one of the most important voices of our time.

(nalibali.org)

With four novels published on the continent, there is no better person to speak to about the production and consumption of African Literature on the continent than Zukiswa Wanner.

(thisisafrica.me)

Zukiswa is a writer, a mother, an African, and a woman – in that order.

(Zukiswa Wanner, Blog wealth of ideas, 2.1.2011)

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For women who look like you and me (black), sometimes it's four times the work for a quarter of the recognition. And the writer comes last. So you are likely to be referred to as a black African woman before you can be a writer.

(...)

If however, you do manage to impress and you become a writer, there is the added burden of being representative of all blacks, all women, all Africans that one has to bear instead of just being an individual artist.

(ZukiswaWanner, [theinternational-woman.com](http://theinternational-woman.com), 2019)

As a writer published in South Africa, for a very long time I felt that we ignored the rest of the continent despite our own stories at our own peril. Word for word, South Africans are out-writing everyone. Unfortunately, not enough people on the rest of the continent know us unless and until we have been acknowledged by the West. I wanted then to find the stories in South Africa that the rest of the continent could relate to and in the continent that South Africa could enjoy. And I wanted to ensure that I distribute widely beyond SA borders because I know, Africa Reads.

(...)

A big remedy would be for South Africa to first understand that it's an African country. NOT America-lite. NOT Little Britain. In Africa. Once we understand this then maybe we will understand the importance of loving ourselves. It's utterly absurd that I can find Damon Galgut in a bookstore in Jaipur or Angela Makholwa in Lahore or MasandeNtshanga in Lagos but cannot find them, alongside their fellow South African writers, taking pride of place and more shelf space in libraries and bookstores in South Africa. I can't even imagine the opposite happening in US or UK libraries and bookstores and yet we do it without a second thought.

(Zukidwawanner, [pensouthafrica.co.za](http://pensouthafrica.co.za), 6. August 2019)

(...) one of the other constant comments I have been told about my work from people all over the world is that although the characters are South African and mostly black, the readers can identify with the characters in my books. It is a revelation of the similarity of the human condition.

(ZukiswaWanner, conservation with writers, 19.2.2011)

## ABOUT THE PRESENTERS OF THE 2020 MEDALS

This year, the Goethe Medal is being presented to recipients by Prof.Dr. Barbara Göbel (citation for Elvira EspejoAyca), Dr. Franziska Augstein (citation for Ian McEwan) and Zoë Beck (citation for ZukiswaWanner).

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## BARBARA GÖBEL

Prof. Dr. Barbara Göbel is the Director of the Ibero-American Institute in Berlin (Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation), a non-university research institute that houses one of the largest Latin American libraries in the world. Since 2017 she has been an Honorary Professor at the Free University of Berlin. Barbara Göbel studied Social Anthropology, History, and Economic and Social History at the Universities of Munich and Göttingen. She has been a Lecturer and Senior Researcher at the Universities of Göttingen, Tübingen, Stuttgart-Hohenheim, Cologne and Bonn, and a visiting professor at universities in Argentina (Buenos Aires, Córdoba, Jujuy, San Martín, La Pampa), Bolivia (University of La Paz), Chile (Universities of Antofagasta and Arica) and Peru (PUCP, Lima). From 2002 to 2005 she was Executive Director of the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP) run by ICSU and ISSC, now the International Science Council. Her research focuses on socio-ecological inequality, resource-related conflicts in Latin America and the geopolitics of knowledge.

## FRANZISKA AUGSTEIN

Dr. Franziska Augstein comes from Hamburg. She studied History, Philosophy and Politics in Berlin, Bielefeld, Paris and the University of Sussex. She was awarded a doctorate in 1996 by University College London for her thesis on the precursors of racial theory (*James Cowles Prichard's Anthropology: Remaking the Science of Man in Early Nineteenth-Century Britain*, Editions Rodopi 1999). From 1997 to 2001 she was Editor of the culture section of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper. Since 2001 she has written for the Süddeutsche Zeitung newspaper. Between 2010 and 2015 she was responsible for the Das Politische Buch page. Since 2016 she has written a column, Augstein's World, for the business pages. In 2000 she won the Theodor Wolff Prize essay category. In 2008 she published *Von Treue und Verrat. Jorge und Semprún und sein Jahrhundert* (Of Loyalty and Betrayal. Jorge and Semprún and his Century) (C.H. Beck).

## ZOË BECK

Zoë Beck, born 1975, studied English and German literature in Gießen, Bonn and Durham amongst other places. She worked as Creative Producer on international television productions and as a Dubbing Editor, and then as a scriptwriter and script supervisor, activities she still pursues today. She has been a freelance author and literary translator since 2004 and since 2013 has run the CulturBooks publishing house together with Jan Karsten. Her many award-winning novels and short stories have so far been translated into ten languages. Her most recent was the thriller *Paradise City* (Suhrkamp 2020).



## **PRESS PHOTOS OF RECIPIENTS**

Free, downloadable press photos of the 2020 Goethe Medal recipients – Elvira Espejo Ayca, Ian McEwan und Zukiswa Wanner – are available from: [www.goethe.de/bilderservice](http://www.goethe.de/bilderservice).

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## **About the Goethe Medal**

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The Goethe Medal was established by the Executive Committee of the Goethe-Institut in 1954 and recognised as an official honour by the Federal Republic of Germany in 1975. The awards ceremony takes place in Weimar on Goethe's birthday, 28 August. The Goethe-Institut also organises an accompanying programme in collaboration with the Kunstfest Weimar festival. Since the medal was introduced in 1955, it has been awarded to a total of 354 individuals from 67 countries, including Daniel Barenboim, Pierre Bourdieu, David Cornwell aka John le Carré, Sir Ernst Gombrich, Lars Gustafsson, Ágnes Heller, Petros Markaris, Sir Karl Raimund Popper, Jorge Semprún, Robert Wilson, Neil MacGregor, Helen Wolff, JuriAndruchowytsh and Irina Scherbakowa.

The Goethe Institut makes nominations in coordination with German representations abroad. The Committee for the Award of the Goethe Medal makes a selection which must then be confirmed by the Goethe Institut Committee. Committee members are Dr. Franziska Augstein (journalist, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*), Prof.Dr. Christina von Braun (Chair and committee spokesperson, Cultural Studies expert, Humboldt-Universität in Berlin), Dr.Meret Forster (Music Editor, BR-Klassik), Dr. Anselm Franke (Curator, Director of Fine Art and Film Department, Haus der Kulturen der Welt), Dr. Ina Hartwig (Head of the Frankfurt am Main Culture Department, literary critic), Prof.Dr. Ursula von Keitz (Professor of Film Research and Film Education, Filmuniversität Babelsberg Konrad Wolf), Ulrich Khuon (Artistic Director, Deutsches Theater), Eva Menasse (author), Moritz Müller-Wirth (journalist, *Die Zeit*), Elisabeth Ruge (author, publisher and literary agent); representing the German Foreign Office: Assistant State Secretary Dr. Andreas Görgen (Director of the Culture and Communications Department); representing the Goethe-Institut: Prof.Dr.h.c. Klaus-Dieter Lehmann (President), Johannes Ebert (Secretary General)